

## Board Update: Headlines from the August 2023 Meeting

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

This was our 7th meeting for the school year, representing 6 meeting Agendas.

Most Board meetings are consistent with what is covered year to year. In the same way that the Annual Plan is adopted in February of each year, August usually brings about our half year review of it. However, with having had an extra meeting in July where we reviewed this, our meeting was slightly different as we were able to talk about the new Strategic Plan that we need to implement for next year.

We appreciated having Wayne and Neil (DP's) from our SLT who were on hand to update us on the Student Wellbeing and Community Engagement. Neil also talked to his Alternate Education report while Wayne talked to his Property and Health and Safety reports as well as the multi-turf update.

So, our Strategic Plan discussion, along with the Multi-Sports Turf update, Health Centre Report for Term 2, Alternative Education Report, our new agenda item of Student Wellbeing and Community Engagement and our usual items, made up this meeting. The summary is:

- We started the evening with our Alternative Education Report which showed that it is going well, providing a pathway for students who struggle with mainstream education to get a start in life. Thanks to our providers “Te Wānanga o Aotearoa” for running this service for the school. With the owners of the site that the Alternative Education operates from having plans that don't include them, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa will be looking for a suitable new site early on next year.
- Tony, Wayne, and Neil talked to the Student Wellbeing and Community Engagement Report.
  - The Ko Wai Au Trust has had its first session of the 5-week mentoring course for 10 Year 10s and initial feedback is encouraging.
  - The PB4L refresh is continuing with more staff meetings focused on what this refresh will look like and therefore what needs to be implemented to achieve these changes. Form Class reps will be engaged before the end of term to get student feedback.
  - Year 9 and 10 students are scheduled to complete the NZCER (NZ Council for Educational Research) student wellbeing survey in Term 4 with results shared with the Board Term 1 2024.
  - Tony attended the Rob Cope Cyber Safety presentation at Te Awamutu Intermediate and has booked him to present to TAC on 28th February 2024 (earliest availability).
  - With cell phone usage at school becoming an election issue, we have decided to hold off any community survey until we see what comes after the election.
- Tony presented his Principal's Report, and some highlights of this report are:
  - For the 2024 year we will have a contingent of 2FTE Guidance counsellors (3 persons) having finally found someone who fits the mix.
  - Supervisors of the recent exams during Assessment Week have passed on very favourable feedback about our students' conduct, attitude and commitment to staying in the exams. For those who didn't participate or put in enough effort follow up is occurring.

- To assist with keeping our community updated a quote was presented to the Board for an upgraded sign at the front of the school. This will enable us to better communicate the “activities” and “accomplishments” occurring at the school in a more engaging manner.
- With the delays we have had with the Multi-Sports Turf project, it was heartening to hear that we have a new timeline for completion, September for the fencing and the turf set to be laid from the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. Having driven past the other day and seeing some Lacrosse boys playing under the roof, I am sure there will be many people outside the Board and SLT eager to see this project finished.
- Our Strategic Plan subcommittee reported back on what they have done so far and to get Board confirmation as to the project plan that they want to implement to bring our new Strategic Plan into fruition. A robust discussion was held around our existing Charter and how it might fit with the new Strategic Plan before we confirmed that we believe the subcommittee is on the right track. Paperwork will be coming to us over the next 4-6 weeks in time for a scheduled strategy meeting in early October.
- Our Health Report for Term 2 again gave a good overview of the health services provided to our school community.
- Liz provided an update on the outline for the upcoming Board Student Representative election. Because the Education and Training Amendment bill (No 3) was passed on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023, among other things, effectively strengthening school board election processes, including shifting the next mid-term board elections to November 2023 to restore the usual election cycle; expanding and modernising the language of school board member co-option and appointment criteria; and enabling schools to fill student representative roles that have not been filled during the September elections, our mid-term election will occur in November.
- The usual Principals’ Report, Health and Safety Report, Property Report, correspondence and last meetings’ minutes were tabled and discussed where necessary. The highlight of the Property Report is that our year end school refurbishment project, budgeted for just \$900k has gone to the MOE for signoff and will hopefully generate reasonable interest from the construction community.
- Our Finance Report, for halfway through this year, shows the school still in a healthy position. We also advised that the audit of the school accounts for 2022 are nearing completion. Having had an audit adjustment regarding the farm values used for Rogers Trust affirmed, an adjustment is required for the schools consolidated accounts. Once this is done, we should receive signoff.

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday 25th October 2023 at 5:30pm 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