

2019 BOARD OF TRUSTEE PARENT ELECTION

Combined Board of Trustees for Kelston Deaf Education Centre & van Asch Deaf Education Centre

Candidates' Statements [Kelston Deaf Education Centre]



Sina Aiolupotea-Aiono

NZSL: <https://vimeo.com/335037926/5ad104945a>

Kia ora, Talofa lava and Warm Greetings. I am a General Manager for a public sector agency, with a senior management background in the tertiary education sector. I have previous governance experience, having served on a number of education, community, local government and NGO organisations' governance and advisory boards at a regional and national level. Our 12 year old son, the youngest of 4 siblings, has attended the KDEC satellite provision at Ormiston Primary and now currently attends Ormiston Junior School. As a parent, I am always inspired by the great teachers and specialist support teams who work daily with our children in the school. They are amazingly dedicated, professional and so passionate in their roles creating thriving learning environments and inspiring future pathways for our diverse young Deaf learners. It would be a great privilege to serve and contribute to the leadership and vision for the combined national Board for Kelston Deaf Education Centre and van Asch Deaf Education Centre, parents and whanau, teachers, principals and communities to help ensure the best educational outcomes for our Deaf children at KDEC, van Asch and across Aotearoa.



Rachel Coppage

NZSL: <https://youtu.be/2JFy1awHl1l>

I wish to re-stand on this board, having served for the past three years, as I feel that I have learnt so much about governance during my term and want to give much more in the next three years during dynamic but exciting times ahead.

I have had a wide variety of roles offering a breadth of services for the culturally Deaf community in New Zealand and overseas. Born deaf, educated in a wholly oral residential school for the deaf in England, acquiring sign language at the age of 18 as an AFS exchange student in the United States, I navigated through the hurdles of deaf education at a partially hearing unit, specialised deaf schools and a fully mainstreamed school, being exposed to a continuum of special educational needs: aural-verbal therapy and sign language interpretation.

As a qualified art psychotherapist with a clientele in the signing community who are in need of support, I have a deep-rooted commitment and responsibility to our vulnerable Deaf members for a better quality of life and improved self-care. I am a member of and researcher for the Coalition of Deaf Mental Health Professionals. Promoting cultural health with the Maori health model: Te Whare Tapa Whā is essential to the wellbeing of our tamariki: taha tinana (Deafhood and additional disabilities in our case), taha wairua (Deaf values and developing a positive and healthy Deaf identity), taha whanāu (impacts of Deafhood on the family or whanāu and how they respond and manage can influence their Deaf child's education) and taha hinengaro.

Past experiences of community work include serving on the Deaf Education Aotearoa New Zealand, Deaf Aotearoa Executive Board and Auckland Parents of Deaf Children.

I occasionally get contractual work for leading Deaf organisations as a consultant, providing tertiary tuition at AUT on Deaf Studies (history of Deaf Education in New Zealand and academic theories), giving public presentations and facilitating workshops for a range of purposes – for enhanced access, advancement and awareness.

I believe that I can contribute a wealth of experience, drawing from personal and professional perspectives and whakawhanaugatanga is valued, embracing our diverse population of Aotearoa New Zealand that deserves the best of education in order for our tamariki to become aspiring, successful and most importantly happy adults.

Hapaitia te ara tika pumau ai te rangatiratanga mo nga uri whakatipu

Foster the pathway of knowledge to strength, independence and growth for future generations

Crystal Skinley

NZSL: <https://vimeo.com/335036216/9622389209>

Kia ora I am Crystal Skinley I am the mother of 3 incredible Deaf children (I am also Deaf) who are 5,4,2 years old currently. I have been a foster parent since 2004 and am now even a foster grandmother.

Locally I am a member of our kindergarten committee and Deaf society and involved with our deaf children's association, I was part of the group that collaborated with our ministry of education office and deaf education center and parents group and advocated for the set up of Turi hub nzsl immersion program. I have served on the combined board of trustees since the end of 2015 and also serve on the Early childhood trust board. I try and live "be the change you want to see in the world" as much as I am able. I would like to continue serving to advocate for the rights and needs for deaf children.

I really care about Deaf education and making sure all our Deaf learners get the best education and are able to succeed.



Jennie Yang

NZSL: <https://vimeo.com/335036530/3ba0d6698c>

I am a mother to a wonderful two-year old boy, Benji, who is profoundly Deaf. Benji currently attends KDEC Preschool and his first language is NZSL. Our whole family has fallen in love with this incredible language and use it in our daily communication. On top of that, we spend a lot of time in the Deaf Community learning about Deaf Culture and philosophy.

My passion in Deaf Education came about when I learned more about the lack of education access for Deaf Children. This became my catalyst to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in English-NZSL Interpreting at the Auckland University of Technology. My goal is to advocate and promote better educational access for the Deaf Community. I believe that acquiring an English-NZSL Interpreting qualification would enable me to achieve this in greater capacity and am committed to working in Deaf Education when I graduate.

Being involved in the KDEC and VADEC Combined Board would be an exciting opportunity for me because it means being able to contribute, brainstorm and collaborate at a strategic level for Deaf Education nationwide. It also means that I will be vested, committed and work very hard to ensure that the strategies proposed have the best interest of all NZ Deaf children.

I spent the first 15 years of my career in communications and media. When I left the industry, I was in senior management with a team of 40 people. I have experience in managing difficult situations, juggling multiple goals and not losing sight of the big picture. Subsequently, I worked at a regional voluntary organisation who were governed by a Board of Trustees. I have had extensive experience being in board meetings, reading large amounts of information and working in a group with differing views and perspectives. I am currently a parent on the Parent Committee at KDEC Preschool.

