

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ONSLOW COLLEGE BOARD

**Location:** Onslow College Staffroom

**Date:** 26 August 2024 AT 5:30 PM

**Present:** Sheena Millar, Trijal Pednekar, Piripi Evans, Marianne Taylor, Pemma De wit, Misbah Sadat, Andy Inder, Carol Murray-Brown, Huia Puketapu, Chris Albertson, Maia Thompson, Jessica Churchman

**Apologies:** Nell Fitzjohn, Bronwyn Raybould

**Guests:** Jono Wyeth (Deputy Principal)  
Fin Cordwell, Walter Zamalis and Emma Sproul (Living Wage Network)

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### Summary of Jono's conversation on Timetable change:

Communications regarding the revised school structure have been sent out, with SLT discussing tweaks to the schedule, such as adjusting morning tea time and reducing the lunch break to 45 minutes. Feedback from parents has been mostly positive, though there are mixed opinions on the length of class periods. The school is focusing on UDL (Universal Design for Learning) strategies and good teaching practices, regardless of period lengths.

There was a discussion about revisiting the structure of the Ako program, with concerns raised about the impact of reducing Ako time on pastoral care. The board emphasised the importance of clearly defining the purpose of Ako and reflecting on the process for making changes. The board also requested tracking data next year to monitor the impact of these changes, using end-of-year data and attendance as benchmarks.

The Board thanked Jono and the SLT for the work they have done on the new timetable structure.

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### Welcome

#### Meeting Administration

Co-opted Maia Thompson as one of the Māori Student Representatives

The board unanimously co-opted Maia Thompson onto the Board

**Moved:** Piripi Evans | Marianne Taylor | **CARRIED**

#### Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

No new conflicts disclosed

#### Minutes and Matters Arising

##### **Motion:**

*The minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2024 were confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

**Moved:** Andy Inder | **CARRIED**

#### Correspondence

##### **Living Wage**

The discussion on the Living Wage, a request to endorse a proposal to the Ministry of Education, will be referred back to the finance committee. Craig has been tasked with preparing an impact statement for the next finance meeting, after which a recommendation will be made to the board.

### **Equestrian Event**

The school was informed about the equestrian team's participation on 31st July, but on 6th August, it was noted that the EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom) process requires six weeks for approval. Concerns were raised about the lack of police vetting, the fact that only one adult would be accompanying the team, and that they would be staying at a campground. Additionally, a review of the winter tournament procedures was suggested, particularly in light of the significant increase in costs and the past practice of sending only top teams

### **Springboard Trust**

It was noted that Sheena has been accepted into the Springboard Trust programme for next year.

### **School Absences**

It was agreed that a letter would be drafted to support addressing school absences, with a copy sent to the whānau.

### **Request for Leave**

The board has approved the request for 3 Months leave in 2025 for a staff member.

### **Pronouns**

During the discussion on pronouns, it was noted that in KAMAR, teachers can access students' preferred pronouns. For generic correspondence, some teachers prefer to use "they/them" to maintain inclusivity and board agreed this should continue.

*Correspondence was noted and the board unanimously moved all correspondence.*

**Moved:** Chris Albertson | **Seconded:** Marianne Taylor | **CARRIED**

## **Additions to the Agenda**

### **Treaty Principles Bill**

The discussion centred on the upcoming Treaty Principles Bill, which will be introduced in Parliament on Monday 2 September 2024. The board is considering its stance on the bill, particularly in relation to the school's zoning process and governance. Concerns were raised about the erosion of language, such as the removal of terms like "akonga" and "equity," and there was a strong sentiment that the school should not reduce the use of Te Reo Māori. The board emphasised the importance of continuing to use and even increasing the use of Māori language and honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi, as stated in the school's strategic goals. There was also a discussion about whether the board should make a statement on this issue, with the consensus being that the board and leadership team are committed to staying aligned with their strategic goals and walking side by side with mana whenua.

