**Royal Oak Primary School Board of Trustees Election**

**Parent Representative Candidate Statements**

**Dustin Botha**

I’d like to help contribute to the smooth running of Royal Oak Primary School, by joining the school board. As a potential member of the board, I can offer skills in finance, IT, and property management.

I routinely manage a P&L as part of my daily job, where I have refined my abilities to analyse budgets, manage expenses, and make financial decisions. I am well-versed in creating and overseeing budgets, allocating resources efficiently, and identifying cost-saving opportunities. In a school board role, these skills can be instrumental in maximizing the financial resources available to ROPS; benefiting our students and teachers.

I bring a valuable skill set in the field of Information Technology (IT). As technology continues to play an increasing role in education, my IT skills can help bridge the gap between traditional teaching methods and modern digital learning tools.

I believe I bring to the table a unique set of skills to complement the school board team and help Royal Oak Primary School thrive.

**Anna Jennings**

****I am parent of two current students at Royal Oak Primary School. Thea is in her fifth year and Rhys is in his second year at ROPS. My husband Sam and I live locally and are passionate about the area, the community, and ROPS. I have been coaching Thea’s ROPS netball team for the last two years and have seen firsthand the strong students that are growing at ROPS. I am keen to give more to the school and use my professional skills to support ROPS to grow and thrive. I am a Programme Director and have strengths in collaboration, strategic problem solving, developing strong partnerships, and securing alternative funding. I have been in local government for a number of years, and I am passionate about Tamaki Makaurau and creating an accessible, thriving, and climate friendly city for future generations without passing on a burden of debt. I work in teams across a range of expertise to establish and achieve common goals. I do this by collaborating, working to understand different perspectives, and running an inclusive process. I have a wide range of experience within governance structures. I sit on Project and Programme Steering Groups, and I have reported up to executive members, Boards and elected members including the Mayor and Councillors. I am skilled at tailoring messages and building trust and respect. I would like to use my skills on the School Board and give back to a school that is giving both of our children such strong foundations.

**Bradley Miln**

Dear fellow parents, teachers, and members of the Royal Oak School community, I am excited to announce my candidacy for the School Board at Royal Oak School. As a dedicated parent and an advocate for quality education, I am deeply committed to helping shape the future of our school and ensuring that every student receives the best possible educational experience. I have been a proud member of the Royal Oak School community for several years, and I am continually inspired by the school's commitment to excellence, inclusivity, and fostering a nurturing environment for our children. The values and vision of Royal Oak School (“Care, Respect, Empower”) align closely with my own, and I am eager to contribute my skills and expertise to support and enhance these principles. My professional background in financial services has equipped me with valuable skills in strategic planning and financial management that I believe will be beneficial in serving on the School Board. I am passionate about empowering our teachers and staff to excel in their roles and providing our students with the resources they need to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially. Royal Oak School's commitment to fostering a strong sense of community and promoting diversity and inclusivity is something I hold dear. If elected, I will work diligently to ensure that these values are upheld and expanded upon. I believe in transparent communication and collaboration among parents, teachers, and administrators to create an environment where every voice is heard and respected. I am dedicated to helping shape policies and initiatives that will positively impact our students and ensure that Royal Oak School continues to be a place where learning flourishes. I am committed to enhancing the educational experience at Royal Oak School, ensuring that it remains a place where our children are inspired, challenged, active and supported to reach their full potential. I would be honoured to have your support in this School Board election. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our children and the Royal Oak School community as a whole. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve as a dedicated advocate for our students and their educational future.

**Georgie Shanks**

Kia ora, talofa lava, ni hao, namaste, mālō e lelei and hello! My name is Georgie Shanks.

My family have been part of the ROPs community since 2016. Over the years I have enjoyed being involved at the school, participating in school fundraising via the Parent Group and more recently serving three years on the board, having taken the role of Board Chair in the last year. I’m invested in my community in Royal Oak and have found my role on the board to be a hugely valuable experience. I bring a unique blend of expertise, merging wellbeing/psychology, marketing, and community engagement. I believe children thrive when they can cultivate their strengths and seize opportunities. Every tamariki in our school has their distinct experiences, culture, strengths and values. As a board member, our governance can create opportunities for all ROPs students to believe in themselves as learners. During my time on the board I’ve been part of a dedicated team that has nurtured an environment where our children can thrive. The board has been delighted to witness growth in our music and STEM programmes. Together with the Senior Leadership team, we have been focused on fostering an inclusive school that embraces our diverse community’s cultures. It has been exciting to contribute to the vision to enhance digital literacy, wellbeing and student inquiry at ROPs, as well as supporting the growth of our passionate and professional Kaiako. I am excited by the strategic decisions that have been made to focus on student achievement going forward. I have enjoyed facilitating discussions and development on key issues facing the school. I’m passionate about ensuring the school is well resourced to grow our academic outcomes and provide a wide variety of extracurricular activities. I believe we can continue the progress we've achieved so far, building on the school’s strengths and focusing on areas for growth. I am committed to working with the Senior Leadership team to create a positive, thriving community for your tamariki and our staff. I would be thrilled to continue my work on the ROPs school board in 2024.