Candidates' Statements [van Asch Deaf Education Centre]



Katya Blair

NZSL: <https://vimeo.com/335037009/00ef3adb00>

Dear Parents and Whānau,

I am a mother of three children, including a delightful profoundly Deaf daughter aged 7. I am passionate about her and all her deaf/HOH peers' right to receive a great education and achieve their true potential. I believe they all need specialist support to do this, as deaf learners are unique and don't often fit easily in the mainstream education box. In general, deaf/HOH children are still struggling with reading, writing and numeracy and are performing below their peers in these areas. I want to be part of changing this and developing a truly needs-based system, and not one where those with 'lesser' needs, or those who aren't 'deaf enough' miss out entirely. I am also wanting to be a voice for those from the more remote regions and smaller centres, as my family and I are relocating to the North of the South Island later in the year.

My professional background is as an English as a Second Language teacher and as a Health and Disability Advocate, and I am now beginning my own academic study in Deaf Education. I also learn NZSL in my own time and I am involved in our local parents' group activities. I believe myself to be a strong voice and advocate for the needs of New Zealand's deaf kids. I appreciate your vote!



Anthonie de Heer

NZSL: <https://vimeo.com/335040553/f9e4a21187>

My name is Anthonie De Heer and I would like to be considered as a candidate for the 2019 Board of Trustees Parent election for Van Asch/Kelston Deaf Education Centre.

I feel I have something to offer to the group that will focus at a national level of development and strengthen Deaf education across all of New Zealand. Being a parent of a deaf child I understand how important it is to ensure the big picture remains relevant to my child today, but also focused on the man he will be in the future.

I've been fortunate to have a work history that gives me some relevant skills that can be used to support the governance needed in this role. I was educated in three-dimensional design where design thinking and planning became an everyday focus. This design thinking helped mould my future leadership roles, coaching, people development and strategic planning, as it allowed me to consider lots of different options to get to a relevant, exciting outcome. I now work for a major national corporation where strategic thinking and planning is vital in a changing digital age. I have run design thinking workshop's for my department and the corporation is adopting the agile format of planning.

I also volunteered my time to support the recovery of our local tennis club after the Christchurch earthquakes and strategised on a new plan to support an area of Christchurch that was affected by the fact that it borders on the earthquake Red-zone. This strategic plan is still in play until the end of 2020. I also took this unique opportunity to challenge myself to do many of the vital roles to make a committee successful, with a purpose to understand how vitally important it is for all parts of an organisation/committee to support and understand the strategic outcome.

I feel I have the right skills to offer a vital opinion to the future development of deaf education across New Zealand.

My "Why" is to contribute to the strategy of deaf education in New Zealand so my child can have a future and similar opportunities like any other New Zealander. Nobody should be left behind if they choose to be involved.

Thank you for considering my application and I hope that you vote for me.



Dr Denise Powell

NZSL: <https://vimeo.com/335041085/10b9d40ef2>

Since training as a teacher of the deaf in the mid-1980s I have gained a wide range of experiences both within deaf education and the wider Deaf community. I have seen many changes throughout this time and strongly believe we can learn from the past to inform the future. Part of the reason I am interested in providing my services to the Board of Trustees is that I am excited about the possibilities being presented by the merger of the two schools to the way in which we support students and deliver quality services, including those whose primary face to face communication is New Zealand Sign Language.

In my day job I am a senior lecturer at the University of Canterbury in the College of Education, Health and Human Development, and coordinator of the Specialist Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing training programme. It is a role I treasure wholeheartedly, as I believe that our DHH children deserve the very best. In order to provide quality education we require quality teachers and my expectations of the Teacher of the Deaf students are high. I truly believe I have the opportunity to make a difference in this role and hopefully my passion for deaf education has a positive and lasting impact on the students I teach.

So what can I bring to the Board in terms of personal and professional skills? I am a clear logical thinker and a team player. I am able to sift through large amounts of information/data, identify key elements and discuss and present these in a collaborative and accessible way. I am a listener who respects differing viewpoints and experiences. I believe in sharing knowledge, and to this end have undertaken research, presented at conferences, contributed to working groups and conference committees both in the field of deaf education and human rights. I was recently awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship to travel overseas to investigate whether co-enrolment environments could be a possible part of the future of deaf education in New Zealand and am excited to share my findings with anyone interested!

Deaf education is at a crossroads in New Zealand. I am passionate about strengthening the sector to provide quality access to education for all deaf and hard of hearing students. I believe I have the right skills, experience and knowledge to make a positive contribution to this board.



Dawn Wetzel

NZSL: <https://vimeo.com/335041555/14042e5395>

My name is Dawn. Originally from Waiheke Island and now residing in the Nelson/Tasman region of St Arnaud. I am the proud mum of Sierra, our 10 year old deaf daughter.

I have enjoyed a fulfilling career in the law profession and am currently a senior legal executive with a nationwide law firm.

I have been closely involved with mainstream schooling of our deaf daughter and know from experience the difficulties that can arise in endeavouring to make this work.

I am well versed and placed to advocate for our children and support you, as a parent, whether you are working with a hub, the residential school or mainstream services.

I am a passionate and skilled communicator, unafraid to ask, enquire and take on relevant and challenging questions and tasks to empower us to be proactive in obtaining positive and constructive results for our children within the education community as well as the community at large.

With my skills and knowledge along with a good dose of energy, integrity and enthusiasm, I am keen to add to, build on and underscore the relationships and positive developments made by the existing Board of Trustees for a brighter future for our children.