



Otorohanga College

Ko te mana mō mua i te whakamana
Honour before Honours

Principal: Ms Traci Liddall Dip Tchg, Dip TEFL, BA, PGDip Ed, M Ed (hons)

22 September 2020

Kia ora e te whanau, students, staff, and parent community

Re: Board of Trustees update

It has been a busy couple of months since our last update to our school community. We hope your winter has gone well and, if you are farming, that the busy season has passed without incident and that the grass is growing nicely for you.

Farewells

The COVID-19 pandemic is taking its toll on many industries and sectors across the globe, including our local ones. Under the long shadow of effects that COVID-19 is creating for the agricultural industry, we sadly farewell Rex Fare, known affectionately as Mr Flare, who is no longer able to sit in the role of trustee on the Board. This means that we now have a casual vacancy on the Board. At our next meeting, the Board will decide whether to fill the casual vacancy by selection or election and we will go through the correct process accordingly. If you are interested in stepping into this vacancy, have strategic knowledge and a passion for the school, please contact me directly.

Every year our Board is impressed by the high calibre of the senior students who come to the BOT as Student Trustees and Emma Rye was no exception. Sadly, we also farewell Emma Rye from the Board as her one-year tenure has almost come to an end. Emma lived by our College values, always honouring herself and others. She has become a trusted and highly respected part of the BOT team, making valuable and thoughtful contributions about matters that affect students around campus. We will miss Rex and Emma! At the time of writing this update, Emma's replacement had not been confirmed.

Paul Matthews, as Limited Statutory Manager, has been with us since late 2018 and has held all legal responsibilities in the employment arena at the College. Throughout this time, Paul has provided careful leadership and direction in the employment space and has been a much-valued professional support for the Board during a significant period of change for the whole school. Paul's contract is up, as LSM, meaning all employer role responsibilities will soon be handed back to the Board. We extend our most grateful thanks to Paul who has become a cherished friend, mentor, and loyal supporter of the College. We will continue to take professional advice and support as and when required.

Change in Board meeting schedule

Our BOT meetings are usually held on the last Thursday of every month. This month on the 24th, in lieu of our usual monthly meeting, we have scheduled an Employer Role workshop to be held at the College that will be attended by trustees from other schools both local and outside of our district. This workshop is organised and facilitated by the New Zealand School Trustees Association.

Junior Learning Programme

At our August meeting Vanessa Te Huia, Deputy Principal Junior, reported on progress in the Junior Learning Programme. Traci, Vanessa and the teaching team are to be congratulated for the significant improvements in 13 out of 14 cohorts (gender, ethnicity, year level) across reading and writing and that there are positive and evidence

based recommendations in place for 2021 to keep building on the junior learning experience. The data evidencing these significant improvements would be the envy of any College grappling with the achievement of their junior learners and it is something we can all feel proud of. Much appreciation to all staff for achieving this success in the JLP.

Free And Healthy School Lunches Programme

This programme commenced last year as a two-year pilot which provided free and healthy lunches for 13,000 primary school aged students across the country. The programme has been expanded recently to provide 200,000 nutritious lunches to students in 2021 and Ōtorohanga College has been invited to participate in this expanded roll out. This means that every student at the College, every day of the school year will receive a free and nutritious lunch at no cost to them, or the College.

The BOT has agreed to adopt the programme which we have been advised is aimed to commence in 2021. There are still details to work through regarding the delivery of the programme in the school so we will keep you informed. The canteen will still operate, under new management.

Finance

For the seven months to 31 July 2020, we have a surplus of \$235,100, which is well ahead of the budgeted deficit of \$23,300 expected at this stage of the year. This is due to several unbudgeted income streams and careful financial management and planning within all layers at the school. Our liabilities (not included in this surplus figure), include management of the Hostel deficit and repayment of the MOE salaries debt. Since late 2016 the Board and College management has had the assistance of a Financial Advisor, Santjie Stols, who has helped us achieve our stronger current financial position. Again, we thank those people who have been highly involved in the turnaround of our finances.

Property

The new B Block toilets are now in use. The toilets are now dedicated male, female and unisex. As with any new build, there are minor technicalities to correct, but we are pleased with the final product. The A Block toilets are currently being refurbished and will be available as changing rooms soon.

Feedback from students has informed us that throughout the summer months some classrooms are extremely hot which provides some real challenges for their learning. We are in the process of securing quotes for the reinstallation of air conditioners in some of these classrooms to optimise the students' and teachers' learning environments. We aim to have these in place before 2021 classes commence.

The school holidays are almost upon us, so make sure you get some much-needed down time with your loved ones over this long awaited spring break.

Thank you for supporting Ōtorohanga College, your community college.

Nga mihi nui

Lorraine Fox

Otorohanga College Chairperson

0276644087 | botchair@otocoll.school.nz

On behalf of the Otorohanga College Board of Trustees

Traci Liddall, Rex Fare (outgoing), Emma Rye (outgoing), Chris van der Heyden, Shani Whitiora, Kelly Isherwood, Michael Ritch and Mark Pitts-Brown.

Physical Address: Bledisloe Avenue, Ōtorohanga, Waikato, 3940 · Postal Address: PO Box 115, Ōtorohanga, Waikato, 3940 · Telephone: 07

873 8029 · Fax: 07 873 7414 · Email: admin@otocoll.school.nz · www.otocoll.school.nz