

New Plymouth Boys' High School PTA

Minutes for the Monthly Meeting held in the Staff Room at 7:30pm on
Tuesday, 4th June 2019

Present: Anne Bridges (Chairperson), Katja Eager (Secretary), Kerry Yates, Leonie Benton, Nadine Ord, Linda Ruohonen, Sharon McGrath, Rosemary Tatham, Sarah Foy, Katrina Goldsack, Tonya Callebout, Linda Alcock, Jenny Ellington, Trudie Hudson, Mel McNeil, Carolyn Magon, Evan Shoemark, Michelle Callender, Sophie Kraayenhof, Sharyn Brunton, Kim Pennington,

Staff: Sam Moore, Allan Elgar

Apologies: Melinda McClutchie, Sharon Lee

Anne welcomed everyone to the meeting and handed over to Allan to talk to us about the trial curriculum for year 10 students. .

Allan Elgar - Trial Curriculum for year 10 students

The discussion around a change of curriculum started in 2016 and by now other schools are visiting NPBHS to find out more about the new approach. Our school is giving feedback to the MOE but receives no leadership. Several other schools across NZ are trialling different approaches with a changed delivery of the curriculum.

The incentive of the new curriculum is to broaden skills and abilities in more areas than just academics: how to be resilient, how to be a good partner and father etc.

The new curriculum gives students greater say in their learning and broader opportunities while being manageable and realistic. 100 boys opted into the trial in 2019, making up 3 classes with 12 teachers. The class size in the trial remained the same.

Despite the different approach all aspects of the conventional curriculum will be covered in the new system. In the example of Maths: the teacher adapts the maths content to the topic, for instance 'Mission to Mars' would see maths problems revolving around space, gravity, acceleration etc. .

We already see huge benefit of staff working together, in the current trial the subjects of Maths & English and Social Sciences & Science are combined and allow both teachers a better insight into the students interests and strengths.

A student survey at the end of term one showed that students enjoy the subjects in the new curriculum more, they understand the work better and can see the value of transferring learning/sharing of learning between subjects.

From a staff survey we learned that teachers find it challenging not to fall back on previous teaching. Staff must be allowed to experiment in the curriculum trial.

The curriculum trial will be available again for year 10 students in 2020 as the school sees this as the way forward. Ideally students will continue this system until year 13 - one day!

An information session for parents and caregivers will be held again towards the end of the year for further details, subject choices available and to reflect on the 2019 trial.

Headmasters Report: (Sam Moore)

- The school was involved in the Super 8 Cultural Challenge in Palmerston North; chess, Kapa Haka, debating and Senior Speech competitions were amazing to watch.
- 'Something for Nothing' is coming up again, focus on giving back to the community. Some students would like to extend the project, like using HUIA classes to read to younger students and Welbourn School.
- Interschool sports: is ongoing, great to notice that the boys present themselves well and achieve well.
- Ball season with NPGHS is approaching, plenty of talk with the boys beforehand about alcohol & behaviour.
- 'Dads & Daughters' event at Vogeltown: NPBHS students stood in for Dads who couldn't attend.
- Rockquest: Olympus Jeopardy from NPBHS won
- Year 9 Boarders Rugby match with Palmerston North was won by us.
- Plenty of visitors coming to our school to find out more about the trial curriculum, SIE programme - it's important to share ideas across schools.
- School Strikes: sorry for the inconvenience, the talks with the MOE are ongoing. Further strikes are possible.
- Government announcement of \$150 funding per child instead of parent donations: the board will discuss how this will be handled.
- More money for renewal of infrastructure might be coming towards the school.

Minutes of previous meeting (May Mtg) were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

Moved to be accepted as a true record:

Moved: **Carolyn Magon** Seconded: **Katrina Goldsack** **Carried**

Matters arising from the previous minutes:

One Transit bus is always arriving too late for the start of school. A scheduled meeting between Transit and the headmaster has been postponed. This issue will be followed up.

Correspondence

Inwards:

- Apology emails

Outwards:

- Meeting minutes and reminder emails

Treasurer Report:

Anne presented the treasurer's report.

We currently have \$19,967 in the bank account plus \$35k on term deposit.

Payments to be approved: none

Moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted and payments approved:

Moved: **Anne Bridges** Seconded: **Jenny Ellington** **Carried**

General Business

Discussion next meeting: Uniform trade / swap event for second hand uniforms - will be added to the agenda for August meeting.

Future meeting dates 2019:

Aug 6th, Sep 3rd, Nov 5th, Dec 3rd

Note that there is a change to the speaker schedule:

The newly elected BOT Trustees will introduce themselves to us at the August meeting.

Meeting Closed at: 9.10pm

Signed as a true record by the Chairperson:

.....2019

..... Anne Bridges, Chairperson, NPBHS PTA