

**MATAKANA SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF MEETING ON MONDAY 6 AUGUST 2018 AT 7.00 PM**

PRESENT: Natascha Hurt, Darrel Goosen, Cate Ashwell, Wendy Chittenden, Melita Campbell, Grant Clifton, John Taylor, Maryann Steel, Neil Hatfull, Jon Beadsmoore (by skype), Jenny Blythen.

APOLOGIES: Nil

DECLARATIONS: Nil

MID YEAR ASSESSMENT REPORT:

Maryann explained the achievements in this report which were then discussed.

GATE (GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION) REPORT:

Neil explained the school policy and programmes in place for identified students and the difference between gifted learners and high achievers were discussed.

The Board thanked Maryann and Neil for their reports.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

School Councillor Meeting Report

Items and requests from the report were discussed.

Personnel

Term 3 staffing was discussed.

Finance

The following were approved:

- Balance Sheet Budget as presented by Edtech
- Depreciation Split as presented by Edtech

Moved: Natascha / Seconded: Melita

All in favour

July Roll Return

This was tabled.

Property (separate Agenda item)

Health & Safety

Student Incidents / Evacuation Drills

These were discussed.

Roll Numbers

Roll growth was discussed.

Moved that the Principal's, Property and Finance Reports are approved

Moved: Darrel / Seconded: Natascha

All in favour

PROPERTY UPDATE:

John T reported from the meeting held last week.

- Following inspection of playgrounds - \$10,000 to be spent upgrading equipment/cushion fall to both playgrounds
- Room 13 ridding and flashing replaced
- Rooms 1 & 2 roofing replaced
- Room 16 & 17 obsolete fans removed and roof flashing replaced
- Security System - documents to update this should be to the MOE in the next two weeks
- Upgrading switchboards – MOE electrician advises school electrician parameters for re quoting
- UV water filter replaced – Splash Water Specialists to submit water service contract (previously undertaken by H2O Pumps)
- General painting is being undertaken to maintain buildings
- Security lighting – old fittings no longer working to be replaced
- Trimming hedges/trees around Gatehouse/Schoolhouse to be done
- Tiger turf – first maintenance inspection of the track undertaken

COMMUNITY CAR PARK UPDATE:

Natascha reported:

- Matakana Community Group has requested that the school arrange a planting day to plant approx 15 cherry trees along the front roadside fence of the community car park. We envisage a planting day to be sometime in September.
- Matakana School is working with the Matakana Community Group on Auckland Transport's recent proposal of placing two new bus stops outside the community carpark with effect from 30 September 2018 to facilitate their new bus services connecting (1) Warkworth to the Hibiscus Coast Station in Silverdale and (2) Point Wells, Omaha and Snells Beach to Warkworth. These services will replace the existing Kowhai Connection bus service. Concerns raised with Auckland Transport are:

- The proposed location of one of the new bus stops along Matakana Road would block the 2nd carpark exit; and
- The proposed location of the pedestrian refuge in the middle of Matakana Road would create major delays with traffic wanting to turn right into or out of the community carpark.
- Following written submissions sent to Auckland Transport on behalf of school, Natascha and Darrel will meet Beth Houlbrooke and representatives from Auckland Transport on Wednesday 8 August to walk them through logistics and concerns surrounding the proposed new bus stops and pedestrian refuge on Matakana Road.

CRFS UPDATE:

Melita reported:

- Melita, Natascha and Melissa Crawford (from the PTA) attended a meeting arranged by the Matakana Community Group on 2 August 2018 which gave an overview of the various infrastructure and community projects happening in and around the Matakana area, including Omaha, Point Wells, Govan Wilson Road, Green Road.
- The Auction Night in June was a great success raising \$30,000 for the school. Special thanks to Jodie Hanna, Kim Scott, Rachel O'Malley and Stephanie Roberts for making up such a fantastic team and working together so well. The Board thanked Melita for her incredible effort in putting together such a fantastic event for the school.
- End of Year Event – ideas for this are to be discussed at a meeting on Thursday 16 August.

Cookbook

Melita reported that the cookbook was moving into the second phase, which would be dealing with marketing and sales. Melita and Pete Young are putting together a team for the second phase. The Board discussed ideas and issues around marketing of the cookbook.

- The Board approved \$3870 plus GST for marketing costs.

Moved: Cate / Seconded: John T

All in favour

GRANTS UPDATE:

Cate reported:

- Move N Rock Stools – application submitted to Harcourts Foundation
- Portable Microphones – application submitted to Sir John Logan Campbell Trust
- Container for Reading/Maths Recovery – second hand container to be considered

KAHUI AKO (COMMUNITY OF LEARNING)

Darrel reported:

- No plans at this stage from MOE to discontinue this
- Combined schools' Board of Trustees meeting beginning of 2019
- Across school leader / within school leaders fulfilling their roles
- Principals meet regularly
- All teachers will meet at the College this month

PRIMARY SCHOOLS STRIKE UPDATE:

