



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)

2 July 2020

Kia ora e te whaanau, students, staff, and parents.

Re: Board of Trustees (BOT) Update

School Finances and Property Projects

It is very pleasing to be able to report that for the month ending 31 May 2020 we have a surplus of \$204,900, which is well ahead of the budgeted deficit of \$16,700 expected at this stage of the year. This is largely due to an unbudgeted funding stream (the Secondary/Tertiary Programme Funding Grant), and lower operating expenses through the national lockdown. Replenishing curriculum and teaching and learning resources in future budgets is a key priority for us now that we are in a surplus position.

We thank the many people who have been involved, and determined, to bring our College into a much stronger financial position. The BOT and school management are currently working with our auditors to complete our 2019 financial audit.

We are also very pleased to see the first signs of various property projects underway to improve the working and learning environment for our students and staff. The A Block toilets are being converted into sports changing rooms and the new B Block toilets will be started during the holidays.

Filling of Casual Vacancy

After no objections to filling the casual vacancy by selection were received, the BOT agreed to select Shani Whitiora to the BOT who has taken up the fifth 'parent' seat on the Board. We welcome Shani, an ex-College student, who comes to the Board with a wealth of local knowledge and experience of working with our coastal community and has deep and wide connections that will support and assist our coastal learners and their whānau.

Co-option of Māori Liaison Trustee

We also welcome Kelly Isherwood to the BOT, who has taken up the Māori Liaison role until May 2023. Kelly, also an ex-student of the College, is an active member of the Kāwhia community, involved in the Kāwhia Māori women's welfare league, Te Onepu Trust, and other local groups. Kelly's background is in hospitality, make-up, and hair artistry with Māori Television and as a Sexual Harm Coordinator/Social Worker for the Taupō Family Centre.

As trustees, Shani and Kelly will work with the BOT to build our productive partnerships within all parts of our community and to strengthen and enhance the BOT's culturally sustaining practice. We are thrilled to have them on board with us and we thank them for their early enthusiasm, focus and drive.

Farewells

On Friday 3rd July at lunch time (1.15) we will farewell Donna Russell after her many years of dedicated service to Otorohanga College. Parents and community members are invited to come and farewell Donna at this time. We will also farewell Joyce Sneddon on Friday.

The LSM, Principal and BOT have also received a resignation from Evan Probert effective from the end of term 2. We thank Evan for his dedication and contribution to Ōtorohanga College and wish him well for whatever his future brings.

Proposal to return Y13's to mufti - survey results

In the recent survey 50 responses were received, 40 of which were in favour of the proposal to return Y13's to mufti meaning we reached the 80% threshold required to accept the proposal. With a clear mandate to make this change, the BOT has decided that the Y13 students will be able to wear mufti from week 3 of Term 3. This will allow our Principal, Traci Liddall, to work with her team, and most importantly our senior learners, to ensure that expectations and standards of mufti are in place. Thank you to all who fed into this process.

Some themes to emerge from the survey are as follows:

In favour of proposal	Not in favour of proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledges the transition to adulthood• Rewards students' for their tenure at the College• Seniors stand out and are set apart from peers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost of wearing mufti• Peer pressure to wear fashionable clothing• Standards of uniform should be enforced first

Addition to College Uniform Regulations

Feedback from several people in the above survey suggested that the warmth of the current uniform is an issue for their children. The BOT agreed to add to the Uniform Regulations a short or long sleeved thermal or underlayer that is to be worn under the blue polo shirt. This thermal layer must be plain navy only and can be any style or thermal fabric, meaning it can be purchased from any supplier at a price point that is acceptable to parents. This addition to the uniform regulations is effective immediately.

Please remember to support our local retailers.

We again thank most sincerely the many people who are supporting our school. From students to parents and staff, right through to local and national organisations - there is a dedicated and determined team of people focused on continuing the growth of our College. We must continue to do this together.

Take care over the holidays and stay warm - it feels like winter is finally here!

Ngā mihi nui



Lorraine Fox
Board of Trustees Chairperson
On behalf of the Otorohanga College Board of Trustees

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