

Maranatha Christian School School Board



School Structure

Maranatha Christian School is a state-integrated school. This means that we receive government funding to teach from the New Zealand National Curriculum. However, our point of difference is that we put a Christian lens on all that we teach - our Special Character.

As an integrated school, Maranatha Christian School has two boards - the School Board and the Board of Proprietors.

The Board of Proprietors for Maranatha Christian School is the Maranatha Foundation Trust (called MFB by most). One of the MFB's most important functions is the protection and enhancement of the Special Character of the school. The MFB holds the Integration Agreement with the Ministry of Education and has obligations to fulfil under this agreement regarding property, enrolments and Special Character.

The MFB has 6 Trustees - 3 representatives appointed from each of the founding churches (Hope Centre and Discovery Elim Christian Centre).

School Board

The School Board governs the school. It's made up of the Principal, one elected staff member, up to six elected parent members, and up to four members from the MFB.

Parent and staff member elections are held every three years and will next occur in October this year. If you are willing to invest your time into governance, we encourage you to consider being nominated for election.

The Board itself has to meet all requirements under The Education and Training Act 2020, which sets out the rules and responsibilities of School Boards. The Act sets out boards' four primary objectives. These are ensuring student achievement for all of its students, including for those of differing needs, making sure the school is a safe place for all, and giving effect to the Treaty of Waitangi.

Governance of a school includes things such as:

- Setting the strategic direction for the school
- Protecting the school's values
- Monitoring and evaluating student learning outcomes
- Approving policies
- Financial stewardship
- Building community engagement and support

Boards also have to prepare and maintain the strategic goals that sets out their accountabilities to the government and their community and includes their annual targets and goals for the next three to five years.

The Board employs the school's principal to oversee the day-to-day management of the school, and they work together closely and support one another.

As an example, at our first Board meeting of the year, some of the items we covered were:

- Appointment of Chair and Deputy-Chair
- Principals report to the Board
- Ratifying the Health Statement
- Financial items including a painting quote, the balance sheet and school credit cards
- Principal's professional development
- Cyclical maintenance of the schools property
- 1 hour a day and phone away policies

The Board can be contacted by emailing botchair@maranatha.school.nz

Parents are welcome to attend Board meetings, held twice a term. Check the school calendar or ask the office staff for meeting dates.

Current School Board



Nicola Geuze (Presiding Chair, Parent Elected)

I have had the privilege of serving on the Maranatha Christian School Board since 2017, when I started as board secretary. Since then, I've served as a parent-elected representative, and I currently hold the role of Chair. Christian education is a tremendous blessing; our three children are currently enrolled at Maranatha, and both my husband and I are committed to supporting our school and its special character. It is a privilege to be able to contribute my God-given skills, time, and energy to serve our school on the board. I am currently the CEO of the Association of Integrated Schools Aotearoa New Zealand, where I advocate for, inform and support special character schools all over the country. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family, being an active part of our church community, and getting lost in a good book.



Emma Hockly (Deputy-Chair, Parent elected)

Hello! I've been a parent representative on the Board since August 2022, actively supporting Christian education for our school community. Harrison, Ariella and Mika all attend Maranatha and love it! In my role as an Investment Manager at the Ministry for Primary Industries, I sit on various governance groups within the horticulture sector. Outside of work, I find joy in serving our local church, planning family adventures and welcoming people into our home.



Debbie Middleton (Proprietor appointed)

Kia ora koutou. I am a representative on the school board for the Maranatha Foundation Board on behalf of Discovery Elim Christian Centre, one of the founding churches. My involvement with the school started with my mother, who had a vision for starting the school when I was very young. She was the founding principal. I have been a student, teacher and principal at the school. My educational experience includes being an advisor to NZ schools and teaching in, and leading, international schools. I love traveling, and enjoying and exploring God's wonderful creation. Ma te Atua koe e manaaki.



Edward Oosterban (Parent elected)

I have served on the school board since August 2022. I have three boys who all attend Maranatha school. I believe education with our Lord and Saviour at the very centre is important to equip our children to navigate and understand the world we live in. I am passionate about teaching children new skills and am glad to be able to help facilitate this by helping the school. I am a Business Analyst, having worked ~12 years in the electricity and gas sector, and now currently work for a NZ bank. I am happy and keen to share my large corporate skills with the school. When I am not working, I spend my time with family, doing DIY, serving on other boards, coaching football, playing any sports and leading some of our kids at Cadets.



Jasmyne Schmidt (Principal)

Kia ora! I have been involved with Maranatha since 2012 when my oldest child started school here. My three children all had the benefit of going to Maranatha and are now at high school. As principal I have the privilege of being on the School Board and am very grateful for all of the Board members who use their time and skills to support the school in this way. Maranatha is a special place and I praise the Lord for that. In my spare time I love to spend time with my family, read books with happy endings and work in my garden.



Jo McLeay (Proprietor appointed)

I have been a proprietor representative on the BOT since 2016. It has been a privilege to be part of the school board for so many years and continue the heritage of serving the school as was done for so many years by my parents and grandparents. Outside of this Trustee role, I run a small business and am on the Executive board for the Institute of NZ Certified Bookkeepers. When not working I love to serve at church, spend time with family, crochet or knit and look after the veggie garden.



Lexia Copp (Staff Representative)

Kia ora. I've been the staff representative on the Board since 2018. I'm the Deputy Principal, SENCo (Special Education Needs Coordinator) and Kōtare classroom teacher. When I'm not teaching and attending meetings I thoroughly enjoy singing in my church choir, playing with my Goddaughter, playing the piano, reading and the odd spot of gardening when the mood takes. I also love travelling, especially to the Philippines where my oldest son lives with his family.



Lio Afamilliona (Parent elected)

Mālō le soifua manuia, ma le lagi e mamā.

My father is from the village of Lufifuli and Sale'aula in Samoa, and my mother is from the village of Vailima Samoa. I'm the youngest child in my family, and am the first generation New Zealand born Samoan; raised in the eastern suburbs of Wellington. Husband to Anita, father to Grace, Nathanael, and Shiloh. My work background is in community, child and youth services.

It's with great pleasure and a privilege to serve on the board from early 2024, and represent our Maranatha Christian School community. My prayer is for the school community to continue to be enriched in Christ, and that in every area of education our students are *advancing*.



Sarah Kloeg (Board Appointed Secretariat)

Hi! I joined the BOT at the end of 2022 as board secretary when our son, Leon, started at Maranatha. As a first time school parent, I have enjoyed the insight this role has given me into all the time, effort, prayer and wisdom that our teachers, boards and community put into our school. In addition to being a mum, I also work in our own business in the finance and administration sphere, which keeps me very busy. We attend the Reformed church of Wellington and love being part of our church community there.