

## School Board Update: Headlines from the September 2024 Meeting

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

This is our 6<sup>th</sup> meeting for the school year, with September being a month that has less in-depth reporting to work through before the mad rush towards Christmas. This has allowed us to receive a report on Tony's sabbatical and discuss the ERO draft report as we progressed through the usual agenda alongside some policy reviews and updates, Rogers Charitable Trust election, and the September Roll return.

September is also the month where we receive a new Student Rep onto the board. Having just had the election we welcomed Willow Lee a Year 12 student who was successful and farewelled Millie Thackray.

The summary is:

- Tony back from his sabbatical and looking refreshed and rejuvenated, gave us an overview of what he got up to, including a detailed report from the International Confederation of Principals' World Convention – Future pathways for learners and learning. Without taking away from any reporting Tony is going to provide the school community, the sessions that he reported back on were:
  - Pathways for Learning and Learners
  - PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) Results 2022
  - Growing Future Leaders in an ever-changing world
  - Artificial Intelligence in Education
  - The Challenges of Climate Education in Schools
  - Becoming an Equity Champion: Embedding Human Rights and Equity in your Practice
- We were updated on the proposed World Challenge expedition. With 12 students expressing interest there are enough for this to go ahead so fundraising and planning is now occurring.
- Wayne then took us through his Property report, with information on our 10YPP/5YA (10-year Property Plan/5 Year Agreement), as we are at the end of one 10-year cycle, which means we are needing to build the next 10YPP. He also covered off the utilisation of the last of our spending withing the current cycle, with the bulk of this work programmed to be over the summer and into next year. He also updated us on our Cyclical Maintenance plan and advised that going forward this will be developed by the MOE (primarily due to schools around the country not doing as good a job as needed to run this.) although we have run this very successfully – just look at the state of the school.
- Our Student Well-being and Community Engagement noted that the number of R points awarded are the best of any year at this stage of the school year. The weekly email you are now getting will be giving you an update on how many your child has earned. The Student Wellbeing report has been shared with the student Form Class reps and the staff for feedback. We are looking at reporting this back to the school community during the start of Term 4.

- With coming to the end of the 2-year term for board members to be on the Rogers Charitable Trust, we held an election for those to be our representatives for the next two years. The successful board members who were elected, alongside Tony, are: Jo Sheridan, Wade Bell and Nick Hewlett. They will join the community reps Murray Green and Regan McCorquindale.
- We received notice of the amount we had to distribute from the Te Awamutu College Foundation Fund (the fundraising fund we set up a few years ago with seed funding from the Rogers Charitable Trust). We determined that it would be good to utilise this against the cost of the Year 13 camp next year, to encourage as many returning Year 13 students to attend as possible.
- We received and tabled the Te Wānanga o Aotearoa Alternative Education mid-year report. We are truly blessed having this team provide this function for our school and express a heartfelt thanks to the team that do this for us.
- Within the Principals' report it was noted that we are approaching the time of year when teachers consider moving around and already have had some movement. The supply issue that has been noted in previous reports is still very real and feedback from the conference that Tony attended confirms that it is a worldwide issue. This just makes it a hard job that to-date we have been able to meet our teaching staff requirements. There are also issues in the education sector that we are needing to stay abreast on, like proposed amendments to the Education and Training Act 2020.
- Having received an ERO visit last month, as noted in my August School Board Update, we were presented with their:
  - Board Assurance with Regulatory and Legislative Requirements Report 2024 to 2027 – Unconfirmed
  - School Evaluation Report – Unconfirmed
  - Provision for International Students Report – Unconfirmed

with the intent that we as a board will sign them off so that they are not unconfirmed. While we stand by view that they didn't highlight anything that we were not aware of or not actively working on, the way the report is structured, the wording that they apparently must use doesn't paint a full picture of what is happening as a school. Because we know that there is very little scope in changing the ERO report formats and wording we have agreed to sign it off as it is. We figure that if there is anyone who actually takes the time to read through school ERO reports and reads ours alongside others, ours would be a good read.

- We reviewed, and updated the following policies:
  - Health & Safety in the Workplace
  - Health & Safety: Others/Visitors in the Workplace
  - Health & Safety: Hazard/Risk Management
  - Health & Safety: Personal Protective Equipment

- The usual Financial report, correspondence, and Health and Safety report and last meeting's minutes were tabled and discussed where necessary.

It is also a good time to remind everyone that we have a direct email address so if you need to contact the Board Chairperson electronically then there is an address that will survive changes in the chairperson. Please be aware that the Board Chairperson should be the last person in the chain of command to be contacted, which means that when all other processes (as documented in our school policies and procedures) fail to meet your need(s) then the chairperson is available.

Our next meeting is currently scheduled be held Wednesday 23rd October 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 Yardley

Chairperson

[boardchair@tac.school.nz](mailto:boardchair@tac.school.nz)