



# TE AROHA COLLEGE

*A purpose joyful; A courage blameless*

March 2018

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## Straight From the BOT Table

Welcome to the second edition of **'Straight From the BOT Table'**. This edition brings you up-to-date with news from the Board's second meeting of Term 1. Read on and be informed....

## Policy Review

The Board has revised and adopted a new set of Governance Policies and started work on revising the Operational Policies as part of its self-review and continuous improvement process. Governance policies include things like 'Board Roles and Responsibilities', 'Responsibilities of the Principal', 'Reporting to the Board Policy', 'Trustees Code of Behaviour Policy', 'Conflict of Interest Policy', 'Meeting Process Policy' etc. This set of policies form the foundations of a good Board process, and are reviewed triennially or as and when required. Operational Policies include 'Curriculum Delivery', 'Personnel', a suite of financial planning and protection policies, etc. Next on the list are the Health and Safety, and Child Protection policies - the Board will be holding a workshop to review these in April. If any parents or caregivers have knowledge in these areas and would like to be part of the workshop please let us know – you will be welcome.

**A PURPOSE JOYFUL A COURAGE BLAMELESS**  
**HE WAKA EKE NOA HE TU MANAWANUI KI TE KEI O TE WAKA**



## Concerns and Complaints

The Board is committed to having and enacting a fair and transparent process to effectively handle complaints. A new Te Aroha College Complaints Policy has been drafted with input from the NZ School Trustees Association, and is currently being reviewed with feedback sought from the teaching staff and Senior Leadership Team. Key aspects of the policy are distinguishing between concerns and complaints and ensuring there is a clear flowchart to determine how a concern is dealt with through the operational school system and, at what point it may become a written complaint elevated for Board consideration at governance level.

Once the process is adopted it will be communicated to the school community and available on the website for ongoing reference.





## Smart Days



The Board was updated on the first of the visits to 'Toi Ohoimai' in Tauranga by one of the TAC Smart Paths Team, teacher Ken Rowe. Te Aroha College is one of the lead schools in this vocational pathways model, and so is actively providing feedback on the positives and potential work-ons with the weekly visits this term. If you haven't already heard of the Smart Days initiative at TAC then please check out the college website [www.tearoha.school.nz](http://www.tearoha.school.nz) and the article 'Careers and Smart Paths Learning Models' or make contact with one of the Smart Paths Team teachers Wayne Stringer, Ken Rowe, Tony New, Samantha Mortiner to find out more. Like any programme in its infancy, things may not be completely perfect this time around so feedback to the team is encouraged as the programme is further developed to suit our school's requirements.

## Capital Renewals

A programme involving close to \$120,000 worth of asset renewals for plant and equipment has been approved by the Board for 2018. The list of priority renewals presented to the Board included a major replacement of ovens and hobs in the foods technology area (\$28,000); an interactive data projector and smart board predominantly for the Spanish & Maori learning area; \$10,000 worth of ICT spending on priority areas; free-standing basketball hoops (\$2,000); additional PE equipment including a gym sound system; \$8,000 worth of lighting equipment for drama productions; \$15,000 worth of air-conditioning units for



## Capital Renewals (Continued)

C Block; a pool filtration system upgrade; library resources; provision for over \$50,000 for chrome book leases; \$3,800 to the music area for a drum kit, clarinet and saxophone; resources for media studies in the way of a video camera; two new perspex sheet benders for wood technology (\$3,500); and replacement and upgrade equipment for other curriculum areas including communications, physics, biology, agriculture. These items are replaced on a priority basis utilising depreciation funds that the Board budgets for.

## Annual Plan and Consultation Workshop

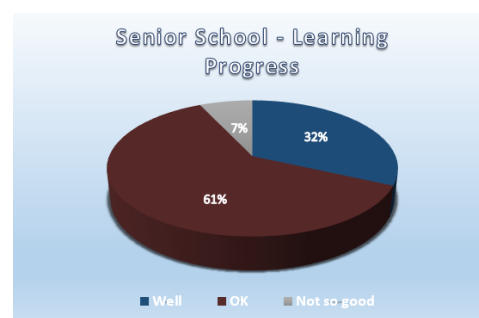
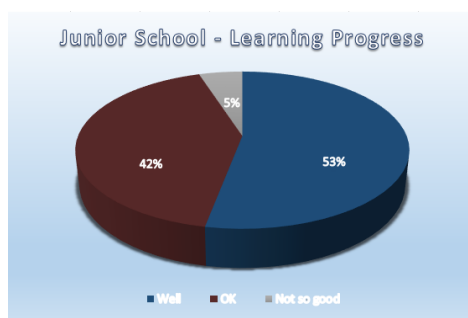
The Board will be fully exploring the TAC 2018 Annual Plan at a special Board workshop to be held in early May. As part of that workshop, the Board will also be considering the Consultation Plan for the year.

## Student Voice

What has gone well? What has not gone so well? How can we help you to improve these things? operational level by staff as part of the self-review and continuous improvement strategy.

These are some of the questions that have been asked of our students six weeks into school as part of a programme of feed-forward. 100 students from the junior school, and 129 students from the senior school fed back information on these questions as part of the recent survey. 95% of juniors and 93% of seniors have responded positively when asked to rate their first 6 weeks of school this year.

Results have been presented to the Board in summary format, and are analysed in further depth at an Asked to rate their learning progress across subjects, the large majority (around 95%) have rated it as 'good' or 'okay'. Less than 5% of seniors, year 9 students and year 10 students in most subjects have rated their learning progress as 'poor'.





## Student Progress and Achievement

Special Education Needs and how these are being addressed was on the agenda as part of the student progress and achievement review at the Board's March meeting. Special education covers additional needs due to factors which may include health, learning, behavioural or English-as-a-Second-Language (ESOL). Support is provided to a number of students across all year levels to help them succeed at TAC.

## Grant Applications

Grant applications are currently being lodged to fund classroom computers and girls basketball uniforms as recommended through the TAC Sports Council. Fingers crossed that these are successful to assist with the upgrade of these college necessities.

## Property Update

The gymnasium upgrade is on track for completion by July which is good news. The upgrade has been a huge project, ongoing since prior to Christmas and we look forward to the covers being unveiled in due course to reveal the benefits from all the renovations. The Te Aroha Events Centre is booked as a back-up learning environment for term 2 classes while the gym remains out-of-action.

Meanwhile, the Property Committee is looking forward to the new 10-year Property Plan which is required. This will include doing condition assessment, planning, and setting priorities for school-wide property upgrades and replacements.

The Board's next meeting will be Week 3 of Term 2. Over and out from me .... Until next time.

**Julie Sweeney (BOT Chair)**

