

BOT Update: Headlines from the February 2019 Meeting

For those who prefer detail of the meeting, A full copy of the minutes of this meeting are available from the school office.

This was our first meeting for the new school year. Being the first meeting in the year it is customary to re-elect positions and committees, unless it is election year (within the main 3-year cycle). This means that I maintain my role through to the election or August meeting (as I am up for election), and Jock Ellis (Deputy Chair) until our August Meeting. The same applies for any of the sub committees. For those who are up for election they remain on them until either the election or our August meeting.

This is a good space to plug the virtues of supporting the school and standing for the BOT. The BOT functions best when it has a diverse mix of Trustees who bring many views to the table. This gives strength to the BOT which flows through to the support that the Principal, management and teaching team receive to provide a great educational experience at the school.

Our first meeting of the year is a mix of reports around what happened last year and what our plans are for this year. As is usual for the first meeting of the year we covered several important items as well as having several reports presented by staff. The summary is:

- We started the evening with 3 staff members present to give us some reports:
 - We started off with Coral and Helen, two of our school counsellors talking to and answering questions around the 2018 Guidance Department Report. Being able to listen and ask questions of Coral and Helen certainly provided us with a better insight to the written word. Their report also gave us some action items and things to think about. Thanks Coral and Helen for a very informative and complete report.
 - We then had Helen Bright talk to her Te Awamutu District Schools' Attendance Officer Report 2018. While the MOE provides a "truancy service" the local schools fund out of their operating grants Helen to provide a service that is additional to what the MOE provides. We do that because Helen is more effective in helping students' attendance. Helen is based at the College but provides support to the surrounding schools (who all contribute to the service). Helen provided some humour (on a no names basis), reality and overview that the Board sincerely appreciated. A thanks also to Helen.
 - After receiving the reports, the BOT recognised how very blessed we are as a school to have these people caring for our students. Well done Coral, Helen and Helen.

- Our Principal tabled, and the Board, after discussion, adopted the 2019 Annual Plan, the 2019-2022 Charter and the Analysis of Variance Report for 2018. These are all Ministry of Education (MOE) required documents and have been filed with the MOE. A copy of the Annual Plan and the Charter can be found on the website. The Board also recognised that it is time to engage our community with our Charter (We had held off because of the potential changes to MOE requirements with all the educational reviews happening). Tracy Findlay will oversee engaging the community so that our 2020 Charter will have been prepared with community engagement (This is where we put out to our community our current Charter so that they have an opportunity to comment and provide input. This is done every few years or so).

- The Board approved an application to the Trillian Trust and Grassroots Trust for sporting team requests. This is something that we do on an annual basis to assist the school with providing support to our sporting activities. The school and sporting codes are appreciative of the ongoing support we receive from these two organisations. (A BOT fund exists for supporting our cultural activities).
- Not only were the usual reports (Principal, Property, Health and Safety) received but we also had tabled:
 - 2018 Alternative Education Report (Neil Bauernfeind)
 - 2018 Health Centre Report (Maureen Brown)

The Board were all thankful of the efforts these people put into their areas of influence.

- We had two Financial reports to review this time around, one being the provisional year end December 2018 report as well as the report for January. It was pleasing to see that the provisional result for 2018 is a good number. With it being more than we budgeted (as was noted in my December 2018 BOT Summary) we are now comfortably meeting the MOE guidelines for reserves and now can consider other opportunities for the school. To complete the financials process for 2018 we now look forward to getting the financials through the auditing process.
- We also had an opportunity to hand out and briefly discuss the “Our Schooling Futures: Stronger Together” Report that is looking at the future of school boards. We have agreed to meet in March to discuss the report so that we are able to complete the survey that is offered based on best outcome for our school.
- Our final task of the night was to acknowledge the stellar effort that both Tony and Liz (For those who don't know Liz, she is Tony's PA, BOT secretary and general – do anything person) did to ensure that our school was fully staffed for 2019. As mentioned in both my October and December reports a huge effort was needed. We felt that a BIG Thank You and acknowledgement was the least we could do for them.

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday 27 March 2019 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, especially if you are considering standing for the BOT in this year's election.

Craig Yarnley
(Chairperson)