It was mentioned that the Māori Principal's Association meeting hosted by Connor Baird at the school would be an important moment to reinforce these commitments.

## **Discussion Papers**

## **Principals Report**

### **Internationals**

The board discussed the significant drop in net income from international students compared to 2020, when there were 35 students. The school is actively working to rebuild the international student base, with efforts including a new prospectus, a marketing video, and increased spending on marketing initiatives. A trip to China is planned for the end of October, and there is also interest in expanding to South America. The board reaffirmed its commitment to investing in these efforts for the next couple of years before reassessing the situation.

### **RespectEd**

The school found the RespectEd report disappointing, as it did not provide useful insights. Despite this, the school remains committed to the training, which was agreed upon before the scoping. An interesting observation was that students view guidance as a separate entity from the school, rather than an integrated part of it.

### **Mid Year Literacy and Numeracy Results**

The school is pleased with the mid-year literacy and numeracy results. However, there are ongoing national concerns about numeracy, and there is particular worry about some students potentially struggling with the numeracy exam, especially the literacy components of it. The school is also concerned about the impact on ESOL students. Despite these concerns, the school remains positive about the current school program and its effectiveness.

### **Room 50**

The board commends the staff for their outstanding work with Room 50, acknowledging the extra effort put into supporting students and helping them earn additional credits often using their non-contact time to do this.

## **Property Discussion**

### **Meetings held:**

- **Iona Holsted:** Attended by Andy, Sheena, and Chris went well.
- **David Hobern:** This was to sit down with the Ministry to reestablish a constructive relationship moving forward.
- **Nicola Willis:** Met with the school and board to discuss property at Onslow. School outlined the desire for a guaranteed timeline and funding for new build and the need for the new gym at Onslow.

**Funding and Design:** The board is pushing for funding approval to design the school with plans for two separate buildings and has discussed innovative solutions with McKenzie Highman. The gym is back on the agenda, with a proposal to use \$3 million to upgrade the current Rec Centre. There are also discussions about standard gym designs and potential funding for a \$5 million gymnasium as seen in Kuranui.

### **Property Updates:**

- **Bus Bay:** In progress.
- **Whare:** The team has dazzled the quad to show the school where the whare will sit
- **Sebastian Bisley:** Offering pro-bono legal support on the schools property issues
- **Angre de Groot (WSP Engineer):** Chris conducted a walk-around with the engineers. The outcome of this site walk with the engineer was to give the board the confidence that the school was safe to remain open. .

**Communication Issues:** There has been a struggle with communication with the project managers and the Ministry is working with us in changing personnel to improve collaboration.

**Resolution:** The board unanimously agreed to allocate a \$32,000 contingency fund for the re-roofing and potential shortfall in the redevelopment of the music block.

**Moved:** Huia Puketapu | **Seconded:** Piripi Evans | **CARRIED**

There was a discussion about the importance of engaging the community effectively. The school is seen as a community hub, serving both students during the day and parents in the evenings. To foster support and involvement, communication should be structured in clear stages—e.g., "Stage 1 looks like this, Stage 2 looks like this." Keeping whānau informed and involved helps them feel invested in the school's progress and more likely to support its initiatives

**Action** - Send out an update to the community regarding the current status of the property developments.

**Proposed Reception in the Gym:** Due to the construction of the new bus bay at the front of the school, access up the driveway will be restricted. The solution is to move the office down to the gymnasium, establishing the reception area at the front of the school.

**Moved:** Andy Inder | **CARRIED**

### **Policy**

There was a discussion about whether it would be beneficial to share the EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom) policy with parents alongside our response. It was agreed that providing the EOTC policy plan would offer clarity on our procedures and help parents understand the safety measures in place.

### **Staff Report**

There was a request for the board to support funding of \$40 per staff member for the Christmas lunch.

**Moved:** Marianne Taylor | **Seconded:** Piripi Evans | **CARRIED**

### **In-Committee**

There was no in-committee

Approved as a true and correct record:

Signed: 