

Maunu School Board Meeting Minutes 16 August 2023

Present: Alison Manson, Claire Turton, Todd Leathem, Rachel Wright, Susan Edmunds, Courtney DeBoer,

Apologies: Charlotte Smith

Correspondence schedule accepted

Manson/De Boer

Minutes of the last meeting approved

Leathem/Turton

Matters arising

1. **Letter to MOE** re funding for additional needs/problems arising from equity index model - is in progress. Further developments in the meantime will mean that it can be more comprehensive.
2. **Carpark/flooding:** the MOE have approved LM Consulting to arrange an engineering assessment to support application for drainage improvements. The assessment would cost \$7-8k. The board are currently not convinced that this will have the desired outcome; the extent of the current overland flow path is such that prohibitively large and expensive works would be the only way of containing it. Rachel and Claire will seek further information and liaise with the MOE and LM Consulting and we will not proceed unless there is clear likely benefit.
3. **Fencing assessment:** Courtney spoke about the fencing assessment done a few weeks ago. A report has just been issued and will be included in correspondence for Sept meeting. Discussion underway about how boundaries would be arranged to maximise both effectiveness of the fence and use of the grounds e.g in sounds of Tane. (See also in committee notes).
4. **30 year plan:** CT has d/w PS; he had heard nothing more in his tenure after the unannounced visit from MOE. CT will liaise with Tiana from the MOE and, in conjunction with septic tank planning, try to establish whether/what other long term property plans the MOE has in place for Maunu School.
5. **New entrant starting practices:** CT has d/w principals of two schools who start in batches and their feedback is positive. Can be less intimidating for NEs and easier for NE teachers to manage. Groups would likely be 3-4 on average, maximum likely to be 5. SLT will continue to investigate and will present a proposal for board approval at next meeting.

Principal's report - see appended report. CT further discussed the following:

Septic Tank several proposals have been made and funding approved by MOE. After 10+ years of unsatisfactory performance and high maintenance costs, it is vital that the proposed solution will address the problems with the current system.

CT will liaise with RW, Liana at MOE, JB at LM Consulting, and the relevant firms to arrange a meeting at which all can be present so that we can be assured the resulting plan will do this, before it is approved.

Consultation

CT has proposed dates to Betsy Mitsiaga from Kainga Ora to hold community consultation there, late this term or early next term

Responses to initial school-wide survey

Positives included:

good feedback on teachers

approval of emphasis on school values and embedding these through the curriculum

Areas for **suggested improvement** included:

balancing 'fun' with 'constructive' rewards

managing the amount of screen time at school, especially with the number of wet days we have had this winter

balancing the resource requirements of students with increased needs, with making sure we are providing for those with 'average' needs to achieve their full potential

=> All of these are recognised by the school and work is in train to adjust and address them. The last is particularly significant and SLT are looking at ways to address this, including initially, applying for additional staffing which may allow supplementary literacy and numeracy enrichment programmes from which all students would benefit, to be run in 2024

SLT and syndicate leaders are surveying the children currently, for their input

MOE instruction is that the current strategic plan is to run until the next board election in 2025, (an extension of a year on the normal cycle), and a new plan to be formulated by the new board after that time, on the basis of consultation ongoing until then.

In practice, the current SP will evolve before then in the form of next steps for achieved goals, and in response to feedback and consultation.

Visit to Maungatapere School - was v morale-building. Increased enthusiasm for, and the SLT team will continue to explore implementing, the tuakana-teina model of classroom grouping. Has been shown to increase learning for both parties.

Bullying - a survey was conducted and was generally positive. Some small pockets of behaviour identified have been/are being addressed on an individual basis. Also on a school-wide level, response includes renewed focus on kindness and empathy as classroom themes, especially in context of 'prank' type behaviour/laughing at misadventure, which seems to be a trend in the wider culture currently.

Finance

Budget review

Spending on relief teachers has exceeded budget, and we need to expect and plan for a similar cost in future budgets

Adjustment is being made progressively to the depreciation budget to ensure that this accurately reflects necessary replacement costs.

[Note made that the board needs to consider implications for depreciation were new substantial assets to be funded by the PTA e.g. a large playground. It may make sense to favour low-cost or modular equipment in the short-medium term (this fits with the PTA's current evolving plan, and is greatly used and appreciated by the children), because of the lesser implications for depreciation and maintenance].

On the income side, extra funding from the MOE to cover increased costs resulting from the changes to collective agreements is likely to be significantly more than expected, approx \$75-80K

The net effect is such that the deficit remains similar to budgeted.

Responses awaited from Ed Services on banked staffing and confirming accuracy of caretaker expenses (increased hours).

July finance report arrived late (15/8/23), and will be presented for the next meeting.

General Business

Staffing/OOZ enrolments - roll is tracking slightly lower than usual, (projected 316 for start 2024), and if confirmed, will affect our staffing for next year.

Medium term we can be confident that the roll will increase, but we need to consider what options might allow us to maintain staffing - see in committee minutes.

Confirmation of year dates for 2024: Tuesday 30th Jan to be a TOD. Students to start on Wednesday 31st Jan. CT and CdB will look at resulting year end dates and confirm

Asset register: is being reviewed and depreciation adjusted accordingly. CBB will complete review on her return.

Policy

CT/SE/AM met to work out a system for addressing policy reviews and schooldocs updates. CT/SE will meet approx twice/term to do this, and bring recommendations to board meetings.

Term 2 Review updates: noted minor updates to alcohol and drug policy, fundraising policy (include phrase relating to board approval of all fundraising)

EOTC policy - very topical and 2000 submissions received by Schooldocs, will take a while for them to work through them.

Current review:

Maori Educational Success - recommend amending the current policy to “we are developing ways to consult with our Maori community...”, as the mechanisms for this are a work in progress currently (reactivating the roopu, engaging with a kaumatua who would be willing to be consulted on relevant issues).

Learning support - recording of learning support needs is kept on the student management system, but Maunu School also has separate register of exceptional needs.

Inclusive Education - all OK

Assurances

Physical Restraint: CT and CdB attended a meeting today with MOE/NZSTA/50 Northland principals on the implementation of the new restraint guidelines. Noted by board that ‘seclusion’ now includes a child being in a place against their will e.g. principal’s office, and that staff are required to take care to clarify the student’s freedom to leave at any time. Parents are notified when an incident requiring restorative practices occurs, and parents sometimes decline for their child to be interviewed until they are able to be present. School is careful to accommodate these requests.

Retention of property/searches - has not needed to be enacted

Significant Events/Sucesses

Emily Henderson's visit - she noted particularly how capable our powhiri team are. Their being able to do a powhiri naturally at short notice reflects huge progress in skills and confidence over time.

Kapa haka performances

Youth summit - especially that the speakers were all local and young, children were easily able to relate and to be inspired.

Action Points:

New entrant staggered vs grouped starting dates: SLT will continue to investigate and will present a proposal for board approval at next meeting.

30 yr property plan: CT will liaise with Tiana from the MOE and, in conjunction with septic tank planning, try to establish whether/what other long term property plans the MOE has in place for Maunu School.

Septic system: CT will liaise with RW, Liana at MOE, JB at LM Consulting, and the relevant firms to arrange a meeting at which all can be present so that we can be assured the resulting plan will do this, before its being approved.

Date of next meeting: 20 September 2023 6:30 pm

Signed _____ Date _____

Presiding Chair