



# TE AROHA COLLEGE

*A purpose joyful; A courage blameless*

May 2018

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## Straight From the BOT Table

Welcome to the May edition of **'Straight From the BOT Table'**. This edition brings you up-to-date with news from the Board's first meeting of Term 2. Read on and be informed....

## Concerns and Complaints

The Board has had a thorough review and upgrade of its Concerns and Complaints Policy to ensure there is a robust process for effectively handling concerns. This policy, which has now been adopted by the Board, will enable concerns from students, employees, whanau, family, community members and other stakeholders to be able to be dealt with effectively.

The full policy and procedural guidelines are available on the college [website](http://www.tearoha.school.nz) [www.tearoha.school.nz](http://www.tearoha.school.nz) (go to the 'about' tab and click on 'policies and procedures'). An easier-to-follow diagram in this newsletter shows the process to be followed.

I know that in a small community it often feels easier to talk about concerns with friends, board members, and other people generally. However the best option is to talk directly to the person involved whether that be a classroom teacher, another staff member or the Principal.

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

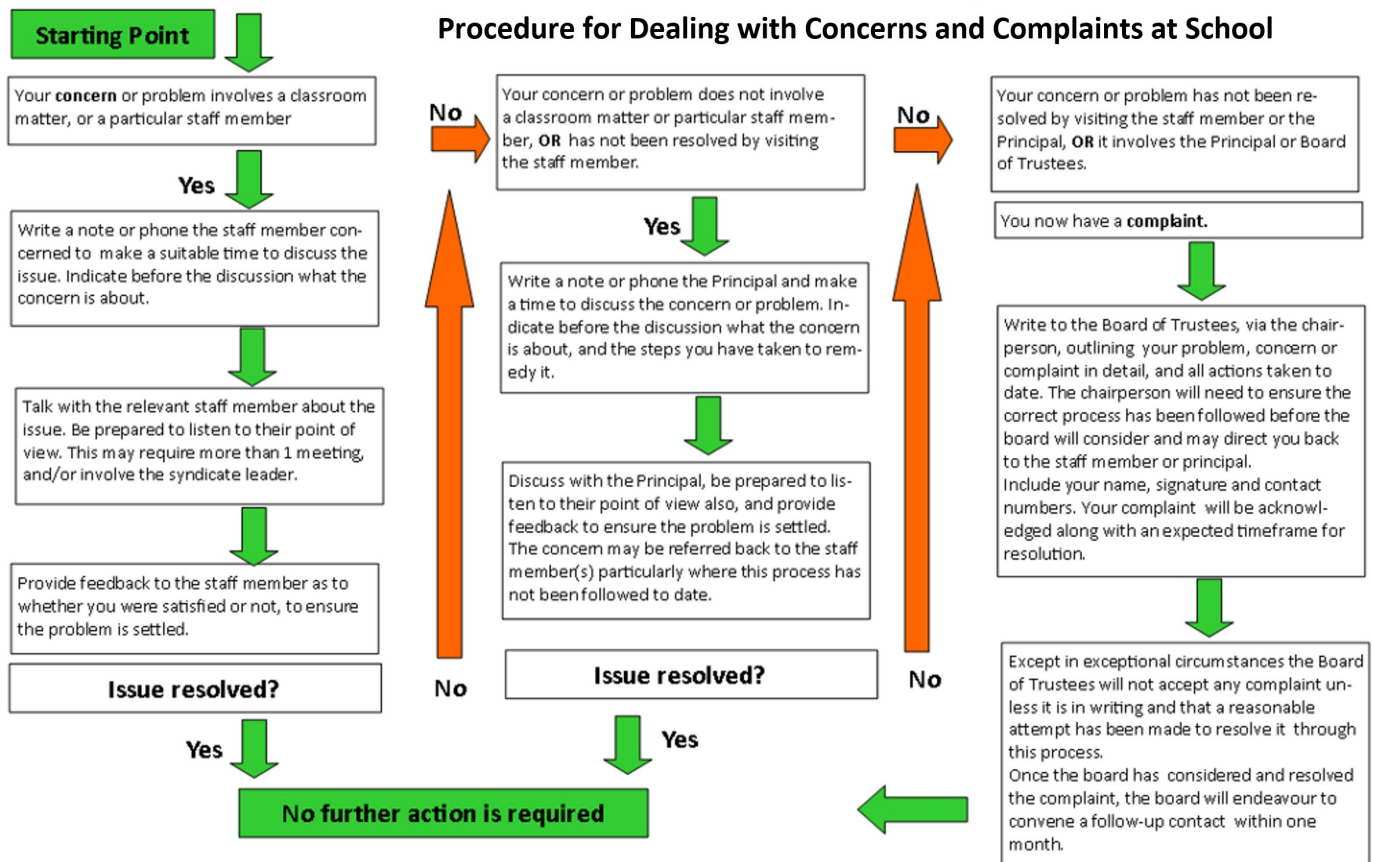


## Concerns and Complaints (Continued)

We all have a common goal of wanting Te Aroha College to be great – as parents we want it to be a great place for our teenagers to grow and learn, and as staff they want it to be a great place to teach and work. By raising and talking through any concerns or feedback with the right person early on, we can all work together to be a great Te Aroha College.

### Te Aroha College

#### Procedure for Dealing with Concerns and Complaints at School



## Grant Applications

In our last newsletter I reported that grant applications were being lodged to fund classroom computers and girls basketball uniforms as recommended through the TAC Sports Council. We are pleased to report that TAC has been successful in gaining \$30,000 in grants for classroom computers, and \$2,300 in grants for girls basketball uniforms. Thanks to Sandy Gwynne for processing the applications and making it happen.



## Curriculum Reports

One of the fortunate things about being on the Board of Trustees is that you get a good insight into the work behind the scenes. At the May meeting we were presented curriculum reports from the English department (by Rachel Scott) and the Technology department (by Steve Pipe). This provided the Board with a deeper understanding of the planning, teaching, and assessment of both the English and Technology curriculum areas. If any students, parents or caregivers have any questions around these or other subjects feel free to contact the teacher or Head of Department to discuss as there is way more to it than what we think! Having an understanding of the bigger picture and the 'why' can be really helpful.



