



TE AROHA COLLEGE

A purpose joyful; A courage blameless

February 2018

106 Stanley Ave
Te Aroha 3320

P O Box 218
Te Aroha 3342

Ph. 07 8848625
admin@tearohacollege.school.nz

Chairperson
Julie Sweeney
bot@tearohacollege.school.nz

Parent Trustees
Graham Hallett
Mel Wilson
Maria Admiraal
Julie Sweeney
Mark Spooner
Victoria Oosthoek

Staff Trustee
Rachel Scott

Student Trustee
Sven Aranui

Principal
Heather Gorrie

BOT Secretary
Sandy Gwynne
bot@tearohacollege.school.nz



Straight From the BOT Table

Welcome to the first edition of **'Straight From the BOT Table'**. This will be a regular feature communicated to families of Te Aroha College students to let you know what's happening around the table of the Board of Trustees (BOT) at a governance level. The Board meets twice a term, so **'Straight From the BOT Table'** will be published after each of those meetings, as well as when there are any other important things from the BOT. Read on and be informed....

Annual Elections

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself – the new Chairman of Te Aroha College BOT, Julie Sweeney. I was elected as the Board's Chairperson for 2018 at its Annual Meeting held on Monday night. I have been on the TAC Board for just 1 year, but am no stranger to school boards. I was a member of the Stanley Ave School BOT



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



TE AROHA COLLEGE

A purpose joyful; A courage blameless

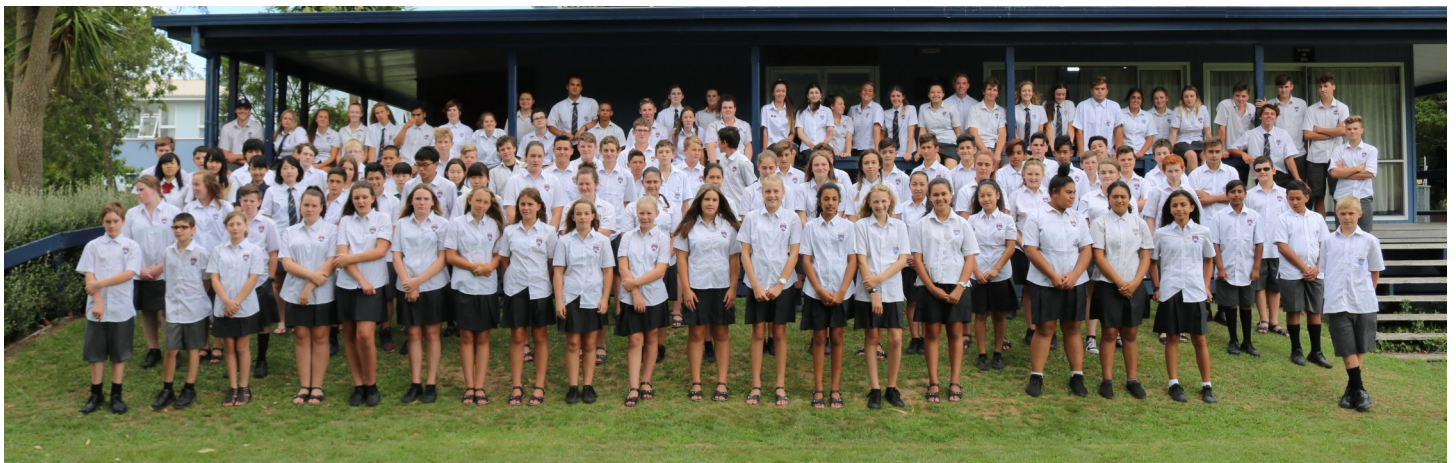
February 2018

for 14 years from 2002 to 2016. I was Secretary for 5 years and then Chairman for 6 years. Prior to that I was President of Te Aroha Kindergarten Board of Management for 3 years so my interest in education and governance goes back quite a way! Some will know me as mum to Brooke who is currently in Year 12, or my other children who have all now left Te Aroha College to study at Waikato University - Tayla, Taine and Kurt. My regular job is as a Human Resources Advisor and manager of health and safety at Hauraki District Council in Paeroa. I love sport, and am a sucker for the odd marathon so run quite a bit. I also like watching and helping out with sport – some might know me from managing hockey, volleyball or basketball teams, or from my 9 years as secretary, judge, relay coach and general dogs body for Te Aroha Athletic Club. 'Work Hard, Play Hard' is pretty much my motto so I look forward to this year as Chairman of the Board where I intend to help Te Aroha College be the best it can be. Enough about me!

