



## **SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTIONS**

### **Parent Representatives: Candidate Statements You Can vote for five (5) Candidates**



***BAILEY, Brad***

My name is Brad Bailey and I am honoured to put myself forward as a parent representative on the Board of Sancta Maria College.

I come from a background of service, having begun my career as a communications contractor for the New Zealand Navy before becoming a sworn soldier in both the Royal New Zealand Signals and Infantry. These experiences instilled in me the values of discipline, responsibility, and teamwork—qualities I believe are just as essential in guiding our children as they are in serving our nation.

Following my time in the military, I worked in construction and land surveying before moving into aviation, where I have spent the last 20 years—currently serving as a long-haul pilot on Air New Zealand's wide-body fleet. These varied roles have given me a broad perspective, an ability to work with diverse people, and a steady approach to problem-solving under pressure.

I was raised in the Catholic school system in New Zealand, which gave me a foundation not just in education, but in faith and character. It's a foundation I see reflected—and deeply valued—at Sancta Maria College. We have had the joy of seeing our eldest daughter make the decision to join the Sancta family. We have witnessed firsthand how the college nurtures faith, integrity, and academic growth in a supportive and Christ-centred environment. I'm encouraged to see the sport and athletic side of things also growing as I am quite passionate about this.

I am conservative by nature, and I value the traditions of family, faith, and community. I also believe in respectful, thoughtful governance and stewardship—especially when it comes to the lives and learning of our young people. Sancta Maria College, to me, stands as a light in a darkening world—offering hope, truth, and a solid biblical foundation to the next generation. I wholeheartedly support the leadership and vision of the school, and I would be honoured to play a small part in helping to uphold and strengthen that.

If entrusted with this role, I will listen well, serve diligently, and always keep the long-term interests of our children and school community at heart.  
Thank you for considering my nomination.



***BASSI, Taniya***

My connection to the school is both personal and professional, which I believe offers a unique perspective to contribute meaningfully to its governance and continued success.

As a former English teacher at the school in its foundation years and eventually serving as Head of Pastoral Care, I understand the school's ethos and values, student wellbeing, and strategic direction. I gained experience in shaping a positive and inclusive school culture and witnessed its effect on student success and wellbeing.

As a teacher I am aware of what happens in the classroom, the challenges our educators face and the support they need for our children to succeed. Today, I remain connected through relief teaching, as a member of the St Lukes Parish and as a parent to my year 8 son. As a parent, I recognise the value of not only academic achievement but also the holistic development and wellbeing of our children, emotionally spiritually and socially. This dual lens of teacher and parent gives me a balanced perspective that values the diversity of students, the dedication of staff, and the hopes of families.

Being on the board will enable me to actively engage with the government's recent changes to the curriculum and contribute meaningfully to our school's response. As an experienced teacher of 30 years in both public and private schools, including Cambridge and NCEA, I offer a clear understanding of different educational frameworks and the rewards and challenges to our children.

Beyond education, I own and operate a marine business, which has equipped me with strong skills in strategic planning, financial oversight, and people management. I am familiar with the competencies our young people must develop to secure meaningful employment in a world that is rapidly evolving and fiercely competitive.

I have also previously served as secretary on the Board of Trustees at Our Lady Star of the Sea School, gaining a solid understanding of effective board processes, collaboration, and the responsibilities of governance while upholding the values that guide us as a Catholic, future-focused school. My desire to join the board stems from a sincere commitment to give back. I care deeply that Sancta Maria College remains a place where excellence thrives, where every individual feels a true sense of achievement and belonging and where our shared faith remains our guiding force. I would be honoured if you would vote for me to serve on the board.



***CHETTIAR, Angeline***

As a parent of a child attending the school, I am eager to contribute my skills and give back to the school community.

I believe that parent representative work collaboratively with staff, students, whānau, parents, and the wider community to positively impact children's education. I am motivated by the opportunity to be involved in setting the direction for the school, helping to manage resources effectively, and making a tangible difference for all students.

I look forward to the possibility of contributing to a strong board that utilizes diverse skills and experiences to achieve the best outcomes for the school.



***COUTINHO, Francis***

Kia ora: I am honoured to stand for election as a Parent Representative on the Board of Trustees.