Darrel reported that the NZEI (Primary Teachers Union) had advised the Board that the Principal and Teachers at our school would be taking strike action on Wednesday 15 August 2018. Darrel reported that the reason for the strike has been laid out clearly to the Ministry of Education. Teachers are asking for more time to teach and lead (less paperwork), higher pay scales to attract more teachers into the profession and to reward existing staff to hold them in the profession. New Zealand is entering a crisis situation with not enough teachers entering training to staff future classes (a 40% drop off), an aging workforce and more teachers and principals leaving the profession than can be replaced. All of these things affect student and teacher well being. Upon receipt of this advice the Board carefully considered the availability of teaching staff and decided that it couldn't provide the normal teaching services during the strike. Therefore Matakana School would be closed on Wednesday 15 August 2018. Darrel reported that Natascha had already sent out a notice to parents informing them of the Board's decision and that parents and caregivers would have to make their own arrangements for the care of their children on the day of the strike. It is recorded that in support of the teachers and principals, the Board approved closing the school on Wednesday 15 August (day of the strike).

Moved: Natascha / Seconded: John T

All in favour.

MONTESSORI UNIT UPDATE:

- Following another sudden teacher resignation from the Montessori classroom on 10 June 2018, giving a very short notice period, Natascha reported that the Board of Trustees went "in committee" at the board meeting on 18 June 2018 to discuss the circumstances surrounding the teacher's resignation and staffing of the Montessori classroom. The Board of Trustees considered the matter "in committee" to protect the privacy of teachers and staff at Matakana School.

- Natascha confirmed that the outcome of such “in committee” meeting was that:
 - The high staff turnover and increasing difficulty finding suitably qualified and experienced teachers to manage and teach a Montessori classroom, particularly over the past 3 years, represented a crisis and this had shaken the confidence in the Montessori classroom at Matakana School.
 - The immense strain on staff and school resources in continuously dealing with conflicts and issues arising from the Montessori classroom had also reached a crisis point. School management’s time spent on the Montessori classroom issues was totally disproportionate to the rest of the school and impacted heavily and negatively on the rest of Matakana School.
 - Matakana School was finding it increasingly difficult to meet the Ministry of Education’s requirements in relation to assessment and testing in the Montessori classroom due to the inherent conflict in pedagogy and philosophy between a Montessori education and a New Zealand state school education.
 - Therefore, before going ahead and employing new staff members in a Montessori classroom fraught with issues, it was necessary and prudent that the Board of Trustees carefully consider the future of a Montessori classroom at Matakana School.
 - The following motion was then raised at the meeting:
 - that it was in the best interests of Matakana School as a whole to support school management’s strong recommendation to terminate Mahurangi Montessori Primary’s Trust’s (MMPT) right to occupy classrooms and use Matakana School grounds and allied resources for the operation of a Montessori teaching unit within Matakana School;
 - to allow a reasonable notice period of 18 months to enable an orderly winding-down of the Montessori teaching unit at Matakana School and for new staff employed in the Montessori classroom to understand that the Montessori classroom was closing down. The notice period therefore terminating on 31 December 2019;
 - to welcome all students in the Montessori classroom to join the mainstream classes at Matakana School with immediate effect so that no student need wait until 1 January 2020 to do so.
 - It is recorded that the above motion was raised by Darrel, seconded by Wendy and that everyone present voted in favour of the motion.
- Following the board’s decision Natascha reported that:
 - representatives from the Board met with MMPT trustees on 21 June 2018 to inform them of the board’s decision, expand on the reasons for the decision and to answer any questions from the MMPT trustees.
 - MMPT trustees requested that the Board notify the Montessori community of their decision in order for MMPT trustees to begin consulting with the Montessori community about their future options.
 - Therefore:
 - Written notice of termination was sent to MMPT at PO Box 224 Matakana 0948 on 25 June 2018.
 - Written notice of termination was sent to all parents in the Montessori teaching unit by letters in envelopes addressed to parents in the bookbags of their children.
 - The Ministry of Education was notified of the decision by email on 26 June 2018.
 - Tia Wooller at Totara Hill Montessori pre-school was notified of the decision by email on 26 June 2018.
 - The rest of the school community was advised of the decision in a letter emailed to parents on 26 June 2018.
 - On 26 June 2018 and at the request of MMPT, representatives from the Board met with the Montessori parent community and MMPT trustees at the Point Wells Community Hall to expand on the reasons for the decision and to answer any questions from the Montessori parent community and MMPT trustees.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by e-mail on 26 June 2018.

Moved: Natascha / Seconded: Cate
All in favour

CORRESPONDENCE:

Auckland Transport – proposed bus stops

Office of the Auditor-General – audit arrangements for 2018-2020 financial years

New Appointments National Panel – preferred applicant for CoL across schools leader

Christine Sheehy (25 July and 27 July) – Mahurangi Montessori Primary Trust

NZSTA – Information for trustees: Pursuant to section 104 (1) (C) Education Act 1989 ***‘that if a trustee misses three meetings in a row, without obtaining prior leave from the board, his/her office automatically becomes vacant’.***

Meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Next Meeting: Monday 10 September 2018 at 7.00 pm

The Board then went in committee from 9.30 – 9.40