

New Plymouth Boys' High School PTA

Minutes for the Monthly Meeting held in the Staff Room at 7:30pm on
Tuesday, 3th December 2019

Present: Anne Bridges (Chairperson), Katja Eager (Secretary), Katrina Goldsack, Ann England, Carolyn Magon, Sheila Coldrey, Sharon Ansley, Kim Bloxham, Mukhlis Ismail, Nadine Ord, Stella Bond, Rosemary Tatham, Sharon McGrath, Robin Bedwell

Staff: Sam Moore, Yvonne Shanahan

Apologies: Sharon Lee

Anne welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Yvonne Shanahan as our Guest speaker. Yvonne is the Finance Manager of the school.

The School's Board of Trustees decided to accept the offer from the government to receive donations of \$150 per student instead of charging parents school donations.

From this year onwards there will be no more bills from the school sent to families for curriculum related costs. There still might be additional charges for sport related costs and the school will communicate this clearly. The Parent Portal's Finance section has therefore been removed from the website as families no longer require access to this.

Bills regarding additional costs for sports will be emailed to families via the XERO software. The school will not 'charge' for school camps attendance but can ask for donations. This approach will be reviewed in 2020.

Parents can be assured that the quality and scope of the curriculum will not change at all as the school is on track financially without parent donations. There has been a trend of declining parent donations over the past couple of years (From 80% of parents paying the donations a couple of years ago to only 50% in 2019.) The government funding of \$150 per student is helpful but results in a shortfall of about NZ\$ 250,000 without parent donations.

The PTA is being encouraged to actively look for donations. As an independent body the PTA can fundraise for special projects that the school might struggle to fund otherwise.

Yvonne is happy to be contacted if there are any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your time Yvonne and for sharing all your financial insights with us - very much appreciated.

Headmasters Report: (Sam Moore)

- Strategic Planning for Maori Achievement is ongoing in 2020.

- School role is close to 1,400 students - a great problem to have but puts pressure on infrastructure & timetabling. Extra staff is needed.
- The Hostel is fully booked for 2020.
- The school is awaiting confirmation from the Ministry of Education in regards to the NZ\$400,000 mentioned in the media and what strings are attached to the money.
- Mates & Dates training for year 9 boys upcoming, a complicated topic that is essential to cover.
- IT review is ongoing to ensure that the school's hardware can cope with the growing demand.
- Drain work is being done.
- Tech block and music rooms are being upgraded.
- Huia interviews will take place early for year 9 boys. The school has no intention of going back to the teacher interviews. Dropping attendance rate for these parent teacher interviews caused the change of approach. The school acknowledges that parents have issues with seeing the Huia teacher for the interview, there are reports of IT issues, Huia teachers not having enough information about the student and lacking insights of a subject teacher. The school will honour the feedback but is committed to give the Huia interviews a proper try. Suggestion from parents: could a date be added to teacher comments on the Parent Portal please so parents are aware of a timeline.
- Parents can leave comments on the school's website under 'Keep-Stop-Start' at any time.
- Staff: 4 members on maternity leave, 4 retired (many of them will be relieving in 2020 at the school). New employment is needed to cater for the role growth.

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

Moved to be accepted as a true record:

Moved: Anne Seconded: Sharon McGrath

Carried

Matters arising from the previous minutes: -

1. nil

Correspondence

Inwards:

- Apology emails

Outwards:

- Meeting minutes and reminder emails

Treasurer Report:

- We currently have \$ 22,420 in the bank account plus \$35k on term deposit.

Payments to be approved: nil

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

Moved: Anne Seconded: Katja **Carried**

General Business

Workday money:

PTA can contribute NZ\$ 22,000 from the work money towards the Carrington turf.

Moved: Anne Bridges Seconded: Sheila Coldrey

Please get in touch with the PTA if you have ideas for guest speakers for 2020.

Future meeting dates 2020:

11 Feb, 3 March, 7 Apr, 5 May, 2 June, 4 Aug, 1 Sep, 3 Nov, 1 Dec

Meeting Closed at: 8:45 pm

Signed as a true record by the Chairperson:

.....2019

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