I'm the proud father of 2 daughters, Gabriella, currently in Year 7 at Sancta Maria College, and Michaela, who eagerly looks forward to joining Sancta in 2028.

With over 30 years' experience as a professional chef, including leadership roles in corporate hospitality, I bring strong skills in strategic planning, financial oversight, and team leadership. I'm passionate about education and deeply committed to fostering a learning environment where every student can thrive—academically, personally, and spiritually.

I currently serve on the boards of St Mark's Catholic Primary School, Howick School of Music and HBR Community Services Ltd. These roles have sharpened my understanding of effective governance and reflect my commitment to community service.

As a long-time parishioner at St Mark's Parish, I'm actively involved in several ministries, including Liturgical Ministry team, Children's Choir and Sacramental programme. I also contribute to local environmental and community engagement initiatives, which I see as vital parts of a well-rounded Catholic education.

I am committed to working closely with school leadership and fellow Board members to uphold our strong Catholic values and ensure Sancta Maria College remains a caring, faith-filled, and respected presence in the community.

It would be an absolute honour to represent you with integrity, respect, energy and genuine dedication. Ngā mihi nui



***GARCIA GUERRERO, Cesar***

As a proud parent of two boys currently attending Sancta Maria College and one at Sancta Maria Primary, I have a deep, personal connection to the school and a genuine love for its community. I am also a current Board member at Sancta Maria Catholic Primary School, where I actively contribute to strategic governance, school improvement initiatives, and fostering a collaborative environment grounded in faith and service.

I am passionate about supporting the mission and values of Sancta Maria College, which are rooted in Catholic faith, academic excellence, and holistic student development. I believe schools thrive when there is a strong partnership between leadership, staff, whānau, and the wider community. I am committed to strengthening those relationships to ensure every student feels supported, inspired, and empowered to reach their full potential.

With over 20 years of leadership experience across complex organisations in New Zealand and internationally, I bring governance capability, strategic thinking, and a collaborative mindset. I understand the importance of transparency, accountability, and community voice in Board decisions, especially when shaping a positive and inclusive learning environment.

My approach is values-led and people-centred. I believe family care, student wellbeing, and sports development are essential, alongside academic success. Nurturing young people to be compassionate, resilient individuals grounded in faith is equally important. I am particularly committed to upholding and strengthening the Catholic character of the school, supporting our

kaiako and staff, and helping guide the College's strategic direction in alignment with our shared mission.

I offer a passion for sports as a unifying force within our community, along with practical experience and a genuine heart for service, guided by the belief that together we can develop future leaders and champions grounded in integrity, purpose, and faith.

It would be an honour to serve on the Sancta Maria College Board and contribute to the ongoing growth of a school that plays such a central role in my family's life and the lives of many others.



***HEFFERNAN, Adrian***

I am currently one of the parent representatives on the Board of Trustee's at Sancta Maria College.

My wife Anita was a former teacher at Sancta Maria for 13 years, my eldest daughter finished two years ago and my youngest daughter is in Year 13. I love the Catholic and Holistic education Sancta Maria

College offers to all our children.

A little bit about myself:

*My childhood:*

- I was born and bred in Otahuhu, Auckland
- St Joseph's Catholic Parish in Otahuhu was/is a huge part of my life.
- I went to St Joseph's Catholic Primary in Otahuhu.
- I then went on to De La Salle College in Mangere East. (My 3 older brothers also went to De La Salle College and my older sister went to McAulay High School).

*My career:*

- I was a Sergeant in the New Zealand Police for 18 years and was stationed around Auckland and South Auckland for my entire Police career. The last 4 years within the Police I was a Police Prosecutor at the Manukau District Court.
- I left the Police in 2018 and now run two very successful businesses, that employ 12 staff.
- I am halfway through completing my law degree.

I am a huge believer in a Catholic education and the role that the church and school should play in educating our children and preparing them for the world ahead. I have a strong family connection to the Auckland Catholic Diocese and to the St Vincent De Paul Society.

