

Board Update: Headlines from the August 2024 Meeting

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

This was our 5th meeting for the school year and as is usual was a reasonably light agenda. We also had a parent, Tiegan Logan, join us to see what our Board meetings are all about (As I have stated at the end of all my reports our meetings are open to all.)

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. While we still had our review of our ½ year position, with:

- Tony Mamberly being away on his sabbatical and having Wayne Carter as our Acting Principal
- having started this year with a new Strategic Plan (and Charter) along with an Annual Plan structure
- AND having just had our ERO (Education Review Office) visit and their discussion over the Strategic Plan versus the Annual Plan

Our review of our ½ year position looked a little different to how we have done this in the past. The result though was effectively the same in that we were provided with a snapshot of what the school has been up to so far this year against the targets that were set at the start of the year. With this year being back to a more normal year, the Board is happy with the results as reported.

So, our Strategic Plan discussion, along with an overview of the ERO visit, Health Centre report for Term 2, a policy update to our Child Protection policy and our usual items, made up this meeting. The summary is:

- We started the evening with reviewing our Child Protection Policy. While this was only updated last year, the recent ERO visit highlighted that the preference for this policy now is that it is more of a Policy/Procedure mix (more detailed). We therefore updated our policy to a version that included more procedural information making it more acceptable.
- Wayne Carter provided an overview of the ERO visit, which provided background information to what was discussed when the Board met up with ERO during their visit. While we don't agree with everything that ERO thinks, we don't believe they highlighted anything that we were not aware of or not actively working on. Like any feedback that the Board receives, we will be looking at what we can take away from their visit to further improve how the school Creates Learning Success for Every Student.
- With the Student elections for the Student Board Rep due to happen next month, we appointed Maree Wilson as the Returning Officer for this election process.
- Student Wellbeing and Community Engagement report
 - There have currently been over 20,000 R points handed out so far this year with 130 students having achieved enough (30 points) to receive a \$5 canteen voucher.
 - KAMAR (our school management system) has received an update that will enable the school to provide weekly email updates to the parents/caregivers of things like R points received, attendance, credits of the students.

- We had a Staff Appreciation fortnight at the end of Term 2, which was well received by them. The first week was the staff appreciating each other and then the second week was the students appreciating the staff. It was a great success so there are plans for follow up weeks, especially at the end of terms.
- Wayne Carter presented his Principal's report, and some highlights of this report are:
 - A number of successes from the previous term were shared. These also received mention in the last newsletter.
 - The ½ year review as noted at the start of this report was incorporated in this report.
 - With the school now operating with an enrolment scheme, we need to decide by the start of September whether we will be offering any places for Out of Zone students. Unfortunately, the modelling for next year shows that even with taking on only within zone students we will be bursting at the seams. Therefore, we have had to make the hard decision to have ZERO out of zone placements for 2025.
- Our Health Report for Term 2 again gave a good overview of the health services provided to our school community. Interestingly it seems that the cell phone ban has increased the minor injuries that the school nurse is seeing. The feedback from the staff is that students are more active at breaks now (actively playing!) which is what is leading to this outcome.
- The usual Health and Safety report, Property report, correspondence and last meeting's minutes were tabled and discussed where necessary.
- Our Finance report, for halfway through this year, shows the school in a very healthy position. Our new Business Manager is firmly getting her feet under the table and making huge inroads to making this role her own. While it is a major task taking over from someone who had been in the role for over 20 years and was therefore very familiar with the role, we owe a big thank you to Beryl Barras for just knuckling down and making this role her own.
- We finished the meeting with a report from Jo Sheridan, who had recently attended the Marae Committee AGM. Jo Sheridan advised that the Committee is of good heart, it is in a good place financially and is being well cared for. So, a big thumbs up to our Marae Committee.

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday 25th September 2024 at 5:30 pm 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 Yardley
Chairperson