

## Board Update: Headlines from the October 2023 Meeting

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

This was 8<sup>th</sup> meeting for the school year, having missed having a September meeting due to the different weeks that Term 3 ended and Term 4 started this year. Due to the new requirement to have a Strategic Plan ready for 01 January 2024, under the recent educational changes, we did have a meeting a week earlier focusing solely on the new Strategic Plan (replacement of the school charter). While an October meeting is usually the meeting for the new Student Rep to attend for the first time, the changeover of the Student Reps occurred at our strategic planning meeting (what a meeting to start with!).

Sadly, we received a resignation last month from our recently co-opted Board member and having just had our mid-term elections we welcomed Nick Hewlett back onto the Board. With Jock Ellis not standing again we farewelled him at the strategic planning meeting, since that was his last official meeting as a Board member. Having been an elected Board member for 9 years, Jock had certainly given the school a serious amount of time and effort. While he will be missed, I am sure that he will find something else to fill in the now available hours. With his elected position on the Rogers Trust running through to September 2024 and the Board electing him to our Multi -Sports Turf subcommittee (to see out this project) Jock will still put in some hours for us for a little while yet.

This month we had a presentation from our Director of Sport, Chris Wynne giving an update on the Director of Sport role and Kiwi Sport goals, an update on the Multi-Sports Turf project, an update on work done towards the Strategic Plan, the Term 3 Health Centre report along with our usual items. The summary is:

- Wayne updated us on the Multi-Sports Turf project. The “shock pads” have been laid and the fencing post holes dug. All being well we may be finished within 2 weeks. A brief discussion was then held over an appropriate opening function and date. At this stage we will wait until it is finished and usable so that immediate use after the opening is achievable.
- Student Rep election was held in September, and Millie Thackray replaced Avé Culpan.
- From the strategic planning meeting held last week, we wanted to produce some open questions so that when we go to community consultation a standard series of questions were in place to report against. With the very small time slot available this time around we wanted to ask some broad questions that captured as much data/feedback as possible with the minimum questions asked. We have come up with 10 questions that the board has approved and now the process of community consultation has been passed back to the strategic planning sub committee with the goal of finalising our Strategic Plan in mid-December.
- Our Health Centre report Term 3 was another comprehensive overview of the health services provided. Being the last one prepared by departing Nurse Joy we would like to extend our thanks to Joy for her stellar work for us over her time at TAC.
- The usual Principal’s report was discussed by Tony, with many items highlighted that are happening at the school. A few points in further detail are:
  - Planning is underway for the new year, and we discussed some staffing changes with a Head of House and Dean position becoming available as well as the addition of a Specialist Classroom Teacher position. It was healthy to see the number of staff who applied for these

positions. With the new year just around the corner we may see more opportunities arise as staff solidify their plans for 2024.

- The ballot for the 12 Year 9 places available for 2024 was held under police supervision on the 20<sup>th</sup> October. While the families of 12 successful students will be happy, it was a sad day for the 15 unsuccessful applicants. Being a new exercise for our school community our hearts go out to those who were unsuccessful, many of whom have an existing student at the school.
- The Property report was tabled, incorporating the Cyclical Maintenance Plan which we approved and a confirmation of the 5YA projects that is currently advertised for quotes. We should be ready to approve contracts for the work scheduled for the end of this year and into 2024 within the next couple of weeks.
- The Health and Safety report confirmed that a new nurse has been employed to start in Week 5.
- Our Student Well-being and Community Engagement report was presented by DP Wayne Carter
  - At the end of last term Form Class rep's (approx. 50 students) looked over the PB4L refresh and had input to behaviour expectations and the rewards system. They also gave feedback over the prospective changes to toilets that is scheduled in the 2024 5YA work.
  - The Ko Wai Au Trust, Neil, and Wayne (DP's) reviewed the completed mentoring course some Year 10 boys went through. While there were mixed outcomes, a trial for Year 10 girls will run over Term 4.
  - In Week 8 of last term "Attitude presentations" were held across all year levels. The topics were Holistic wellbeing, drugs and alcohol, resilience and making good choices, building and maintaining healthy relationships and mental health.
  - In discussion it was also noted how active the student body is now that the weather has improved. Most lunch times now the school fields and gym are a hive of positive activity. Roll on the Multi-Sports Turf for another area that will be available, not just while the weather is good.
- The Financial report was tabled, showing that the school continues to be in a sound financial position. We also received the completed and audited 2023 Financial statement. Having just received a resignation from our school Business Manager (of the last 20+ years), we will be doing all we can to find a replacement that can fill the shoes of Katrina in a timely fashion so that we have a smooth transition of duties.

Our next meeting is currently scheduled be held Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 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 Yarndley

Chairperson

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