

BOT Update: Headlines from the November 2019 Meeting

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

This was our 8th and final meeting for the school year. It is the time of the year, being the end of Term 4, where we review 2019 and prepare the budget for 2020.

What a busy end of 2019 we had. While our main items of focus this month were the Annual Plan Review, the 2020 Budget, a Rogers Charitable Trust update, and a discussion about a possible multi sports turf, a policy update (to provide assistance to obtaining quality staff) along with our usual items, we had quite a bit of time on our Charter Review having received a copy of our survey results.

Because of our substantial topics around the Annual Plan and the Charter survey results, we had, in addition to our BOT Rep, the Senior Leadership team to provide input in these areas as well as having Tony's view.

The summary is:

- We started the evening walking our way through the 2019 Annual Plan. This is the 2nd review that we do, the first one halfway, to see how we got on meeting the targets we set ourselves back in February. As usual the management and teaching team did a pretty good job meeting most of the targets set.
- We then had a look at our Charter survey. The Charter is a document that the school needs to review regularly by way of an internal and/or an external review and is generally set over a rolling 3-year period. Having agreed last year that it was a good time for the BOT to include an external review as part of our Review process, Tracey Findlay spearheaded this process for the BOT during the 2019 year. This was done by way of an electronic Survey and we were very pleased with the number of responses (200+). While the general theme of the responses was positive, there were enough queries/concerns to give us, and the Senior Leadership Team, some work to do going into 2020. Watch this space.
- As part of our usual review of the monthly Financial accounts we considered how we have tracked for this year. This lead nicely into our Budgeting discussion for 2020. According to MOE guidance it is good management for the school to have cash reserves proportionate to our funding to protect the school in the event of any adverse events. This would be, for example, a significant reduction of pupil numbers, or a need for relieving teachers, again due to a significant event, that would utilise far more than we are allocated by the MOE. While we have enough reserves in place to provide the said safety net, the new "donation scheme" that we have signed up for, where the Ministry provide extra funding per student so that we don't need to ask for donations, means that we approached the 2020 budget with the intention to continue to run our usual courses without asking for any contributions for "school costs" (as defined by the MOE) so we are planning to run a larger deficit in 2020 as we gauge the actual effect of this new scheme. We will reevaluate our position towards the end of 2020 as participation is on an annual basis.
- The Board passed its congratulations to Bob Hollinshead who, through a robust process, was appointed into the new Assistant Principal role.

- The usual, Health and Safety Report, Property Report, correspondence and last meeting's minutes were tabled and discussed where necessary.
- An update was provided regarding the progress of the review of the Rogers Charitable Trust. As part of that process the Trustees have agreed to put some funds into a "Te Awamutu College" fund with Momentum (a trust in Hamilton focusing on assisting Trusts to work towards their purpose), as a seed fund so as to provide Te Awamutu College ex pupils a mechanism to give back to the school if they so wish. This will be completed in 2020. Otherwise progress towards a report to assist the Trustees to decide on the future of the Trust is well advanced.
- A quick update on the possibility of a turf was had on the basis that we either needed to shelve the idea or do something. A subcommittee of Jock Ellis, David Peehikuru and Deputy Principal Wayne Carter, has been set up to provide an outcome.
- Tony provided us with a verbal report this month. Providing a full complement of Staff now seems to be an annual "hassle" due to the lack of suitable teachers available in the workforce. The BOT recognises that having the Te Awamutu College campus looking as good as it does provides support to Tony in finding quality teachers for our kids. You will therefore continue to see work done to assist in this regard.

Our next meeting will be held Thursday 27th February 2020 at 6.00pm in the Library. 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

BOTchair@tac.school.nz