

BOT Update: Headlines from the August 2018 Meeting

A full copy of the minutes of this meeting are available from the Main office.

This was our 5th meeting for the school year. While this was technically our 5th meeting due to the July being a non-meeting month, the Board did use the “July meeting equivalent date” to have our first workshop for our Rogers Trust review (as noted in our last minutes).

Most BOT meetings are consistent with what is covered year to year. In the same way that the Annual Plan is adopted in February of each year, August brings about our half year review of it. So, this, along with a report on the Principal’s Appraisal, a report on Alternative Education and our usual items, made up part of this meeting along with an update on some educational reviews and a discussion regarding the Rogers Trust workshop. The summary is:

- We started the evening with Neil Bauernfeind providing a report on our AE (Alternative Education) Provider review:
 - For those not aware, we have a system where we are able to provide students who struggle with or are alienated from main stream education to have an opportunity to receive education in an off-campus environment so that they are able to obtain enough skills to help them through the maze of life.
 - We engage an external provider to provide this service, who is signed off by the Ministry of Education. Two reports are required to be furnished to the MOE (mid and end of year).
 - The number of spaces is extremely limited so requires management of who is there versus who is at school.
 - While the students are at AE they are classified as belonging to our school community, so it is our role to monitor what is happening in this area.
 - AE is part of Neil’s management responsibility and is a task that he manages very well to the benefit of the school. As a Board we thank Neil for his commitment to this part of his role.
- Tony went through the highlights of the Annual Plan review and confidently answered any questions that we had of him. The Board is very happy with where the school is at at this stage of the year.
- We received a report from Trustee Ruth Foulkes confirming the Principal’s Appraisal that was held by the subcommittee. I thank Ruth for taking on the role of Chair of that subcommittee and guiding us through the process. While historically the review has been performed and reported at this time of the year, the subcommittee has recommended that it is done earlier in the year around when the results of the previous year have been confirmed by NZQA. The subcommittee also advised the BOT that the Principal’s review for 2019 is to be done by an external reviewer so are working to obtain that reviewer ready for early next year.
- The “to do” list from the workshop was to clarify some information back to the facilitators of the Rogers Trust review. We spent time clarifying the facilitator’s report as it was presented and obtained replies to the questions raised. We believe that we have now completed Stage One of the two stage process. We await contact now from the facilitators to proceed to the next stage.

- While it has been in the news, there is currently a review happening with both, NCEA and Tomorrow's Schools. Tony provided an overview of where both reviews are at from his time with other principals from across NZ and talked us through what the school (Management and staff) are doing and asked us to provide feedback to the Ministry through some surveys they are running. It is planned to pass this information onto the wider school community when we are able.
- Alongside our usual review of the monthly Financial accounts (The June and July numbers due to not having a July meeting) we re-committed the school to being audited by Crowe Horwath as part of the MOE audit cycle that had us needing to resign our auditor for another three years.
- The usual Principal's Report, Health and Safety Report, Property Report, correspondence and last meeting's minutes were tabled and discussed where necessary.
- The Board confirmed the BOT members to Rogers Trust and the Returning Officer for the student rep election which were passed via email between the meetings.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 September 2018 at 6.00pm in the Staff Room. As is usual the meetings are open to all so if you are interested in what we get up to, do come along and see and hear what we do; you are most welcome.

Craig Yarnley

(Chairperson)