A big thanks to Graham Hallett who is the outgoing Chairman. Graham has been elected as the Board's Property officer and will continue to be a valuable source of knowledge as the Board continues on its journey of building maintenance and improvements.

Vicky Oosthoek has been elected as the Board's Finance officer to oversee the very important financial aspects of governance.

We welcome our new student trustee Sven Aranui who has joined our very committed and hard working board that also includes members Mark Spooner, Maria Admiraal and Mel Wilson along with teacher trustee Rachel Scott and Principal Heather Gorrie.



Straight From the BOT Table



Academic Achievement

Academic achievement is one of the major interests of the Board so it was pleasing to receive provisional NCEA results that saw an increased level of achievement in 2017 compared with the 2016 results. Provisional achievement data shows the following percentage of students passed:

Level 1: 90% with pending results expecting it to lift to 93% (compared with 81% in 2016)

Level 2: 80% with pending results expecting it to lift to 92% (compared with 85% in 2016)

Level 3: 73% with pending results expecting it to lift to 80% (compared with 72% in 2016)

Gender comparison data interestingly shows our boys are lagging when it comes to achieving at excellence or merit level. The challenge is on boys! Time to show the girls that 'boys can do anything!' The results showed parity across all ethnicities which is outstanding. Big hats off to all the hard-working teachers and support staff who we often forget to thank – your efforts don't go unnoticed.



Merit and Excellence Endorsement Recipients



Smart Days

2018 will see the launch of Smart Days which is an exciting concept unveiled to the Board at its meeting this week. Smart Days is the revised version of the former Interest Day. Listening to community feedback, student voice, self-review and continuous improvement are key functions of any good school, and Te Aroha College has done just that with its new and improved 'Smart Day'. Full information will be provided by the teachers who have designed the concept, but in a nutshell some of the positives from a Board's perspective are:

- A better co-ordinated learning model that incorporates Smart Paths, Careers, Pathways and Gateway programmes all to be held on the one day (Thursday), allowing full functioning classroom teaching on the other four days.
- A better co-ordinated link to vocational pathways where students can investigate a variety of career or vocational pathway options to give them an indication of what they do and don't like.
- Access to programmes, guidance and facilities through an association with a tertiary hub in Tauranga called 'Toi Ohoimai' which students will be taken to by bus during the first few weeks of the Smart Days programme.
- Broadening the thinking and opening up the range of opportunities for potential careers by providing this opportunity from Year 9's upwards.

Charter, Annual Plan and Budget

The School Charter, Annual Plan and Budget are key strategic documents that the Board uses to guide its decisions, and these were all presented at the first meeting of the year this week.

The School Charter is a very thorough document that outlines the school's 9 key goals and maps out strategies over a 3-year period to help achieve those goals. It also contains the policy framework and agreed governance and management definitions which form the basis of the working relationship between governance (the Board) and management (the Principal and leadership team).

The Annual Plan is a summary of the strategies and goals for the current 2018 year, and the budget is a working document that reflects the financial means for the strategies and goals to be achieved.

Anyone with an interest in the Charter or Annual Plan are welcome to request a copy from the school office.



Policies and Procedures

The Board will be holding a special workshop in March to start a review of its policies and procedures to ensure they are in keeping with best practice and current legislation (which constantly changes!). One of the things that may be noticeable by many in our school community is the more rigorous procedures around Police Vetting of parents involved with teams and transportation. This is essential with enhanced health and safety laws and vulnerable children legislation and we thank you for your co-operation in helping us to keep your children safe.

Contacting the BOT

We have now set up an email address specifically for anybody who wants to make contact with the Board of Trustees. All board correspondence should be directed to this new email address to ensure it reaches the Board Chair and BOT secretary for processing through the correct channels. The email address is:

bot@tearohacollege.school.nz

Well this is a big first issue of **'Straight From the BOT Table'**. If you got to the end you have done very well !! Over and out from me Until next time.

Julie Sweeney (BOT Chair)

