



Rawhiti School

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD ON TUESDAY 21 MAY 2019 AT 6:30 PM

PRESENT: Jen Evans (Chair), Liz Weir (Principal), Karen Brandon, Jonny Langley, Thomas Parata, Elizabeth Kazmierczak, Janet Carson, Cheryl Lineham, Vanessa Manning, Alan Brittan (visitor)

Guest: Erena Moses, Jess Poff, Tim Scott – from the Landscaping Project.

ATTENDANCE: Brenda Preston (Minute Secretary)

APOLOGIES

1. KARAKIA AND WAIATA

J Evans welcomed everyone to the meeting.
T Parata led the Karakia.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: Moved Chairperson

That the minutes of the Rawhiti School Board of Trustees meeting held on Tuesday 26 March 2019 be accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Carried

Motion: Moved Chairperson

be accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Carried

Matters Arising

The letter of thanks (action point included in previous minutes) will be drafted by the Principal and J Evans for next Friday's newsletter.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Inwards Correspondence

Lauren's resignation letter (March)

2 leave applications

Letter from Ministry of Education re Banked Staffing Washup - \$3.68

Notice from the union (E Tu) that acts for caretakers and cleaners notifying that they are about to begin negotiations.

Draft ERO report

Letter from teachers in Papatuanuku requesting funding for new classroom furniture.

Part of their teacher enquiry this year is how to provide a better classroom environment.

Recommendation: J Langley

Seconded. J Carson

That the board agrees to fund the replacement of the furniture in Papatuanuku of \$8,012, as identified by the principal **Carried**

4. REPORTS

4.1 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The previously circulated report was taken as read and spoken to by the Principal.

Personnel

- **Fixed Term position in Papatuanuku:** At the end of this term 10 children from the NE/Year 1 studio will be transferred to Papatuanuku (this transfer was planned when the studios were set up). This will take the roll in PTN to 104. A fifth teacher will therefore need to be appointed to the studio for terms 3 and 4. Last year the transfer was made at the end of Term 3, so an additional teacher was only required in Term 1. Funds are available in the relief teacher budget to pay for this position. The position advertised at the end of this week.
- **Short Term Relief Position Bilingual:** Anna-Belle Graham will be on the 10-week Maori language course in Term 3. The School has yet to find someone to teach in Ata Hapara for the term.

The school can only appoint from the number who apply. The fixed term position probably won't be so difficult to fill but the Principal will ask the Ministry if the school can advertise under the "hard to staff" category. That means that the Ministry would pay their removal costs.

Legislation

The School Roll is **543**. This compares with a roll of 565 in 2018, and 537 in 2017.

There are currently 22 children pre-enrolled to start this year.

While the number of admissions and withdrawals is on a par with past years, the February 1st start roll was lower. This is likely to have an impact on our July 1st roll return, which will in turn impact on our 2020 staffing.

Industrial action

There is potential for the industrial action to be cancelled but this is highly unlikely unless there is another round of negotiations. Staff are feeling quite heated and are pretty determined that it can't keep going the way it is. The key point that the sector want addressed is ratio of students to teachers which is 1:29 in years four to eight. The Board has always kept that smaller and this year we have a 1:25 ratio. In the senior school the ratio is 1:27. Rawhiti staff would not be much better off under another arrangement.

Release time is also an issue in the Primary sector which only allows an hour a **day, week**, whereas for the Secondary sector it is 1 hour per day. Pay parity was achieved some years ago but the conditions of work are different. Teachers are funded a morning a fortnight for release if we could make traction in that we would be better off financially but there is no guarantee that teachers get pastoral release time if a school doesn't have the staff to facilitate that.

The last time teachers had a significant increase was around 20 years ago. The current contract provides 3% over three years. Management Units are paid at \$4,000 before tax

and have not changed since management units were introduced. Rawhiti teachers understand that they are working under different conditions, but they are still struggling. All staff apart from support staff, teacher aides and the caretaker are members of NZEI. There are legal restrictions around teacher aides providing supervision. The Principal said they understand this will be disruptive for parents and students.

Recommendation: Moved

That Rawhiti School close for instruction on 29th of May. Supervision will not be provided. Support staff and the caretaker may be present on school grounds.

Seconded

Carried

Vandalism

The Principal reported that vandalism had occurred to the headrests of the back seats in a vehicle. The seats have been repaired but are not covered by insurance as it is considered wilful damage. It will be coded to vandalism.

A Fire Evacuation Report and Sickbay Report were tabled for the Board's information

Wharoa

The Principal reported that the wharoa was ready to be installed but still needs backlighting. It is a place to pause after the mihi whakatau. The Principal asked T Parata who she should contact at Ngai Tuahuriri. T Parata said the Principal should contact the Ngai Tuahuriri conservation representative or Lynn. A dawn ceremony would be held. T Parata said he would represent Rawhiti. This would be followed by a waiata and then a yummy breakfast. The Principal will contact Lynn and ask for advice on the protocols that should be followed.

Technology

E Kazmierczak said that some of the projectors in Tawhirmatea are old and the projectors are starting to turn purple. The speakers were of such poor quality they have stopped working. Replacement speakers will cost around \$1,000 each. Arm data projects cost around \$2,300 +GST to replace so E Kazmierczak said she thinks the best option would be screens. The Samsung screens are commercial grade and are warranted for 4 years. The picture quality will be a lot better than a projector. The screen can be split, and the software will be provided free of charge. E Kazmierczak proposes to purchase a 65" screen at a cost of \$2,767.91. The retailer has said he will provide two free 65" screens. The screens are designed to be on 24/7.

The photocopiers in the learning studies are considered low volume copiers so will last a bit longer. Photocopiers were leased from Konica Minolta and the lease is due for renewal at the end of the year.