*What skills can I continue to bring to the board:*

- Understanding that the role of the board of trustee's is to be future focused and laying the foundations of strong governance.
- Financial skills due to running two successful businesses.
- Human Resources skills from employing staff and working with a diverse range of people within my 18 years in the Police.
- The ability to listen to differing opinions and make factual decisions.
- I am a people person and can relate and talk to everyone.
- Not afraid to have difficult conversations with people and strongly focused on fairness and conflict resolution, due to my experience in the Police.

My children have thrived from their time so far at Sancta Maria College and I feel that I still have more to give the school community as a parent representative – especially during this time where the school will be appointing a new school principal.



***MATHEW, Komal***

My name is Komal, and I am a proud parent of two children currently attending SMC and SMCP. I am running for the school board because I care deeply about the future of our children, our school, and our community.

My daughter is attending SMC for the last 3 years and during that time, I have come to know and appreciate the dedication of our teachers, the diversity of our students, and the strength of our parent community.

My own children have experienced the benefits of inspiring teachers, challenging academics, and supportive school environments—and I want to ensure that every family in our school has access to those same opportunities.

Professionally, I bring a background in procurement, which equips me with the skills to analyse policy, ask thoughtful questions, and advocate effectively. I am committed to ensuring that our school allocates resources responsibly, supports teacher development, and makes data-informed decisions that benefit all students—regardless of background or ability.

If elected, my priorities will include:

- Fostering transparent and open communication between the board and families.
- Supporting academic excellence while addressing learning gaps.
- Promoting mental health and student well-being.
- Ensuring equity and access for every student, including those with special needs and from underrepresented communities.
- Foster a culture where all students feel safe, valued, and encouraged to thrive.

If elected, I will bring a parent's perspective and a strong commitment to listening to the voices of our families and educators. I believe that decision-making should be grounded in both data and compassion. I also believe in creating meaningful partnerships between home and school—because when families are engaged, student outcomes improve.

I am not running because I have all the answers—I am running because I am willing to listen, learn, and work hard to help our school succeed. I want our children to feel proud of their schools and confident about their future.

Thank you for your support. I would be honoured to serve as parent representative on the school board.





***NGAN WOO PULEVAKA, Shandel***

Kia ora, Talofa, Kamusta, Namaste and Hello to you all. I am Shandel Ngan Woo, and I am standing to be a parent representative on the Sancta Maria College school board. I'm an ordinary mum and I'm passionate about our children doing extraordinary things!

My experience as a board member was when I was voted twice by the students – once in 5th form (Year 10) and the second time in 7th form (Year 13) to be the student representative at Penrose High School. Times have certainly changed since then but not the passion and drive to have our children succeed in their education and be meaningfully engaged in our school community. All our children have different strengths and aspirations whether it's in education, music, sports, the arts, cultural groups or in their faith and we should continue to nurture their gifts in a supportive and inclusive environment.

I believe that all parents at Sancta Maria College share a common goal: to see our children thrive in all aspects of their education. I believe this can be achieved by having a good balance of like-minded individuals working collaboratively to make SMC a S-uper M-agnificent C-ollege! This is possible by working collaboratively with the school board, the teachers, the parent representatives and the current student rep.

One of my strengths is that of a natural communicator. I can talk easily to people from all walks of life, be it from different cultural backgrounds, professions or age groups. I am a respectful, approachable, fair and reasonable person who sees situations as opportunities to provide solutions for.

About me - I work full-time in the social services sector, and I have three children. My oldest son Jonarren (18 years), who completed Year 13 at SMC in 2024 is now in his first year of studying for a Health Science degree. My daughter Jiavana (12 years) who is in Year 7 here at SMC and my youngest son Jordain (6 years) who is in Year 2 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School. I am a member of the St. Lukes Parish and I'm active in the Liturgy Community there. I love learning different languages and also about people's cultures and I do enjoy watching rugby league and yes, I am a big Warriors Fan, Up The Wahs! I would be honoured to represent you—vote Shandel Ngan Woo for parent representative.



***PRITCHARD, Grant***

Kia ora, 你好, नमस्ते, ਸਤਿ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਕਾਲ, வணக்கம், કેમ છો, kumusta, talofa lava, mālō e lelei, kia orana, bula vinaka, fakaalofa atu, السلام عليكم, salam, bonjour, 안녕하세요, こんにちは, hello!

