

BOT Update June Meeting

- Dave Smith HOD Hard Materials Technology gave us a detailed tour of the upgraded Technology Block. The first part of the upgrade has been completed, and the final stage to commence next term.
- Dave in his Lead Literacy Teacher role, also reported on Literacy within the school. He outlined the strategies being used, PLD the staff are involved in and the school-wide strategies being used to enhance, extend and improve all students' literacy levels.
- The Board, along with representatives from the O-Tāwhao Marae Committee, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, student body and Livingstones were thrilled to attend the blessing of the upgraded Marae. This has been a long drawn out process, but the upgraded kitchen, mattress room, toilets/showers and the new heating system have enhanced it hugely and have been worth the wait. This was a jointly funded project between the Marae Committee, MOE and the BOT. A sprinkler system is also to be installed to protect the taonga in the wharenuī. The BOT is deeply indebted to Russell Easton for his continued outstanding work – as project designer and manager.
- Recently the Board received feedback from DP Cath Parr on the progress being made in the area of Year 9 and 10 assessment across all subjects. This was a recommendation from the last ERO report in 2013, and with ERO due to revisit us again next year we need to be in an improved position – which we are.
- There has been recent media coverage in relation to the College's stance on the MOE initiative IES [Investing in Educational Success] which has a large amount of funding [\$359 million] attached to it. This initiative looks at developing a Community of Schools [COS] from Primary, Intermediate and Secondary schools, that would work together in a collaborative manner for the benefit of the students. In the Waipa area there is already a group of schools doing just that in areas of Writing and Literacy – we are part of this. The recent 'Teacher Only Day' was an example of such collaboration, with us hosting the day for most teachers in the area (16 schools).

The 9 schools that are keen to create a COS in the Waipa area would immediately limit the remaining schools from doing the same, as there is only one College and Intermediate in our area and we cannot be part of two COS. Interestingly there is only one COS in the Greater Waikato area and that is in Hauraki.

The BOT has had lengthy, in-depth and enquiring discussions on this matter, looking at all aspects of the proposal from the 'idea' to 'how it would work' in our school on a day to day basis and we are united in our 'wait and see' stance for the present.

Next meeting will be held 26 August in TAC staffroom at 6.30pm.