

Board Update: Headlines from the February 2023 Meeting

For those who prefer detail of the meeting, A full copy of the minutes of this meeting are available from the main 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. I was again elected to continue as Chair along with Jock Ellis as Deputy.

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 Deputy Principal Wayne Carter with us for the meeting to assist with more detailed information across the reports that Tony provided. The summary is:

- Our Principal tabled and we discussed the 2023 Annual Plan, the 2023-2025 Charter and the Analysis of Variance Report for 2022 with the Board asking questions where appropriate. After a hearty discussion, these reports, alongside our 2023 Action Plan (with an adjustment) were tabled and approved. These are Ministry of Education (MOE) required documents and have been filed with the MOE. A copy of the Annual Plan, the Charter and other strategic documents can be found on the website.
- We confirmed the Acting Principal Delegation for 2023 which provides cover across each term if the Principal is away from school. This falls on the Senior Leadership team on a term-by-term basis.
- We received an update on the Multi-Sport Turf from Wayne and Jock. With the weather towards the end of 2022 and then starting 2023, there have been issues with the water levels to allow the concrete to be poured. While we were aware of a spring in that area, the extra groundwater has not been helpful. The providers of the structure believe they have a way to move forward.
- We had a brief discussion around updating the school sign so that it is more effective in keeping the school community updated around relevant events. We have given Tony the go ahead to proceed with this project. (He will bring quote and design to the Board.)
- With the change from NAGs (National Administration Guidelines) and NEGs (National Education Goals) to NELPs (National Education and Learning Priorities) this year, Tony provided a brief overview of the NELPs. Because the previous guidelines and goals do not dovetail easily into the new NELPs we will be working our way through all that we do to ensure that they fit into the new framework. We discussed and are open to needing extra meeting(s) to achieve this.

- We then reviewed the reports provided by our staff, effectively reviewing 2022. 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 from Wayne. The summer holidays are a very busy period for property work, due to the school being available (childless) for the big projects. He talked about the work, that while mostly being completed, having had some minor delays due to finishing and supply issues. Wayne also discussed the plans we have for 2023 and the timeline we need to work to so that it is ready to go in the Christmas break at the end of the year. A busy time keeping our school looking as good as it does. In Health and Safety Report Wayne noted an incident that required an ambulance call out. That incident has been reviewed and appropriate measures put in place to mitigate another incident. He also highlighted that we are reviewing our school-wide Hazard register in March as part of our regular review cycle.
 - This was followed by the 2022 Guidance Counsellor's 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 and Lesley, not only for a very informative and complete report, but for their dedication to their profession, the students, and our school. We recognise that we need more "people" cover in this area and are continuing to search for more resource in an ever-decreasing resource pool.
 - We then had Helen Bright's Te Awamutu District Schools' Attendance Officer Report 2022. I remind you that previously the MOE provided a "truancy service" while the local schools funded out of their operating grants for Helen to provide a service additional to what the MOE provided. Helen is based at the College and provides support to the surrounding schools as well. Last year the MOE agreed to fund us directly because Helen is more effective in helping students' attendance. With this change an additional role that Helen has undertaken is to work with students who were not enrolled anywhere. Over the year this number reduced from 40 down to 8 and has further reduced this year to date. It was good to read in Helen's report that some of the challenges with the change in roles has been worked through and this year should see more improvement. Well done Helen for another stellar year.
 - Finally, we received the Health Centre Report for Term 4, 2022 from our school nurse, Joy Singh, again showing the Board the benefits, our students receive by having a Health Centre at the school.

- We received our usual Principal's report and the Principal's Appraisal Committee confirmed that the appraisal for 2022 has been completed and that for 2023 we will be moving from it being an appraisal to the new Professional Growth Cycle process.
- We had two financial reports to review this time around, one being the provisional year end December 2022 report as well as the report for January. The provisional result for 2022 is a negative number, that is smaller than budgeted partly due to the Multi-Sport Turf not being completed and some other spending being better than was budgeted. With our 2023 budget again a negative number (allowing for the completion of the Multi-Sport Turf this year) we are still anticipating our "cash equity" to remain at a level better than that suggested by the MOE. To complete the financials process for 2022 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 Board for the effort put in to keep on top of the workload.

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday 22nd March 2023 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