



TE AROHA COLLEGE

A purpose joyful; A courage blameless

September 2018

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Straight From the BOT Table

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

Student Representative on BOT

Our new student rep Keara Costar attended her first Board of Trustees meeting this week in her official role as a full member of the Board. Keara, who moves into Year 12 next year, takes over the position from Sven Aranui who has completed his one-year term. We thank Sven for his contribution to the Board over the past year, and look forward to having Keara in our team for the next 12 months.

Electronic Sign

We have a welcome addition to the front of the college gates with the new electronic sign that has been installed.

The sign was a project identified by the 2017 Year 13 group as something they wanted to contribute towards as their legacy. Money from their fundraising was tagged as a starting pool which was topped up by the Board to enable the project to proceed. Timing of the installation was delayed to enable the gym construction work to be completed due to the positioning of the notice board.

The sign will be transformed from the current format of an electronic clock into a useful messaging noticeboard once a few initial connectivity issues are resolved.

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



Electronic Sign (Continued)

The sign will be transformed from the current format of an electronic clock into a useful messaging notice-board once a few initial connectivity issues are resolved. Congratulations to last year's school leavers for their part in the project.

Gymnasium Refurbishment

The long-awaited opening of the refurbished gymnasium is not far away. While the project is 99% complete, there have been some ongoing delays with some finer details which include:

- The need to install cages around the heaters to prevent damage from balls
- An investigation into a dampness issue under the new floor in the viewing area
- Issues getting a consultant to oversee compliance with safety and structural installation of the new basketball frames (to dunking standards!).
- Some small touch-ups required with areas of the painting and construction detail

Pathways and Gardens

Continuing on the property front, new concrete pathways are being created in various areas of the school by 20Twenty Concrete during the upcoming October school holidays. The upgrading of surrounding gardens will be scheduled to complement the new look.

Casual vacancies have arisen on the Board following the resignation of two Board members. We thank Maria Admiraal and Vicky Oosthoek for their contribution to the Board, and acknowledge their service to Te Aroha College during that time.

Casual Vacancies

Because the resignations occurred prior to 1st October in a year preceding election year (2019), the Board is required to fill the positions. In accordance with the Education Act 1989 the Board has resolved to fill the casual vacancies by Selection and will commence the necessary notification in this regard.



Policy Framework

The Board is continuing to undertake a major overhaul of all of its policies. While a new Governance framework of policies was reviewed and adopted earlier this year, there is a multitude of operational policies that have been developed over many years and require consolidation.

This Board, led by project co-ordinator and staff rep Rachel Scott, has made it a priority to completely refine the list and content of the policies so that they are living documents easily and transparently accessible to all.

Rest assured that we currently comply with our legal responsibilities for policies relating to both Governance and Operations and the policies contained within our Strategic Plan are current and effective. It is the peripheral policy framework that will be coming under a “relevance” test.

Strategic Plan Review

The Board held a Strategic Plan workshop, inviting a facilitator from NZ School Trustees Association, earlier this month. The purpose of the workshop was to look at the Board's roles and responsibilities in terms of strategic planning, and consider how to best package a Strategic Plan for community understanding, partnership and consultation.

The essence of the strategic aims will not change, but the detail will be refined in the published version to make it more meaningful to the school community.

Self-Review Survey

As part of its governance responsibilities, the Board took a look at itself with a formal Self-Review Pulse Survey which was offered to all Board members to complete last month.

The survey explored what its top priorities are in terms of improving student achievement at our school, and how as a Board we can help to improve the student experience.

It also looked at areas we do well at as a School and as a Board, and ultimately how we can become a Great Board.

Overwhelmingly the responses said we can become great by having a 'unified approach', 'shared vision', 'common goals'.

Some of the things we do well as a school included:

Amazing teachers, progressive community, grounded students, meets diverse needs, students are prepared for the modern environment, individual pastoral care, individual learning programmes, community support of school, well educated students.



School Resourcing

Some of the areas identified as helping to improve the student experience were around school resourcing, and ensuring there is a substantial improvement to the buildings and grounds. Ensuring students are comfortable in both warm and cold conditions was also raised in the BOT survey.

The Board is working on these areas by:

- Working as a priority on the review of the 10-year property plan to get major block refurbishments underway
- Working with staff to identify an asset replacement planning document for the next 5-10 years
- Working with students to consider additional or replacement uniform items that can add to their warmth in winter. A student survey indicated the majority of students felt they were not warm enough in the current uniform in cold weather.

Student Achievement

To make a great school, we need a shared vision. While the Board can help to strengthen student achievement by working to provide a strong governance framework and high quality operational resources, it needs support of parents and the community to promote and encourage a culture of engagement. This means engagement in learning, but also fundamentally engagement in attendance. The school has processes for monitoring attendance several times a day and will endeavour to make contact with parents/caregivers if it appears there is an unrecorded absence. This service is to help keep our students safe ... so if the messenger calls, please be nice!

The Board's next meeting will be Week 3 of Term 4- Monday 29th October 2018. Over and out from me...Until next time.

Julie Sweeney

BOT Chairperson