

BOT Update: Headlines from the October 2021 Meeting

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

This was our 6th (should have been 7th) meeting for the school year, and because of the current Level 3 lockdown one requiring us to Zoom in. Because any meeting in October generally has a lighter agenda, we focused only on items to work through that needed to be progressed. It was just as well the number of items were low, as our later start and discussions had kept us busy for a couple of hours.

This month we had an update on the Multi -Sports Turf project, a Rogers Trust update, and a discussion about Student Reps along with our usual items. The summary is:

- David and Jock updated us on the Multi-Sports Turf project. Since our last meeting a design brief has been received, which we discussed, and that is now going back for a final pricing update so that we can complete the MOE requirements. While disappointed that the build hasn't occurred this year, let's all cross our fingers and toes that it all happens next year.
- COVID has played havoc with the Student Rep election process. The original election was set for September but then changed to just after Labour weekend. Unfortunately, with the state of play with which students are at school and able to vote and the lack of any opportunity for the candidates to present themselves to the students in person, a decision was made to cancel the election on the grounds of fairness to all the candidates. Our option is to now co-opt a Student Rep. We have decided that, again being fair to all candidates, is for them to present their case to the Board at our next meeting. From this the Board will choose who they will co-opt for the rest of the "12 month" term.
- Jock presented an update of what's happening with the Rogers Trust. Currently the trust is doing all it can to get a section subdivided off within the timelines allowed.
- The usual Principal's report, Health and Safety report, Financial report and last meeting's minutes were tabled (verbally) and discussed where necessary.
- Some time in this meeting was spent discussing the effect COVID is having on the school. Unless you are an "insider" you don't get to see the emails about masks and vaccinations. You don't get to see the health and safety updates required. You don't get to see the rearrangement of the school calendar. You don't get to see the number of Ministry email updates which then flow into email updates to the staff. You don't get to see how "Government mandates" need to be taken into consideration in managing the school. You don't get to see how the staff are having to quickly adjust their teaching plans to meet kids who are either at school or at home and either have access to online learning or don't. And all of this is on top of everyone's day to day role. From the Board's perspective we acknowledge the great team that we have and the effort they are putting in to make sure that our kid's learning is disadvantaged as little as possible.

Our next meeting is currently scheduled be held Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 6.00pm in the Staff Room (assuming we are out of Level 3!). 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

boardchair@tac.school.nz