

## Board Update: Headlines from the December 2021 Meeting

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

This was our 7th and final full meeting for the school year. It is the time of the year, being the end of Term 4, where we review 2021 and confirm the budget for 2022.

What a typically busy end to 2021 we had. While our main items of focus this month were the Annual Plan review, the 2022 Budget, a full report on property issues, a policy update (for our Financial systems and processes, part of our regular review cycle), potential Student Reps presenting to us, and a confirmation of the new House names along with our usual items, we also had our charter update.

This caused a longer than usual meeting. The summary is:

- We started the evening having the 3 Student Rep candidates present to us. Normally they would present to the school students and win a seat to the board by popular vote. This year the student vote was another casualty of COVID so rather than just co-opting someone we decided to give the candidates a chance to “win us over”. All three did well and made the decision difficult. Even though 2 missed out, they should hold their heads high as they were quality candidates.
- We then reviewed and adjusted our financial policies so that they are more appropriate to the changing technological world. Just as an example, when we last reviewed them, cheques were still a payment option!
- We then walked our way through the 2021 Annual Plan. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> review that we do, the first one halfway, to see how we got on meeting the targets we set ourselves back in February. Considering us suffering a second COVID affected year the leadership and teaching team did an amazing job meeting as many of the targets as possible. Again, some of the planned action items were missed or only partly completed because of forces outside everyone’s control.
- We had a big update on property issues this meeting with Wayne Carter in attendance to explain all the issues. The word issues may sound a little negative, but its being used to identify that there is another area of school life that was, and will be for a while to come, affected by COVID. Like most schools the planned capital works and maintenance has been affected not only by school closures or limitations of access, the whole supply chain issues within the construction industry. We see this potentially creating headaches for the next 12 – 18 months.
  - On a positive note, it was great news that our 3 modular classrooms (allowing for our growth and there being no enrolment scheme in place) will be on site before Christmas which will allow them to be fully functional in time for the 2022 student intake.
  - We also had an update on the multi turf project and dotted a few more “l”s and crossed a few more “t”s to give us as much chance of getting this in place for 2022. It has been budgeted for!!
- We had a brief Health and Safety report from Wayne primarily talking about the transition between the Years 11-13 finishing up and the Years 9 & 10 starting back. A BIG hats off to Wayne for all the work he’s put into his portfolios this year being the man on the spot for both the property and health and safety COVID readjustments!
- As part of our usual review of the monthly Financial accounts we considered how we have tracked for this year. This lead nicely into our Budgeting discussion for 2022. Because the multi turf project didn’t happen this year, we have rolled it into 2022 with an increased allowance now that we have a better costing

knowledge. While our budgeted deficit is primarily due to the multi-turf, our intent is to look for support from our school community, both past and present, to assist with the investment.

- The Board looked at its Charter for 2022-2025, as it's required to do an annual basis and again reviewed it against the charter review that we performed at the end of 2019.
- We received the result of the votes from our various school stakeholders for the new House names. It was great to see that the vote was clear cut, and we didn't need to put in any casting vote! So, the new House names, and their corresponding colours for 2022 are.....Kōwhai (yellow), Pounamu (green), Pōhutukawa (red) and Kikorangi (blue)
- The usual correspondence and last meeting's minutes were tabled and discussed where necessary. While we are now in a new COVID management system, we see next year still being difficult to operate in with the new issue being the way we incorporate what we do to meet the needs of the vaccinated and the unvaccinated. We recognise that this issue can be quite polarising but please remember, whatever side of the debate you are on, the Board's role is to govern the school, the management team's role is to manage the school and the teacher's role is to teach the kids so that all students can reach their potential. We do this based on the rules that are set by our governing bodies, so if you have any issues regarding how we perform our roles, let us know BUT if your issue is with the "rules we operate under" please direct yourselves to the appropriate governing body.
- Tony provided us with a verbal report this month. As has been noted in previous November/December meeting reports, providing a full complement of staff now seems to be an annual "hassle" due to the lack of teachers available in the workforce and this year is no different.

Our next full meeting will be held Thursday 23 February 2022 at 6.00pm in the Staffroom. 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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