

Minutes of the Otahuhu College Board of Trustees' Meeting,

Thursday, 28 August at 5:30pm at Ōtāhuhu College in Principal's Office

1	Apologies Present: Neil Watson, John Pulu, Susan Afoa, Julie Rogers, Jasmine Reynolds, Melehifo Niuiila, Rae Nield and Chrissy Reuelu (minutes) Hannah Coleman (observing) Apologies: Craig Sionetuato, Absent:
2	Conflict of Interest Register No new information
3	Minutes from last meeting Move that the minutes are a true and accurate record with the amendment of students entered for numeracy test. : Moved by Jasmine seconded by Melehifo Matters arising Update on the Youth Space from Melehifo The Youth Space is going well, with a range of activities and programmes running. Young people have been engaging in different <i>talanoa</i> sessions and boxing lessons, as well as focus groups centred on Language, English, and Computer skills.
4.0	Correspondence – Inward Late correspondence from a teacher. A request for leave was received from S. Agarwal to travel to India to care for a parent. Permission has been granted from Board for S Agarwal's leave moved by Neil seconded by Julie.
4.1	Correspondence – Outward Nothing to report
4	Principal's Report Retention rates were above the national average pre-COVID; currently they are below. Poor employment opportunities in the community have impacted student retention with students staying in school. Students who remain at Otahuhu College for 12 weeks are counted as OC students.

Attendance is tracking steadily. A recent change regarding late arrivals has shown positive results. On the first day, 200 students arrived late after 8.40am, followed by another 60 students between 9.30–10.30am. If a student has 5 late arrivals in a term, students receive a detention.

Since implementing this, students are rushing to get through the gate, and there has been a noticeable improvement.

Stand-downs were tracking positively until last week. During Tongan Language Week — which was one of the best, most successful Tongan Language Weeks ever — a group of students have been stood down for drinking alcohol at school. This has caused a spike in stand-down figures.

Neil included some information about suspension data which also includes primary schools; rates are out of 1000 students.

Upcoming assessments include CAAs. Year 12s are on track for credits, which is pleasing. Current achievements Year 12 and Year 13 are at 89%. Year 12s are performing strongly in internals, despite big curriculum changes.

Regarding NCEA data Students from lower socio-economic backgrounds continue to show a persistent achievement gap compared to wealthier schools (2023 pass rates: 63% vs 76%). The gap has remained consistent (approx. 20% over time). Teachers remain concerned about curriculum changes. NCEA has been in place for 20 years, but gaps between ethnic groups have not closed (2012–2021 showed no improvement). Some issues were raised such as the current system doesn't fully cater for Māori and Pasifika learners. There is an increased use of AI and this is creating extra workload issues for teachers (checking authenticity). Having externals/exams helps to prevent misuse of AI. Students starting school from next year will begin under the new curriculum and system. Timeline for rollout looks achievable, though subject range may be constrained.

Teacher turnover averages 18% per year nationally, meaning around 14 new teachers are typically required annually in schools.

At Otahuhu College, turnover is generally lower, with 8–10 new teachers needed each year, although this number can fluctuate. Current staffing so far this year there has been 2 resignations: HOD Math (not replaced yet) and PE (replacement starting next year). Jill Wickman is retiring at the end of the year. New Head of Music (choir specialist) starting next year. Recruiting and retaining quality teachers remains a priority.

A plan is being developed for a two-lane driveway.

Update for Business case for M Block
4 September – Business Plan completed
11 September – Endorsement

	<p>13 October – Submitted to Minister for approval 31 October – Government response expected</p> <p>Netball: competing at Mt Wellington, with a mix of wins and losses. Football: team currently in Taranaki. Rugby League: Tournament begins tomorrow.</p>
5	<p>Martin Block Remediation Update covered.</p>
6	<p>Finance and Property</p> <p>Despite a recent loss, projections indicate the budget will balance by year end.</p> <p>A more proactive approach is being taken towards managing investments.</p> <p>Cyclical painting costs have increased by \$20,000 due to rising costs. This has been adjusted for in this year's budget.</p> <p>Recommend that the monthly reports be accepted. Moved by Neil seconded by Jasmine.</p> <p>Recommend to approve the credit card payment for June \$5016.00 Moved by Susan seconded by John.</p> <p>Recommend to approve the cyclical painting plan. Moved by Neil seconded by John.</p> <p>Recommend to approve the application for funding from The Dragon Trust for up to \$2000 for the trophies for the Art Awards. Moved by John seconded by Melehifo.</p> <p>Still waiting for a resolution regarding the Shade System colour difference.</p> <p>The Whare project is progressing and is due to open during Māori Language week. The \$500k that was put aside for the Whare is not needed as it's within the MOE's budget.</p> <p>Watershed is working on a plan for the front of the school for the pedestrian path and driveway. Once the plan is complete with quotes it will be presented to the board.</p> <p>Akarana trust declined the application for trophies.</p> <p>Neil commented that any capital expenditure must be approved by the Ministry of Education.</p>
8	<p>Health & Safety: No Updates from last meeting. Mentioned that 2 students are on the health and safety committee.</p>
9	<p>EOTC Trip to Cape Brett 30 August 2025 4 student with Mr Hodgkinson.</p>

	<p>The Board approved the EOTC form for the trip to Cape Brett. Moved by Julie seconded by Rae.</p> <p>Football Tournament 24 – 29 August 16 students and 2 Staff.</p> <p>The Board approved the EOTC form for the trip to the Football Tournament in Taranaki. Moved by Susan seconded by John.</p>
10	<p>Ōtāhuhu College Trust Need to update Trust Neil will meet with John Boscowen and Rae to decide what action, if any, needs to be taken regarding the Trust.</p>
11	<p>Board Elections September</p> <p>Neil thanked all nominees for the Board of Trustees elections, which closes on the 6 September.</p> <p>The next Board meeting will include both the outgoing Board and the newly elected Board members.</p> <p>Information will be sent out to new members ahead of the meeting.</p>
12	<p>In Committee In Committee Correspondence</p>
13	<p>Any other business Melehifo reported that Student Council photos have been taken and will be published in the school magazine. Melehifo met with a Ministry of Education representative who visited the school, toured the facilities, and conducted student interviews. The purpose of her visit was to gather insights from schools and provide feedback to the Ministry of Education on how student wellbeing and needs can be better supported. The representative commented that Otahuhu College was the first school she had visited that genuinely cared about student’s wellbeing.</p>
	<p>Meeting finished at 6.43pm</p>