

BOT Update: Headlines from the August 2019 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. We had a full complement of trustees, which meant that, following the June election, this is the first time that everyone had a chance meet each other. We welcomed Nick Hewlett, a newly elected trustee, due to his unavailability last meeting,

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 MOE directives, Rogers Trust update, Charter, Strategic Plan, Senior Management Team changes, Principal's Appraisal and our usual items, made up part of this meeting along with a couple of administrative items. The summary is:

- We started the evening with a couple of administrative items.
 - With the Student Trustee elections due to be run in September we elected Liz as the Returning Officer for that election.
 - The Rogers Charitable Trust, of whom the school is a beneficiary, elects some of its trustees from the school BOT on a 3-year cycle (timed around the BOT elections). As we had just had the BOT elections our existing trustees of myself, Tony, Eion and Jock retired. It is normal for the Principal to be on this Trust, so Tony was elected along with myself, Jock and Nick.
- 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.
- Tracy and Tony gave us an update of the Charter and Strategic review we are working on this year. Discussion was had around what this might look like, for example on-line survey and face to face meetings.
- The above review discussion also led into discussion around the BOT having a longer-term strategy in place that then gave guidance around what the Annual Plan might look like. This might look like a 2 – 5-year overview of (for example):
 - Where the college wants to be?
 - Who it wants to attract?
 - Apart from Ministry directives, what and where does it want to focus resources?
- A quick note was made that the external Principal Appraiser had been in the school for 2 days interviewing people and groups as part of his role in providing the BOT with the external appraisal of our Principal, Tony.
- An update was provided of the Rogers Trust Strategic Review. We are at the stage where we are obtaining external advice around the different investment opportunities the trust has so that the trust will be able to make an informed decision about its investment options, linking it back to the strategic outcomes that had been formed through the facilitator process we all went through last year.

- If you haven't picked up on it, there is currently plenty happening within the "education space".
 - We had an update on ROVE – Reform of Vocational Education, which is about the changes happening in the "WINTEC" space. At this stage we see it as business as usual with our connection with them through our Trades Academy.
 - We also had the Learning Support Co-ordinators (LSC) Allocation document to discuss. This is new funding that the Ministry has made available across learning communities (as opposed to being directly to a school). Our area has received funding for 9 LSCs across the 20 schools in our area. Our entitlement is for 2 Fulltime people.
 - The Ministry has released a "draft" Donations schemes guideline. This is where the school can effectively receive an extra \$150 per student on the proviso that it doesn't charge school donations and doesn't charge for "events" that the school is currently charging for. It's difficult as the guidelines are only draft, but we are working through the numbers to see how electing into the scheme would affect the school finances.

As with everything that comes from the Ministry the issues are in the detail, which means we need to troll through the information that comes our way to make sure that the effect on the school is actual and not a fantasy!

- With the retirement of Cath Parr, a current Deputy Principal (DP), Tony presented the BOT with an outline of what he considers an appropriate Senior Management Team structure. From the discussion that was held the BOT set in place a selection committee for the replacement DP and sought further information for the addition of an Assistant Principal (AP).
- The usual Principal's report, Health and Safety report, Property report, correspondence and last meeting's minutes were tabled and discussed where necessary.
- Tony updated us on some property improvements and gave some ideas that could be funded from the next amount coming through from the Rogers Trust or MOE funding.

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday 25 September 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.

Craig Yardley
(Chairperson)