



TE AROHA COLLEGE

A purpose joyful; A courage blameless

August 2018

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Straight From the BOT Table

Welcome to the August edition of **'Straight From the BOT Table'**. This edition brings you up-to-date with news from the Board's first meeting of Term 3.

Curriculum Reports

Head of Drama and Performing Art Adrienne Hagan was recognised and commended for the significant contribution she made to this year's production of 'Hairspray'. Adrienne presented on the TAC drama and performing arts curriculum and the various teaching methods and styles used for year 9 – 13 students at the Board meeting last Monday night.

The timing of Adrienne's presentation following the 5-show production of 'Hairspray' enabled the Board to get a good appreciation of the extensive work both in and outside of school hours that are put in by Adrienne and her team of helpers – all made worthwhile by such a successful show that has given both the students involved, and audiences who attended, a very special experience. What great talent we have at TAC.

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



Consultation and Communication

On the consultation and communication front, a phone app to enable streamlined access to school messages and information is being investigated.

Trending in Student Achievement

One of the key focus points of the Board is on student achievement. Of note in a statistical review of Maori and Pasifika performance is that there is no pattern of Maori achievement being different from overall achievement. Maori are proportionately represented in the same scale through the achievement lists. This reflects last year's findings also, where there was parity of achievement across ethnicities at Te Aroha College.

Strategy at Governance Level

Kathryn Turner from the Ministry of Education was invited to, and attended, the Board meeting to discuss with the Board the school's planning and reporting documents. This gave the Board a better overview of its purpose and responsibilities at a governance level as it heads into consultation and Charter review later this term. The Board will be looking to utilise the services of the New Zealand School Trustees Association in leading its workshop. This is to ensure best practice as schools face potential changes resulting from the Education Amendment Bill 2018 which is currently being considered by Parliament.

Paving Plan

The successful quote has been confirmed for the new paths to the pavilion and in the vicinity of C Block and D Block. Contractor Twenty20Concrete has got the green light to proceed with the plan for works that has been prepared by staff Peter Jager and Neil Robertson. After a wet winter, the improvements will be a welcome addition to the school environment.



International Education Relationships

Opportunities continue to arise from education ties with international schools as Te Aroha College has been offered 4 student places for a trip to visit sister schools in Taiwan leaving in middle December for two weeks. All accommodation will be covered with students only having to fund the flights.

In addition, 7 students have been acting as paid student tutors for the Waihi Academy, working with a large group of Taiwanese students.

These are opportunities that will help give students a point of difference in a world where the employment market is competitive and international relationships open up doors.



Taiwanese Sample Science with Mr Jager



Governance Approach to Policy Review

On the policy front, the Board has adopted an updated Sensitive Expenditure Policy. This is an interim measure while the full suite of financial policies are refined.

The Board is looking to move away from the traditional method of having a multitude of policies and detailed procedures to a more governance-style approach of having one handbook of higher-level policy to provide the parameters for operational procedure. This is a work in progress being led by the Board's staff rep Rachel Scott.

BOT Self-Review

The Board did a self-review exercise at its last meeting to focus its attention on the core objectives of the governance role and assess its performance accordingly. Priority areas for a 2018-2019 BOT Action Plan were identified.

Gym Upgrade

Final touches are being made on the gym upgrade as quality checks are carried out and the project manager and contractor complete any improvements required. The fitting of new basketball backboards and hoops and ensuring they are safely installed to 'dunk standards' will be the icing on the cake.

The Board's next meeting will be Week 8 of Term 4 – Monday 10th September. Over and out from me Until next time.

Julie Sweeney (BOT Chair)

