

BOT Update: Headlines from the August 2020 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.

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 Rogers Trust update, Multi Sports turf update, ERO COVID-19 meeting summary, Alternative Education Report, and our usual items, made up part of this meeting along with a couple of administrative items. Again, this month we are seeing effects that COVID-19 has had on our school this year. As with most “effects” we have the positive and the negative. 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 confirmed our email correspondence electing Liz as the Returning Officer for that election.
 - Minuted adding extra administrator onto the ASB bank account.
 - We tabled our July Roll return, which confirms with the Ministry how many students we have and how that will affect the grants for the rest of the year.

- 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 especially considering the year that we have had so far.

- We recognised that our plan to build around our Charter review from the end of last year has been hampered by COVID-19. We have confirmed that it has not been shelved, just delayed. With the focus on ensuring that the impact of COVID-19 on our students is as minimal as possible (sadly it will not be zero), the planned response to the review will occur at the earliest time that it can possibly be done.

- An update was provided of the Rogers Trust strategic review. We are at the stage where we are ready to decide on the outcomes of the review. We are just waiting on being able to get people together. A positive outcome of the review to date is that the Rogers Trust is “seeding” a fund that will enable people with connections to the school (for example, past pupils) to donate to either provide a secondary source of funds to assist the school in providing educational opportunities or to provide funds for a one off project.

- We received information from the subcommittee regarding the Multi Sport turf, which has encouraged us to go back with a few other questions. When we first considered looking at this, it was to review if we could build a full-size hockey turf at the school. Unfortunately, limitations to the ground area

required to site a full-sized turf has meant that a full-sized turf is not an option. However, the BOT is supportive of a multisport area and are engaged with the process of bringing something to the school, albeit at a size smaller than originally envisioned.

- During July both Tony and I had individual interviews with an ERO (Education Review Office) team regarding the way we dealt with COVID-19 and the lockdowns in March/April. We were chosen because we had been scheduled to receive an ERO visit this year. While this interview is not a replacement for a full ERO visit (dang!). However, a “positive” of COVID-19, is that it appears the visit planned for this year has been delayed. Our general message to the ERO team is that our Senior Leadership Team, served the school well in planning and communicating to us through this period. A good time to say thanks to the SLT.
- The usual Principal’s report, Health and Safety report, Property report, correspondence and last meeting’s minutes were tabled and discussed where necessary. A little more time was spent on the Property report than normal, due to this period being the start of our new property cycle, discussing the projects that are planned for the rest of the year. We also had more detail in the Health and safety report, covering off issues around the school being currently at Level 2 (COVID-19), especially regarding Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) requirements in this new environment.
- Another “positive” of COVID-19, has been its effect on our Actual versus Budgeted spending (The negative being the many events (like the Academic Excellence dinner) and EOTC trips that have been cancelled). Having reviewed our financial results year to date, we anticipate a larger profit than we budgeted because there are some expenses that are going to come in well short of budget simply because they have been unable to be spent. We have therefore decided that, as a one off, we will review what extra spending would provide a benefit to the school community. This spend would be something that does not necessarily make each year’s budget due to it being a “nice to have” rather than a “have to have”. We have asked Tony, through consultation with the staff, to bring a list to our next meeting that we could sign off on. Hopefully, this will mean that when we look back on 2020, it will not all be “doom and gloom”. We made the first step in this by approving an extra “sporting code” request that had missed out due to our budgeted spend being maximised.

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday 23 September 2020 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