

MIRAMAR NORTH SCHOOL
Minutes of the 324th Board of Trustees meeting
on Monday 9th December 2024 6.30pm

Attendees: Cherida Fraser (Chair), Joyce Adam, Andrea Nonu, Vidisha Ishver, Jay Neilson, Sarah Macintosh-Tawhiri

Apologies: Alastair Mason, Nicole Retter

Karakia: Cherida Fraser opened the meeting with a Whakataukī

Community Input: None

Previous Meeting Minutes:

Confirmation of previous minutes (Monday 11th November) are a true and accurate record of the meeting: Jay approved, Cherida seconded.

End of Year Achievement Report:

- End of Year Achievement Report provided to Board prior to meeting for review.
- Data reviewed by all board members.
- Of note was the achievement of the Year 4s and 6s in the science PAT, in particular our Māori and Pasifika children who achieved above the national average. The use of House of Science kits, which include elements of Te Reo Māori, have positively impacted students' engagement and understanding of science concepts.
- The integration of science with other subjects, such as literacy and math, has contributed to the improved performance of students.
- Children with Global Developmental Delays are not tested to avoid stress for the student. Their data is included in the narrative but excluded from the clean data used for comparisons. Other neuro diverse children are provided with a reader-writer to ensure their wellbeing during assessments.

Attendance and Achievement:

- Discussed the significant impact of attendance on student achievement, particularly in our Year 2 group. Some students have low attendance due to various factors such as family commitments and health issues.
- Discussed strategies to improve attendance rates including better communication with parents and providing support to students facing attendance challenges.
- The school analyses attendance data to identify patterns and address issues. They use this data to inform their strategies and ensure that student receive the necessary support to improve their attendance.
- Cherida to draft something for the next newsletter emphasising the importance of regular attendance and arriving at school on time for academic and social success.

Student Wellbeing Survey:

- The Board reviewed the Student Wellbeing Survey results, highlighting that students feel happy, safe, and valued.
- Some students noted that they feel they do not have a say in school decisions. While students do have a say, it may not always be explicitly communicated, leading to a perception of limited involvement.
- For Year 1s and 2s, the survey was conducted one-on-one to ensure accurate responses.
- Responses are anonymous. Therefore, we can't identify the children who say they don't feel safe coming to and from school. SLT to consider ways to identify these children so any issues can be addressed directly otherwise reword questions to be more specific about what it is they feel unsafe about, e.g. dogs, road safety etc.
- A survey was conducted at the school gala of those Māori and Pasifika families that Sarah was able to speak to. Had a reasonable number of responses. The findings have been helpful in understanding how those families perceive how their culture is being taught and celebrated at school and in the school's newsletter and social media. Those findings have been presented to the staff and will be followed up on.
- A whānau survey of all school families was proposed for 2025 that covers a wide range of topics.

Cherida expressed her gratitude on behalf of the BOT to all of the dedicated teachers for their unwavering commitment to our student's success. Their hard work directly contributes to the achievement results that were presented at tonight's meeting.

Principal's Report:

- Link sent to all board members prior to meeting for review. Main points discussed:

Personnel:

- Joyce explained the staffing adjustments for 2025 including the surplus staffing situation.
- The MoE's Staffing Entitlement for next year is 1.1 teachers less than this year. A needs analysis was carried out after which it was decided that with one teacher spare, Vidisha will be out of the classroom and will handle CRT duties to balance the staffing needs.
- Joyce emphasised the importance of retaining great teachers and ensuring that the staffing changes do not negatively impact the school's culture and performance.
- The Reading Recovery Position has been disestablished due to changes in funding and MoE priorities. The affected staff member was offered various option including a part-time position but they have chosen to resign to focus on personal commitments.
- The school worked closely with the school trustees and NZEI to ensure that the process was fair and compliant with union guidelines.

Finance:

- Link to the finance report was sent to board members prior to meeting.

- The financial challenges related to recruitment and the costs of hiring new staff were discussed. These costs have increased significantly and have added pressure on the school's budget.
- The cost of plumbing, electrical work, lawn mowing and utility bills has all increased due to inflation and other factors.
- Savings discussed such as paying down banked staffing by mid-March next year which will be partly offset by not opening the last classroom during term 1, reliever and teacher aide savings, new caretaker contract and new SMS system.

Property:

- Roofing project to begin in January.
- An LED lighting proposal was discussed but then deferred to the next meeting to consider potential savings and timing of the project.

Policy Reviews: Sensitive Expenditure, Finance Committee, Bribery, Fraud & Corruption – to be completed by the 24th February.

Next meeting: Monday 24th February at 6.30pm

Meeting Closed at 8:00pm

Signed by: Cliff

Date: ~~13 Dec 2024~~ 24 Feb 2025