

Board Update: Headlines from the June 2024 Meeting

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

This was our 4th meeting for the new school year and is usually a reasonably light meeting, which is always nice following the larger one from last month. With the upcoming ERO visit, this enabled us to spend a reasonable amount of our time working through the paperwork that the board needs to provide ERO or have input into. We also had Neil Bauernfeind (DP) with us to walk through the results of the recent NZCER Student Well-Being survey. The importance of these two items was shown with our principal Tony Membery joining us, even though he was officially on sabbatical.

For the upcoming ERO visit we went through the School Improvement framework: Stewardship and Governance domain rating where we thought the school fitted as well as providing support as to why we had ranked ourselves where we had. We also received the draft Board Assurance statement and audit checklist to review. While we discussed some points on this, we also gave ourselves a few days to look at in more detail before I received the OK to sign off the final version. Alongside our usual reports this month we also we covered off:

- Our Student Well-Being & Community Engagement report advised that the revamped R Points rewards is going well. 62 students have received a \$5 canteen voucher with many others not far away from receiving one. With 14,000 R points having been rewarded so far, we are well ahead of any previous year. As part of this report, we also had Neil present the collated results of the Student Wellbeing Survey that was held earlier this year on 19 March. Whereas previous surveys had been held over just the Year 9 and 10 cohorts, this year we decided to run it across the entire school. We had 1110 students taking the paper-based survey (We chose paper over online to obtain a better sample size). The results were very encouraging for the school with some feedback received from the national co-ordinator. With the plan to present the results across the school community over the next few months, and not wanting to take anything away from that process, I thought a couple of remarks from the NZCER Advisor of the survey would be appropriate:
 - Wellbeing at the college *“is mostly positive and pretty healthy”*.
 - Aggressive student Culture *“This is pretty good data for a college and that’s a strength”*.
- Having decided, two years ago, to sell our uniforms at cost, and the commitment of having an annual review, we started with reviewing numbers as provided by our school Business Manager, Beryl, as to the effect of continuing this option with our uniform prices. Again, a robust discussion was held before agreeing that we would roll over selling these at cost for another 12 months.

- We again had our annual consideration of whether to continue accepting the “Donations Scheme” funding. As we are only part way through this year and the last couple of years having various disruptions (remember COVID and teacher strikes) we still have not had a full 12 months to see what, if any, cost there is to being in this scheme. We have therefore determined to sign up for another year, acknowledging that pulling out without a full financial analysis would not be beneficial to our community.
- We received our financial report for May, nearly ½ way though our year. This is the first complete report since the changing of our Business Manager and it was good to see that even with the spend on the multi-sport turf last year, the school’s finances are still in great order.
- As part of our policy review cycle, we had a lot of policies to look at this month. Those that were reviewed and updated, where necessary, were:
 - Conditions of Service
 - Professional Boundaries
 - Equal Employment Opportunities
 - Equity
 - Human Resource Management
 - Leave of Absence Requests by Staff
 - Management Units and Allowances
 - Principals Appraisal/Performance Management
 - Appraisal/Performance Management (Teaching and Support Staff)
 - Professional Learning and Development of Teaching Staff
 - Civil Defence/Emergency
 - Food and Nutrition
 - Governance
- We received a quick update from Rogers Trust having had the farm sale go through at the end of May. With final season payments due from Fonterra for the next few months, the Trust is reviewing where the funds now on hand will be invested. The intent is to review these options in September so that once all funds are received, they can be invested in a way that continues to support the intent of the trust deed in-perpetuity.

Our next meeting will be held Tuesday 20 August 2024 (To allow for enrolment week which is happening on our usual meeting week) 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