

BOT Update: Headlines from the September 2020 Meeting

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

This was our 6th meeting for the school year. September is a bit of a breather month before the mad rush towards Christmas, it is the time of the year, being the end of the 3rd term where not only do we review what is past but some of what we do is look towards next year.

September is also the month where, if required, we have a change of Student Rep (Trustee). This time a Year 9 (Year 10 next year) won the election - Well done Jacob Chetwin. This is the first time a Year 9 has won, so Jacob is a bit of a “ground breaker”, not only by coming on board at an early stage of his school life, but setting himself up to be a BOT member for more than the usual 1 term (a year)(assuming he stands and is elected on again).

We therefore had the incoming and outgoing Student Reps with us this meeting, as part of the transition, and covered some policy reviews and updates, Special Item requests, another Rogers Trust and Multi turf update and tabled the September Roll return, Bus Committee minutes along with our usual items. The summary is:

- Tony walked us through the “incident” that recently occurred amongst some of our students. It is never easy to achieve an outcome that everyone agrees with, especially when you need to walk the line of school policies AND the law. While we support the outcomes that were arrived at, it is school policy that whenever anything occurs, in connection with any policy that can be deemed to be a “major incident” we review the relevant policy(ies) to ensure they are consistent with what is happening, or needs to happen. We have therefore put 3 policies to a BOT subcommittee to review before our next meeting.
- We reviewed, and updated the following policy:
 - Complaints against Staff
- We reviewed the list of spending that we asked Tony to collate from the staff (a reminder that we asked for things that 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 received a well-rounded list and agreed to spend on the items that were requested. The total spend was approx. \$170k, which is close to the extra donation funding we received for 2020, that has been well and truly underspent due to the COVID-19 restrictions. To put this number into perspective, \$50k is to replace a school van, \$35k is to put air conditioning into rooms that are not covered by the MOE’s planned spending.
- The Rogers Trust update covered the latest meeting we had and confirmed the Trustees’ decision of the strategic review. More importantly it also confirmed that the Trust has officially signed an agreement with Momentum Waikato to set up a “Te Awamutu College Foundation” and put up initial funds of \$50k. This new fund will provide an opportunity for supporters/alumni of the school an avenue to provide funding to assist the school.
- The Multi turf update has confirmed that the BOT is in full support of putting a multi turf onto the school grounds. While still looking at roofing options, it has been agreed to get comparative quotes for the turf to meet the requirements of having a robust

procurement process to meet. In the meantime, further work will be done on roofing options. Hopefully, the next news on this will be the signing of the contract.

- With the mid term BOT elections due in December we needed to elect our Returning Officer. Thankfully our “Mighty Liz” accepted our nomination. We have 2 trustee spots up for grabs, so if the idea of governing Te Awamutu College grabs your fancy, keep an eye out for the nomination forms.
- 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 time was spent on the Health and Safety report, as the Health Centre gave us a breakdown of treatments. We had examples of “head v's ball”, “stick v's finger”, the usual things that can occur on the sporting field.
- At the end of the meeting we thanked Atareipounamu for her involvement over the last 12 months. Not only is it rather daunting to take on this role amongst adults, some of us being over the hill in comparison to them! but we have had such a disruptive year this year. Therefore, it is only fitting that I also take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank her for her efforts.

Just a reminder that we have also setup a direct email address so if you need to contact the BOT Chairperson electronically then there is an address that will survive chair people. Please be aware that the BOT Chairperson is generally the last person in the chain of command to be contacted, which means that when all other processes (as documented in our school policies and procedures) fail to meet your need then the chairperson is available. The email address is shown below and available on the school website. Please remember that the Trustees are “volunteers” and “human” so please approach them understanding that they are generally busy people who have put themselves forward to serve the school community, to the best of their abilities.

Our next meeting is currently scheduled be held Wednesday 28th October 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

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