

Board Update: Headlines from the February 2024 Meeting

For those who prefer detail of the meeting, A full copy of the minutes of this meeting are available from the school office.

Another year has rolled around so school has started, and we have had 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 Nick Hewlett 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. The summary is:

- Our Principal tabled and we discussed the 2024 Annual Plan, as it tied into the 2023-2025 Charter and the recently approved 2024 – 2025 Strategic Plan. And the Analysis of Variance Report for 2023 with the Board asking questions where appropriate. After a hearty discussion, the 2023 Analysis of Variance and 2024 Annual Plan were approved. These are Ministry of Education (MOE) required documents and have been filed with the MOE. A copy of the Annual Plan and the Strategic Plan can be found on the website.
- We confirmed the Acting Principal Delegation for 2024 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 discussed that it would be appropriate for a copy of this to be emailed to us in January so that we are aware of the planned cover prior to our first meeting.
- Having recently had the opening of our new multi-sport turf, we officially disbanded its subcommittee and expressed thanks for its members for finally getting the project over the finish line.
- Twelve months on from discussing a new school sign, it was good to see that it has been erected, albeit with a few technical issues. The supplier is working through this to ensure they receive final payment.
- I confirmed that I had received confirmation from the principal's appraiser for 2023 confirming that Tony had not only ticked all the boxes but done so with a high standard.
- As I highlighted at the end of last year, we require an extra board member, having not had enough stand for the mid term elections. A couple of names were discussed, and we will be approaching one of them to see if they would be comfortable coming onto the board.

- We then reviewed the reports provided by our staff, effectively reviewing 2023. 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. While the summer holidays are usually a very busy period for property work, due to the school being available (childless) for the big projects last year it wasn't due to the delay in tendering out the jobs. The tenders are currently being evaluated. Wayne's report noted the MOE changes concerning 5YA work, which are becoming increasingly complicated.
 - This was followed by the 2023 Guidance Counsellors' report. As usual, this report gave us things to think about. It is a very well written report which reminds us all 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 have a had new counsellor start at the being of this year.
 - We then had Helen Bright's Te Awamutu District Schools' Attendance Officer Report 2023. It was good to read in Helen's report some of the positive outcomes of the work that she does. Well done Helen for another stellar year.
 - Finally, we received the Health Centre Report for Term 4, 2023 from our school nurse, again showing the Board the benefits, our students receive by having a Health Centre at the school.
- We received our usual Principal's report, the majority of which had been produced in the first school newsletter.
- We had two financial reports to review this time around, one being the provisional year end December 2023 report as well as the report for January. The provisional result for 2023 is a positive number, which is far better than budgeted partly due to receiving more income than budgeted (more students and a better interest return) as well as some spending being better than was budgeted. With our 2024 budget being positive this year the school "cash equity" is at a level better than that suggested by the MOE. To complete the financials process for 2023 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 27th March 2024 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