

MEDIA RELEASE

FROM WANAKA PRIMARY SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

19 APRIL 2006

NEW BOT CHAIRMAN FOR WANAKA PRIMARY SCHOOL

At the recent AGM of the Wanaka Primary School BOT Mike Scurr has stood down as chairman and Pete Bullen has filled the position.

Mike Scurr has served the Board of Trustees tirelessly for the last 6 years and is by no means ending his association with the school. Quite the opposite Mike has declared his enthusiasm for continuing on the board and contributing to the relocation of the existing school to Scurr Heights.

Over Mike's tenure as a trustee and then chairperson the student role at WPS has nearly doubled. Mike's focus over this period has been primarily dealing with finance and property issues and he leaves the chairman's role with the school in a strong position to make the transition to a new school. The foresight and innovation shown by the board under Mike's leadership has resulted in the school being recognized as achieving at the highest level through the Education Review Office (ERO) reports. WPS consistently runs within the operational funding provided and has not ended any school year in a deficit situation.

This can only be attributed to the sound financial management provided by the board in assisting the principal and staff throughout the year.

One of the highlights of Mike Scurr's tenure has to be the introduction of two new classrooms funded by the board using cash reserves and sweat equity. These much needed rooms were supplied at a time when Wanaka was experiencing unrepresented growth and the MOE was too slow to react. It would be unimaginable to think of the overcrowding in the classrooms today if the board hadn't taken the intuitive

Today WPS BOT has substantial equity in the current school assets that will be transferred to the new site adding to the many benefits that our children will receive from the relocation.

Mike Scurr has left the board chair with WPS in a much stronger position than it was when he took over. The challenge now will be for the new board chair to sustain the high level of governance as WPS prepares to move to its new site.

END.

Prepared by Pete Bullen:

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