

## Board Update: Headlines from the March 2024 Meeting

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

This was our 2nd meeting for the new school year. While COVID is still around in the community, it's not the big deal that it was over 2020 – 2022. With the rolling PPTA strikes that were around last year not making any appearance this year, it feels like the school is back in a “normal” rhythm.

Being a meeting with some meaty reports to get through, our agenda is shorter than most meetings, but normal for this time of the year.

With our last Board election not having enough candidates to fulfil our parent representative numbers we were able to appoint a board member to fill the vacancy. Having given it some thought over the summer break, we approached Georgina Rewha to ask if she was available to fill the vacancy. Having said she was, we were able to confirm her selection at this meeting and welcome her to the Board.

We had our usual reports and we also had tabled, the following:

- We adopted the school Phone Use policy after considering feedback received through the community consultation.
- 2023 NCEA Analysis Report (Rebecca Legg)

It's always good to explain why we do certain things, so I note here that Section 127 clause 1(a) of the Education and Training Act 2020 says that the board's *primary objective* in governing the school is that every student at the school is able to attain their highest possible standard in educational achievement.

This makes this the meaty part of this meeting because we spent a fair amount of our time discussing primarily the NCEA analysis. While appreciating that 3 out of 6 reported results for 2023 were above the New Zealand schools' averages, with the national averages falling, this was still a reduced number for us. While I opened this report saying that things feel back to normal, we are still seeing the effect the COVID years had across the schooling community (that is across ALL of NZ schooling). We certainly had a good discussion around the presented numbers, and appreciated the report for attempting to show what is happening behind the numbers. For example, a student leaving school halfway through the year into a job (eg an apprenticeship) has a negative impact on our numbers due to that person being counted but not “passing” the level. From our discussions we are going to work on how we can communicate that sort of information to our school community. Thanks to Rebecca for all her hard work analysing the data and then presenting it in a format that gives us a good insight to what is happening at the school.

- 2023 Junior Achievement Report (Rebecca Legg)

With the changing face of NCEA, there is now a requirement for all students to pass a Common Assessment Activity (CAA) for Literacy Reading, Literacy Writing and Numeracy. Under the new rules, you need to pass these to pass any NCEA level. To assist our students to achieve this we are enabling them to sit their first round of these at the end of Year 10. This will now become part of our junior assessment report as we walk our students through Year 9 and 10. Being the first attempt at this new CAA we were happy with the pass rate and found it interesting that of the students who passed 2 out of 3 CAAs there wasn't consistency in which 2 of the 3 they passed. Obviously, more work to do in this area.

- Our Health and Safety report highlighted that we have had the usual mix of issues (Sprains/Strains/Gastro/COVID/Strep Throat and all our Hazard registers have been updated.
- Our Student Well-being & Community Engagement report noted how well subscribed our Rob Cope Evening was and about the positive feedback received for running this. The renewed “R” points rewards are being well received and by the end of Week 7 more than 7000 “R” points had been issued. Finally in Week 8 a school wide New Zealand Council for Educational Research Well-being survey was completed. We look forward to reviewing these results once they are published.
- Our Property Report provided an update on our big 5YA Project for 2024 identifying that the costs are significantly more than budgeted so some adjustment to the project has been needed. We were also updated on the changes MOE is making to working on the 5YA projects (now online) and that Wayne Carter has done his training. Finally, we received an update on the work Waipa District Council want to do on the path that goes around the back of the bottom rugby fields.
- We had a change in our Business Manager after 20+ years at the end of last year. The replacement appointed resigned in Week 8. We have a new Business Manager starting in April, a little late for any reporting for March. With the replacement Business Manager being familiar with the school we anticipate being back to normal at our next meeting.
- We signed off on our grant requests (over \$25k) to Grassroots Trust, for our sporting codes.
- 2024 1st March Roll Return was tabled and sent to MOE.
- Our Principal’s report covered a variety of topics this month. The highlights were:
  - One of our school vans broke down going over the Kaimai’s. It has been decided that an engine replacement is the best option as there is a considerable time delay in getting new vans now and it is still in reasonably good nick.
  - Our Attendance Officer has received a new car to assist in her role getting students to school. It was well received, and I am sure will be well used.
  - A summary was provided of the Central North Island Principals’ Association meeting. Some key speakers were Marcus Freke (Director of Education, Waikato), Gary Anaru (Property, MOE), Virginia Crawford (Waikato Rep on Secondary Principals’ Council), Simon Cottle (Teaching Council of Aotearoa NZ) and a report from Waikato Secondary Schools’ Sports.
  - A historical Analysis of Serious discipline numbers to provide an oversight of how the school is managing in this area.

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday 22 May 2024 at 5:30pm in the Staffroom. 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