*[About me]*

I live in Papatoetoe with my wife Angela and our four children: We attend St Anne's Manurewa, and are blessed to have our boys Oliver and Edward at Sancta Maria. I'm passionate about Catholic education have significant experience as a trustee, having served on the Holy Cross Papatoetoe BOT for 6 years.

*[Why I'm standing]*

I believe every child - of every culture, background and ability - deserves to feel seen, supported, and uplifted. I want Sancta Maria to be thriving as a place of faith, learning, and community - delivering academic excellence, equipping teachers and students to succeed, and keeping faith, fairness and compassion at the centre of school decisions.

*[Championing Catholic character]*

I believe our Catholic faith should be visible, lived, and celebrated throughout the school. I'll advocate for maintaining and strengthening:

- eucharistic celebration, daily prayer and opportunities for students to encounter Christ in their school lives
- student-led faith and service initiatives, including community outreach, and
- support for ongoing professional development, to maintain quality teaching and religious education.

*[Embracing our diverse community]*

With students from across Aotearoa, the Pacific Islands, Asia and beyond, it's important to me that every child and family feels welcomed and cared for within our school community. On the Board, I will support:

- opportunities for students to share their cultural identity with pride, through cultural assemblies and other events during the school year
- a regular "culture corner" for the school newsletter, where different groups can celebrate and share their culture and traditions, and
- stronger outreach and engagement to different communities, including fostering parent participation and informal culture groups within our school.

*[Governance & student success]*

I will bring governance, collaborative leadership, and practical problem-solving experience to the Board - contributing meaningfully to Board decisions. I'm passionate about student and staff wellbeing, student success, and future readiness. I'll advocate for:

- improving technology and resources to enhance teaching and learning
- practical age-appropriate mental health, wellbeing and sexual health curriculum, and
- improving outcomes for neurodiverse learners through targeted supports and inclusive teaching strategies.

*[Why you should vote for me]*

Sancta Maria is a taonga that belongs to all of us - staff, students and families. I'll be your advocate for fairness, inclusion and practical decisions - ensuring every child is seen, every voice is heard, and every family has a champion on the Board.



***SUNDRAM, Praveena***

Kia ora koutou, I am proud to be part of the Sancta Maria College community — a place where faith, education, and family come together to shape the next generation. I'm standing for the Board because I believe in the importance of fostering a supportive school environment, guided by Catholic values and focused on helping every learner flourish.

I currently work as a Teaching Assistant, a role that has given me first-hand insight into the daily realities of school life — from the classroom to the staffroom to the wider school whānau. I see how much a well-functioning, forward-thinking Board can impact not just student achievement, but also staff wellbeing, community trust, and a positive school culture.

Professionally, I have a background in administration, student support, and customer service, with experience working in both government and educational settings.

As a long-standing Parent Committee member and Treasurer at Our Lady Star of the Sea School, I've had the privilege of working alongside families and school leadership to support fundraising efforts and manage finances with transparency and care. I value clear communication, genuine collaboration, and listening to the voices of our school community — qualities that I believe are essential when making decisions that affect our tamariki, teachers, and whānau.

What motivates me most is ensuring that decisions made at Board level genuinely reflect the needs and hopes of our diverse school community. I bring a calm, thoughtful approach, a willingness to listen, and the confidence to ask hard questions when needed. I want to contribute meaningfully to shaping the future of Sancta Maria College — a future where academic achievement, wellbeing, and belonging go hand in hand.

I would be honoured to serve as your Parent Representative. Ngā mihi nui,



***ZSHORNACK, Elliot***

I would like to put forth myself up for nomination for the Sancta Maria Board as one of the parent representatives.

My qualifications include a Master in Business Administration which will be helpful in managing the funds of the school, a six sigma Greenbelt Qualification which would be vital for continuous improvement and an electrical engineering degree with 28 years of actual engineering experience. I am also currently a member of the body corporate committee of a 14 story apartment building in Manukau so I am used to working with a committee and managing funds that would best benefit owners or in this case the school community.

I currently have a daughter in year 7 and eventually will have a son as well so would be very invested in this board.