

Dunedin Rudolf Steiner School Board Meeting

*Jerry Hsu
11/3/25*

Tuesday 11 February 2025 from 5.30pm

The Board is legally responsible for the school. Our role is to watch the far horizon, to support its direction as a Steiner school, and to ensure it arrives safely within the law. The Board provides guidelines within which the staff manage the school.

Present: Natalie Bartonova (NB) via Teams, Anna Noble (AN), Esther Gilbert (EG), Jerry Hsu(JH) via Teams, Angela Clark (AC), Clare Ridout (Board Secretary),

Visitors – Trisha Geraets and Zoe Cummings

Apologies : Kussi Hurtado (KH), *Meeting opened with a karakia and waiata .*

1. Conflicts of interest, minutes, matters arising	Who
<p>The hui started with a karakia and a waiata.</p>	
<p>Reading: Balance in Teaching – The Three Fundamental Forces in Education by Steiner Discussion around perceptions of science. Noted it would be interested to read a more current Steiner article on gender. Speech and reference and music and enthusiasm referred to. Would be interesting to look at more modern readings too but will return to this chapter at the next Board hui for further thoughts.</p>	
<p>Register of conflicts of interests has been circulated. Agreed that this will also show Board members who have children in which class, and which class the staff rep is from. CR to make the changes.</p>	CR
<p>Approval of accuracy of prior minutes of 10 December 2024 moved by AC, seconded EG.</p>	
<p>Matters arising:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property management report to be added to Board timetable for June 	CR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tagged funding – process still to be described in Finance Policy – 2 Finance Policies require amendment so they will be circulated to staff and community prior to next Board hui 	CR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC will draft expectations document for staff on leave during term time and send to AN 	AC
<p>Succession planning for the Board</p>	
<p>AC will ask Board who plans to stand for election again.</p>	AC
<p>CR to draft email community that also invites visitors, the potential for new members who are co-opted to help with succession. AC proposes that the Board vacancy is filled by selection, EG seconds, all in favour.</p>	CR ,
<p>Class parent reps can be effective communicators to other parents. Nearly all classes have parent reps. It was suggested that a parent rep on the board takes on this role of being a link between the Board and class parent reps. The Board agreed this work was more of a priority than a policy portfolio.</p>	
<p>CR and AN will draft a portfolio and circulate to Board via email then send out with advert for new Board members and approval to fill vacant position by selection.</p>	CR AN
<p>Authorisation of 6 year olds in kindergarten who are enrolled at school: Angus Pentelow.</p>	
<p>AC proposed, EG seconded.</p>	

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	2. Board Timetable		Who
CR	CR	<p>Board timetable has been circulated.</p> <p>Noted we have no provisional registered teachers this year.</p> <p>Members reminded to follow timetable in readiness for their items. JH will look at staff well-being survey. CR will forward supplementary staff survey questions to JH.</p> <p>AN will add outcomes to annual plan for each Board hui. She suggests we review the whole thing in more detail only in November as there will be ongoing reporting on it throughout the year.</p> <p>CR will add the election process to the timetable and the related induction of new Board members.</p> <p>Health and safety- have one report from NB a term.</p> <p>AC proposed these changes are approved, Eg seconded. All in favour.</p>	

	3. Principal's Report		Who
		<p>AN reported that there is a good feel in the school, wānaka helped, good feel among whānau too. People are enjoying te Puna Waiora. Board appreciated AN's work on getting the school signed up to the code for international students.</p> <p>Roll is healthy. Need to plan out next steps with roll cap, future single streaming, rooms etc. Would a teacher aide help in a larger class in the interim before we move to single stream? Capacities in rooms may prevent too large a class.</p> <p>Management will review teacher aide use for transitions as it has been very valuable.</p> <p>NB asked if there were any issues arising of an H and S nature with te Puna Waiora – it was confirmed that no issues had arisen.</p> <p>Website- what plan do we have to develop this? AN explained the planned move to Hall. There could be significant cost implications.</p> <p>International Student Policies- AC will send through with spell checks and then sign later.</p> <p>PD for teachers – AN advised Board that the general approach some things are planned, some emerge over the year and flexibility is welcomed by the teachers.</p> <p>Strategic plan- has been simplified with fewer goals. Looks good.</p> <p>Learning Support Coordinator- Emily has taken this up and is working very well in this role- congratulations to her from the Board.</p> <p>New Delegation Schedule accepted.</p> <p>The Board accepted the report and the actions above, and the annual and strategic plans.</p> <p>Proposed AC, seconded Eg.</p>	AC

	4. Proprietors Report		Who
		<p>No report – Props have yet to meet this year.</p>	

Moved from the Chair that all reports are accepted, Anna seconded. Passed Unanimously.

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5. Any other business	Who
<p>Fundraising document from Esther had been circulated- take to the next hui. Perhaps a parent subgroup could work as a fundraising team. Some discussion on this especially re taking work off teachers for fundraising for class camps. Need to have a cohesive approach. The Board should work alongside Props in establishing approach, principles applied in regards to sources of funding that we approach.</p> <p>EG will contact KH to have a conversation on this. He would then need to take it to props. Decision over which organisations that the school approaches for funding needs to rest with Props.</p> <p>Special character. JH raised the fact that clothing rules have recently been reinforced at school. Could the school also send out some guidance about watching videos, TV, video games etc ? AN suggested this may be better coming from a governing body. The matter is brought up in introductory interviews and parents sign against it in their pledge forms each year. Could also be brought to class meetings. To be further discussed at March Board meeting.</p>	EG

Closing verse. Meeting ended 7.16pm **Next meeting date – 5.30pm Tuesday 11 March.**

Key to Initials : Clare Ridout (CR), Management Team (MT), Proprietors Trust (Props), James Guthrie (JG), Natalie Bartonova (NB), Jerry Hsu (JH), Anna Noble (AN), Esther Gilbert (EG), Angela Clark (AC), Kesava Sampath (KS).

