

## BOT Update: Headlines from the February 2021 Meeting

*For those who prefer detail of the meeting, A full copy of the minutes of this meeting are available from the school office.*

This was our first meeting for the new school year. Being the first meeting in the year it is customary to re-elect positions and committees, therefore our first order of business was electing Chair and Deputy Chair. As I am still writing this summary, I was re-elected, as was Jock Ellis to Deputy Chair. With Sarah having replaced Tracy Findlay at the midterm elections at the end of last year, we had some minor movement across sub committees as we reviewed the workload and interests.

Since our December 2020 meeting, we had a “mini meeting” just before Christmas to confirm our replacement Rogers Trust Trustees, with Noldy Rust and Jo Sheridan having stepped down after giving great service for many years. We therefore ratified Murray Green and Regan McCorquindale as our new community trustees. We also discussed the Multi-Turf project, getting to the stage where we have committed to this project being completed during 2021.

Our first meeting of the year is a mix of reports around what happened last year and what our plans are for this year. As is usual for the first meeting of the year we covered several important items as well as having several reports provided by staff. We had our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) with us at the start of our meeting to assist our Principal in walking through some of the agenda items. The summary is:

- Our Principal tabled and alongside the SLT discussed the 2021 Annual Plan, the 2021-2024 Charter and the Analysis of Variance Report for 2020 with the Board asking questions where appropriate. After a hearty discussion, these reports alongside our 2021 Action Plan were tabled and approved. These are all Ministry of Education (MOE) required documents and have been filed with the MOE. A copy of the Annual Plan and the Charter can be found on the website. Because the Board had engaged the community towards the end of 2019 to update the charter, where necessary, this year's charter has been updated to reflect the feedback that we received.
- While the SLT were still in attendance, our Principal presented details around the new approach that ERO are taking. It is effectively a new operating model which means that rather than receiving an “audit” every few years, we will have an “evaluation partner” walking alongside us to support the school in being the best it can be for the students. Our evaluation partner has been assigned, so the next step is for myself, the Principal and the SLT to meet them and work through what this process will look like.
- We then reviewed the reports provided by our staff, effectively reviewing 2020. We are reminded how blessed the school is to have these teams of professionals working for us:

- We started off with the 2020 Alternative Education Report from Neil Bauernfeind. While it is generally felt that this service does a great job, the results last year were very good, especially when considering the effect COVID had on everything. Well done to our AE providers.
  - We then received an update on the Multi-Sport turf from David and Jock, and with Wayne Carter, our Deputy Principal in charge of property in attendance, discussed the plans to get this project completed this year.
  - We then received from Wayne the Property and Health and Safety reports. The summer holidays are a very busy period for property work, due to the school being available (student-less) for the big projects. He talked about the work done on F block, the Seminar Room (extra teaching space), air conditioning, maintenance, painting that all occurred during this time. We also reviewed the work plan for this year. A busy time keeping our school looking as good as it does.
  - We then confirmed the 2020 Guidance Department report. As usual, this report gave us things to think about. This is certainly an area of the school that is growing because of the changing society that we are in and its flow on effects to students at our school. Again, we give thanks to Coral, Helen, and Lesley, not only for a very informative and complete report, but for their dedication to their profession, the students, and our school.
  - We then had Helen Bright's Te Awamutu District Schools' Attendance Officer Report 2020. I remind you that while the MOE provides a "truancy service", the local schools fund out of their operating grants Helen to provide a service that is additional to what the MOE provides. We do that because Helen is more effective in helping students' attendance. Helen is based at the College but provides support to the surrounding schools (who all contribute to the service). We are certainly blessed as a school community to have someone as dedicated as Helen doing this role for us.
- The Board approved an application to the Grassroots Trust for sporting team requests. This is something that we do on an annual basis to assist the school with providing support to our sporting and cultural activities. The Board is involved because the funders require a motion from the Board, requesting the funding that the sporting codes are requesting, because they are Te Awamutu College teams. The school and sporting codes are appreciative of the ongoing support we receive from our local funding organisations. Thanks to all the codes that have made this process a little easier this year than it has been previously.
  - We received our usual Principal's Report, the majority of which had been produced in the first school newsletter and the Principal's appraisal committee confirmed that the appraisal for 2020 has been completed and Key Performance Areas set for 2021.

- We had two Financial reports to review this time around, one being the provisional year end December 2020 report as well as the report for January. The provisional result for 2020 is a fantastic number, primarily due to extra grants received than we budgeted for (some of this due to roll number growth) and of course the extremely underspent areas due to COVID. Our solid reserves are why we have a large deficit budgeted this year as we are committing to some major assets for the school. To complete the financials process for 2020 we now look forward to getting the financials through the auditing process.

As you can tell from the summary, a lot of time spent working on our school this month. Thanks to the BOT for the effort put in to keep on top of the workload.

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 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

BOT Chairperson