

Houghton Valley School Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Monday 22 August 2022

Meeting opened: 7:05pm

Present: Seb Bishop, Mike Brough, Bret McKenzie (presiding member), Ana Tovey, Luana Carroll (Principal), Stephanie Bosch (staff representative), Emily Faith (secretary)

Apologies: Georgie Ferrari

Conflicts of interest: None

Last month's minutes: Bret approved, Stephanie seconded.

Introduction

Bret welcomed Ana to her first meeting, and thanked Mike for putting himself forward for another term. Thanks also to Bret for standing again!

1. Principal's report

Curriculum and student achievement

Looking at what makes the greatest difference for our Māori akonga, and engagement and high teaching skills are key. This links in with the recent Kahui Ako Super Hui with Janelle Riki-Waaka, who challenged all the kura within our Kahui Ako on assessment, language, aspirations and success. Plan to run a Māori whānau hui in the next few weeks.

Property

No official tenders were received for the building project, but a company called Peryer's has now been asked to put in a tender. (This process has been approved by the Ministry.) Building should be able to start during the summer holidays.

Whānau and community partnerships

Application with artist Kate Te Ao has been put in to Creatives in Schools for Term 1 2023. The application is for a front fence design telling the story of Haewai.

The proposed dates for 2023 (Terms 1 to 4) and teacher only days were approved. The first day of school will be Tuesday 31 January 2023, and the last day Friday 15 December 2023. (Usually we start later in the week, but the surrounding schools are trying to align dates.)

The board talked about ways of connecting further with the community post-lockdowns etc. There are a few things coming up – H&S has the quiz, fair, and possibly a disco; from the school side, the focus has been on the goal-setting sessions and seeing more whānau coming into class. It is a hard balance organising events and activities without overwhelming parents. The board agreed to make sure that there is at least one board member at each of the upcoming H&S meetings (one per term).

2. COVID-19 mask policy

Luana has recommended we extend the current policy for an additional 4 weeks because of the success that mask-wearing has had in managing COVID and other winter illnesses. The majority of illness at the moment is in the junior classes, which are non mask-wearing.

The board approved the extension of the policy to Friday 16 September 2022.

3. Budget

Noted the contribution from Home & School is lower than budgeted as the fair was not held last year in its usual form. Staff have been asked to spend their budgets this month so resources arrive before year end. No items of significance are of concern.

Financials were reviewed and approved.

4. Other policies for review

Child Protection Policy – Reviewed and approved, with no changes.

Sun Protection Policy – Reviewed and approved, with one change – sun protection policy to apply from between 10am – 4pm (increase from 9am – 4pm), as the heat can be intense even at 9am in Term 1.

5. Election of Presiding Member

Bret is standing down as Presiding Member due to other commitments, though he will stay on as a board member.

Bret nominated Seb as Presiding Member and Mike seconded the nomination. Thanks Seb!

Meeting into committee: 8.20pm

Meeting out of committee: 8.25pm

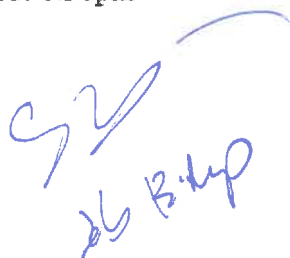
6. Website refresh

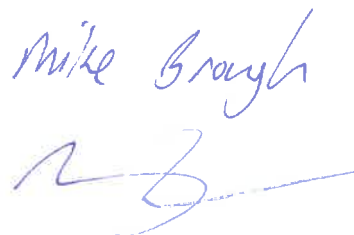
Vanessa Smith has done some great mahi on the website refresh planning. Luana to follow up with Vanessa, and Mike will follow up with the photographer re pricing. The plan is to use a drone to take photos of the grounds in spring, and to have the website updated by the end of the year.

7. Finish

Karakia.

Meeting closed: 8.30pm


Seb Bishop


Mike Gray