

BOT Update: Headlines from the April 2020 Meeting

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

This was our 2nd meeting for the new school year. This would normally have been held in March but with COVID-19 causing the Level 4 Lockdown on the 25th we decided to postpone our meeting until things had settled down a little. With the school just about to implement Level 3 lockdown, our meeting this month was via Zoom, an online conferencing technology that allowed us to meet without the need to be in the same room. The summary of our meeting is:

- Tony, our Principal, tabled a verbal report this month highlighting the activities that have occurred during the weeks of Term 1. Having COVID-19 present itself most of the report was on the outcomes of the school's planning around the Virus and the various actions taken for the lockdown levels and the effect on the school. We also had some staffing movements highlighted. The BOT commented on how well Tony and the SLT had kept the Board up to date over the Lockdown.
- The following usual reports were received:
 - Property. This report is usually a general report keeping us informed about what is being spent and going to be spent against our 5YA and 10 YPP.

The 10 YPP is best explained as what has been budgeted to spend over a 10-year period after consultation with the MOE (based on the budget dollars they provide). The 5YA is a 5-year snapshot of the 10-year plan, i.e. our current "budget".

However, this year is the time when we get to put in place our next 10-year budget. As well as our usual 10-year budget we also had extra funds that the Government had allocated to bring forward spending. In our case that value is \$400,000.

The property sub committee had done a great job drafting the new 10 YPP and presented it to the full BOT. We took the opportunity to discuss whether we had the appropriate heating/cooling methods across the school (considering we have this extra funding) in order to provide the best learning environment for the students given the longer summers we now have. It was decided that the best approach was to get an independent assessor to give guidance in this area (someone with more experience than the BOT) so that any decision on system would be made wisely, considering there is not just the installation costs, but also the running and future replacement costs to consider.

- Health and Safety. This is also a regular report where we review any issues that may have occurred and if so, any better ways to deal with

the issue or whether any spending is needed to mitigate any potential issues. With the COVID-19 environment we have been in the large part of this report was updating us with the school systems with dealing with a pandemic and the lead into Level 3.

- The following additional reports were tabled:
 - 2019 NCEA Provisional Results Analysis (Rebecca Legg)
 - 2019 Junior Achievement Report (asTTle Maths and Reading – to be presented at next meeting) (Rebecca Legg)

Under Schedule 6, clause 5 of the Education Act 1989 says that the board's *primary objective* in governing the school is to ensure that every student at the school is able to attain his or her highest possible standard in educational achievement.

This is the one of the meaty parts of this meeting. We spent a fair amount of our time discussing the reports and while appreciating that the numbers for 2019 were again very good, we also looked at identifying areas we can continue to improve on.

- 2020 1 March Roll Return tabled as sent to MOE.
- Back to just the one Financial report this month. While it is early in the school year and difficult to see exactly how the year will pan out, the report did show that YTD we are tracking as we anticipated. There were some spending items that need further review once we can get back to the school and have a chat with the school Business Manager and school accountant.

All being well our next meeting is scheduled to be Wednesday 27th May 2020 at 6.00pm in the Staff Room.

Craig Yarnley
Chairperson
Te Awamutu College Board of Trustees