

## What can I do if I am interested in being a parent elected trustee?

Nomination papers will be posted to all parents by the Returning Officer in Term 1 and nominations will close on 16th May.


Please note that if you are nominating someone else, that person doesn't necessarily need to be a parent of a child receiving services from BLENNZ. It could be a person you think has the necessary skills and knowledge to make a good board member.

---

## Once we are through the nomination stage, we would then urge all eligible parents to vote for your parent elected trustee.


Voting papers will be posted to you by the Returning Officer.

If you would like any further information please contact the BLENNZ Board Secretary at: [janny.cooke@blennz.school.nz](mailto:janny.cooke@blennz.school.nz) or phone 09 2667109 extension 2000.



## Board of Trustee Elections

### May 2013



**Blind and Low Vision  
Education Network NZ**  
Te Kotuituinga Matauranga  
Pura o Aotearoa  
<http://www.blennz.school.nz>



# BLENNZ



**Blind and Low Vision  
Education Network NZ**  
Te Kotuituinga Mātauranga  
Pura o Aotearoa

## Board of Trustee Elections 2013



## BLENNZ

### Board of Trustees Elections

May 2013

#### To all parents and caregivers of children and young people receiving services from BLENNZ

Please consider standing for the BLENNZ Board of Trustees at the next elections. You can make a difference in the education of children who are blind, deafblind or have low vision by becoming a trustee on the BLENNZ Board.

Board elections will be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013. As a parent or caregiver of a child or young person supported by BLENNZ we would like to encourage you to stand for a parent elected trustee position on the BLENNZ Board. This is an exciting opportunity to be part of a board which governs a comprehensive and innovative network of services throughout New Zealand.

Stuart Dunn - BLENNZ BOT Chairperson

Jane Wells - Principal, BLENNZ

#### Who are we?

The Blind and Low Vision Education Network NZ or BLENNZ provides services nationally to children and young people who are blind, deafblind or have low vision. BLENNZ delivers most of its support through regionally based Resource Teachers Vision (RTVs) who work with children and young people and their whānau right throughout New Zealand. There is also a national base at Homai Campus in Auckland where we have a range of services which are available to and which support the inclusion of, all children and young people supported by BLENNZ. These include a special school, the National Assessment Service, Residential Services, Immersion courses, the Homai Early Childhood Centre and the Special Formats Library.

---

#### What is the makeup of the BLENNZ Board of Trustees?

BLENNZ has a Board of Trustees which is representative of BLENNZ parents nationally and the wider blindness education sector. The Board is made up of:

- One trustee elected by parents of students enrolled at Homai Campus School
- Four trustees elected by parents of students who receive services from BLENNZ through a Visual Resource Centre
- One trustee elected by BLENNZ staff
- The principal of BLENNZ
- One trustee appointed by the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind (RNZFB)
- One trustee appointed by Blind Citizens NZ (ABC)
- One trustee appointed by a panel of representatives of recognised kōwhiri Māori organizations
- Board co-opted trustees, provided that the number of parent elected trustees is greater than the total number of co-opted and appointed trustees

#### What would be involved in being a trustee?

This is a national board with members from throughout New Zealand. There will be 8 meetings in 2013 and one professional development day on a Saturday. Meetings are held in Auckland at the Homai Campus starting at 6.00pm and usually going to no later than 9.00pm. Trustees from out of Auckland are provided with airfares and accommodation at Homai Campus, and fly home the following morning. All trustees receive an allowance for each Board meeting they attend.

BLENNZ also has the Homai Early Childhood Centre on Homai Campus. This is a licensed centre attended by young children in the Auckland region, and also serving as a national resource. Because of current legislation, this centre is governed under a separate trust and trust board, the Homai Early Childhood Centre Education Trust (HECCET) Board of Trustees. The trustees on the BLENNZ Board are also trustees for the HECCET Board. There will be 4 of these meetings in the year, usually lasting for half an hour and held before the BLENNZ Board meeting.

---

#### Possibility of staggered elections - your feedback is sought

The BLENNZ Board of Trustees is considering whether to adopt a process of 'staggered elections' for the parent trustee positions. This would mean that instead of the 5 parent trustees having the same 3 year term, there would be mid-term elections every 18 months, with 2 parents having one 3 year term and 3 parents a different 3 year term. This would help to ensure continuity and avoid the risk of all 5 parent trustees leaving the Board at the same time.

The BLENNZ Board is going to make the decision whether to stagger the election of parent positions at its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2013. We need to consult with our parent body and would like your feedback on what you think about this possible change. Please email any feedback to the Board Secretary at: [janny.cooke@blennz.school.nz](mailto:janny.cooke@blennz.school.nz) or phone 09 2667109 extension 2000 by 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013.