Recommendation: Moved K Brandon Seconded Langley

That the school purchase a 65" touch screen for the library, upgrade the photocopier, get the two free screens, and relocate the ones the school already has. The Board approves expenditure to the value of \$6,000.

Carried unanimously

Outwards Correspondence

Nil

Matters Arising from the Correspondence

Nil

Summary of Strategic Goal No 2: - Enhance learning and a sense of connectedness by involving parents and community in classroom and school activities.

The Principal said that Reviewing Practices for effective practices for reporting on student achievement to students/parents/whanau, BOT and MOE is an ongoing goal the school is working on. Currently, teachers only report on literacy, reading, writing and maths. There will be some interim changes made to the reporting for the end of the year. Last year parents received a one-page document with a tick next to subject to indicate a child's achievement level, which was not particularly informative. The "here's where your child is at" will be retained, but the reports will contain more child reflection. There will also be a section for parents to write comments on and bring back on the first day of the term. That will go home with students on the last day of the term. Parents can write notes on it and bring it back to the child's Learning Conference on the first day of the term where the parent and teacher can discuss their child's progress. Students will also get a learning story that will report what the child has learned through enquiry and the learning theme for the term.

This term learning is based on social sciences around the idea of connection – what they did – what they did about their learning. This is something new for teachers' but given the amount of time teachers spend on filling in the existing reports, they would be better writing a narrative for parents to understand the learning that has occurred outside reading, writing and math. Michelle, the early childhood teacher, has been able to help inform this process. This is the teachers' first go at reporting in this way, but we want them to be able to do the reporting across the term by observing the teaching and learning process.

Helen and the Principal are also looking at what is available in terms of online reporting. They know they will need to move to a student management system such as LincEd. Parents would be provided with their own login to see how their child is going.

Action: The Principal will include information about the new reporting system in the next newsletter, so parents understand when it is coming home and what will be involved in it.

Singapore Conference – Pasi Salhberg – Play Based Programmes

The Principal reported that she had attended a conference entitled "Curiosity, Creativity and Play" with Pasi Salhberg who is from Finland, where the school system is world renown in terms of what they achieve for children. It wasn't about playing in the classroom but about free unstructured play with no interference from adults.

They learnt about how play is the way children develop their executive function. There is quite a lot of medical evidence available about how children develop through play. An interesting fact was that children who walk barefooted develop better cognitive skills than children who wear shoes and socks all the time. The research found that the brain works much harder walking in bare feet than it does in shoes.

He talks about what is getting in the way of children playing at schools. These are things such as education policies, children starting school early (before the age of five years) and the number of hours children are in school. In Finland school finishes at 1.00pm, lunch is a free three course meal at 11am, and blocks of learning are no longer than 45 minutes followed by 15 minutes of unstructured play. Schools finish at 1.00pm and children go off and do music lessons, dancing, gym etc. Everything in Finland is about

equity so there are no private schools. The Principal said she felt quite heartened about the research and some of the changes they had made to the Rawhiti school day.

Pasi Salhberg talked about moving to Australia and the compared that education system with the Finish system. In Australia blocks of learning often go through until 1.00pm when they eat lunch. He said that when he picked his son up from school in Australia at 3.00 pm he would be sound asleep on the back seat of the car within a few minutes, and was exhausted and unable to function when he got home. The number of hours a school makes children do homework also has a huge effect on children's play. In Australia current research shows that children only get to move around for around 2 hours per day.

Most parents think their children are growing up to quickly but fewer parents are playing outdoors with the children because there is a perception that it is unsafe. Parents think it is safer to keep children indoors, when in fact, the internet is the most unsafe place to play. Media and technology are affecting teens. Ninety five percent of teens worldwide have access to mobile devices at home. This results in children not developing resilience and children never learn how to make judgements about their environment.

He talked about the new digital divide. It used to be the divide between the people who could afford a computer and those who couldn't. Now it has completely flipped, and the new divide is that children from higher income families are being taken to clubs, sports, learning an instrument etc. and children from families with less money are more likely to be put in front of a device to entertain themselves. He also identified inequitable access to play. Children can't go on play dates with other kids if their parents can't take them places or they are constantly in after school care. The Principal thinks that across the school there may still be too much emphasis on literacy in our school rather than playing.

The Principal discussed a diagram that highlighted the different aspects of deep play compared to shallow play activities. It is about noticing what children are doing and what they are learning while they are playing. Sahlberg showed a UTube clip of kids trying to build a tree hut with no supervision. The Principal said that it may be good for our teachers to look at this and make sure that our kids have access to all those aspects of play.

Finance

The March and April accounts have been received. Income for March was \$16,496 and expenditure totalled \$73,489. Income for April was \$229,362 and expenditure totalled \$74,259.

Budget Areas of Interest. At this point in the year it is anticipated that budgets will be approx. 50% spent.

Audited Accounts: The school has received a finalised copy of our audited accounts for 2018, with a surplus of \$51,844.

ERO Review

On the basis of the findings of the review of Rawhiti School's performance, ERO's overall evaluation judgement is that its performance in achieving valued outcomes for its students is well placed.

5. PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

Recommendation: Moved Chairperson

That the Board move into a Public Excluded Session for reasons of legal and professional privilege and to protect the privacy of natural persons. While in Public Excluded the Board discussed: Previous Minutes, Student Behaviour. **Carried**

Motion: Moved Chairperson

That the Board moved out of Public Excluded Session and confirm that the business discussed in the Public Excluded Session remains confidential to the Board. **Carried**

The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

The next meeting date: 26 June 2019

Confirmed  **26 June 2019**
CHAIRPERSON

J Evans thanked the guests for attending and said that Board members were happy to field any questions from prospective board members.