## Budget

Preliminary financial statements for the 2017 year indicate that we have finished with a surplus. The Board would like to acknowledge the staff for their efforts in preparing and managing the budget in their areas of responsibility. A surplus budget from day-to-day operations means that we have funds for improvements.





## Asset Replacement / Wishlist for TAC

The Board is working with Education Services to refine its Asset Replacement Register which will enable it to create a 10-year Asset Replacement Plan. The value of a longer-term view of asset replacement is that the Board will then be able to see what funds it has available for additional projects and wish-list items.

What would you like to see improved or introduced at Te Aroha College? Anything is possible if we dream, plan, prioritise, and work hard to achieve it.

Step 1 is finding out exactly where we are at with our current commitments to maintain the assets we already have and will continue to need.

Step 2 is finding out what the wish-list items are – what do students want? What do staff want? What are the ideas of the parent/caregiver community? Let's build the dream list.

Step 3 is working as a Board in consultation with the staff, students and community to prioritise, plan, fund and make it happen.

We'll let you know when we are ready for Step 2, because we will be wanting your views.

## Gym Upgrade

Speaking of improvements – the completion of the gym upgrade project is getting closer. The Board approved plans for finishing touches such as tinting of windows, replacement of the basketball hoops and backboards, seating in the girls changing rooms etc at its last meeting.

A big thanks to Graham Hallett (Property Chairperson) for his work in overseeing this project, and to the staff that have been heavily involved in making it happen – from sourcing the funding through to getting plans, quotes, working with project managers, contractors. It is a huge job on top of business-as-usual. Also to the staff and sports coaches who have had to work around the gym upgrade and find alternative solutions for teaching and training – big thanks and acknowledgement of your efforts. Often all the work behind the scenes goes unseen and under-acknowledged, but it is very much appreciated.

The Board's next meeting will be Week 8 of Term 2 – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June. Over and out from me .... Until next time.

**Julie Sweeney (BOT Chair)**