

Board Update: Headlines from the February 2022 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 unless it is the election year (which this year is, even though it is delayed from its usual May/June timeline to Sept/Oct). We did however review our delegations for this coming year.

Prior to this meeting, those who were available took some time to join a tour of F Block, the Training Room (areas of the school that the Board has recently invested in through our building and asset budgets) and M Block - 3 new classrooms. The Board were impressed with the new and upgraded facilities and the work that has gone into the planning and construction. Thanks for all your efforts Wayne and the Property Committee.

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. The summary is:

- Our Principal tabled and we discussed the 2021 Annual Plan, the 2022-2025 Charter and the Analysis of Variance report for 2021 with the Board asking questions where appropriate. After a hearty discussion, these reports alongside our 2022 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.
- We confirmed the Acting Principal Delegation for 2022 that we had previously agreed via email. Because of the new COVID environment this year where the schools are to be open while people might be off, we had to cater for the potential of the Principal and the SLT being off, so added in a couple of other staff who we are comfortable with to cover the Principal's role if this were the case.
- We received an update on the Multi-Sport turf from David and Jock, with a final costing after having had some Geotech testing down for the planned site. The Board has approved the project in principle, and we are now pulling all paperwork together so that we get MOE approval so that the contract can be signed off with "this time" the project completed this year.
- We then reviewed the reports provided by our staff, effectively reviewing 2021. We are reminded how blessed the school is to have these teams of professionals working for us:

- We started with the Property and Health and Safety reports. The summer holidays are a very busy period for property work, due to the school being available (childless) for the big projects. Wayne talked about the work done to get the 3 new classrooms in place for the start of the new year. Apparently, the delivery of these has set a new Ministry record for the shortest delivery time (by a long way) which is a testament to the effort Wayne and his team has put in. We had painting happening on Blocks A and C/D with some of this work rolling into this year. We also reviewed the work plan for this year, with it being noted the effect construction delays will probably have on our projects. A busy time keeping our school looking as good as it does
 - This was followed by the 2021 Guidance Counsellors' report. As usual, this report gave us things to think about. It was a very well written report which gave us all a good overview of the sort of issues that they are dealing with. We are so blessed to have our Counsellor team. So 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 the 2021 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 had Helen Bright's Te Awamutu District Schools' Attendance Officer Report 2021. 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). The good news for the College, and surrounding schools, is that the MOE has seen the superb job that Helen does, so this year we are being funded by the Ministry to run our truancy services rather than the Hamilton based service that was effectively ineffective. We see this as confirmation that we are blessed as a school community to have someone as dedicated as Helen doing this role for us.
 - Finally, we received the Health Centre Report 2021 from our school nurse, Maureen Brown, again showing the Board the benefits, our students receive by having a Health Centre at the school. With Maureen retiring at the end of 2021 our thanks this time are just not for her report, but also for the dedication to her role over the years. So, Maureen, thanks and may you enjoy your well-earned retirement.
- 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 2021 is work in progress due to the effect that COVID has had on everyone's time with the plan to set the Key Performance

Areas for 2022 in the very near future. We also agreed that before the end of this year we will have sourced an external reviewer for 2023 (part of the normal review cycle).

- We had two Financial reports to review this time around, one being the provisional year end December 2021 report as well as the report for January. The provisional result for 2021 is again a positive number, again due in part to the effect COVID had on the school last year. 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 2021 we now look forward to getting the financials through the auditing process.
- In our correspondence during the month was an email regarding the accident as a student was coming back from the dairy. While we don't have control of things that happen outside the school grounds, we do our best to remind the students of their responsibility to road users and other pedestrians on their way to and from school, as I am sure parents do. We have agreed though that the Council's recent lowering of speed limits across the Waipa area for safety purposes, while good in principle, we questioned why they didn't continue the 40K speed limit past the school rather than stopping it between the Catholic school and us. We have therefore agreed to send the Council a letter asking that the 40K zone be extended to encompass the streets around the College.

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

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday 23rd March 2022 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