

Dunedin Rudolf Steiner School Board Meeting

Tuesday 14 November 2023 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 : Clare Ridout (Board Secretary), Natalie Bartonova (NB)- late, Anna Noble (AN), Esther Gilbert (EG), Angela Clark (AC), Emily Czibere (EC), Michelle McGrath (MM),

Apologies : Jerry Hsu (JH), Kesava Sampath (KS),

Meeting opened with a karakia. Whakataka te hau – as a moment of being present.

1. Conflicts of interest, minutes, matters arising	Who
<p>Apologies from Jerry, Kes and Kussi. Conflict of interest: none disclosed specifically at this meeting</p> <p>Minutes approved EC, seconded EG.</p> <p>Reading page 19- 22. Question- what is a themed whānau hui? Question- could we have a mission statement that is a Steiner quote eg as knowing purpose and direction. The importance of home life supporting the direction of the pedagogy – how does the school work with this? Could be done through a parent group. Some discussion on how the school can support the formation of a parent group – to include parents from Koru kindy or playgroup right through to the end of Class 7.</p> <p>Authorisation of 6 year olds- one child – Elizabeth Mall Hanak is enrolled at school but attends kindergarten.</p> <p>Matters arising are covered in the Principals Report.</p>	All

2. Principals Report	Who
<p>As attached</p> <p>ERO – fine tuning focus with teachers which is what the school works with in the next two years, can sit in the annual plan.</p> <p>SEANZ Kahui Ako – looking at how we measure special character. – proposed example provided. Anna expressed her appreciation of the support from other Steiner Principals.</p> <p>Angela reported on the wānaka at Puketeraki marae – as attached. Michelle referred to ODT videos on original place names and the reference to Kāi Tahu’s cultural mapping project. Reference also to a potential fund for some Māori students.</p> <p>The Professional Development course referred to at the last Board hui has not been recommended by other Steiner Principals. A Michael Park Steiner teacher who has done the course will come and mentor Anna and work across the classes too.</p>	

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2. Principals Report	Who
<p>Congratulations to Emily for reaching the stage to apply for full registration. Recruitment process still underway for new teacher. Has been a good process for James, Anna and Emily. Report approved EC, seconded MM.</p>	

3. Finance Report	Who
<p>CR presented the report as attached. It was agreed we should we ringfence the \$6k PD for Principal. EG proposed that we carry forward any unspent funds on this. Seconded AC. If Operation Grants and Teacher Salary Grants are underused then we do not have to pay them back to the MoE. It was asked how the teacher aide is funded. This is funded from the schools own funds – ie what it can afford and then based on needs of the children.</p> <p>Budget 2024 presented – as attached.</p> <p>Noted that we have not yet been audited. The Ministry has been informed and apparently we are not the last to be audiyed.</p> <p>The Board was informed that we have an Official Information Act request about donations. Donations from parents to the school are contributions for camps etc. This is not a request to the Proprietors Trust.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion about how some parents may contribute to the school by providing services that are already needed eg caretaking and that this would be costsed at relevant rates.</p> <p>It was asked if we have we approached Ravensdown for funding? Asked if all children are swimming – yes, all children expected to go. CR will check if Port Otago are continuing to fund this.</p> <p>Board approved the budget and the Finance report. Proposed EG, seconded EC.</p>	CR

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3. Finance Report	Who

4. Other business	Who
<p>Survey on our Strategic Plan Update website – should be a 2024 goal The Partnership with Puketeraki should be publicised – will be in newsletter. Questions about the tapering off of numbers in intermediate years – how do we work to avoid this? This year Anna had a meeting with the older class parents before they go into the Intermediate years at our school. School should work with parents so they are ready to address the students’ needs with our Steiner curriculum as otherwise they may look to move on. Next meeting to look at the NELPs and how they feed into the strategic plan.</p>	<p>MT</p>
<p>Lock down – still need to do a drill this year and work on the blinds, and the alarm. Bring to next meeting.</p>	<p>Next</p>
<p>Presiding member – Angela has offered to take this up as Jerry would like to step back from the role – she has taken on governance roles in last 10 years. Unanimously approved – motion moved by EG, EC seconded. The Board expressed their thanks to Jerry to his service. Would Jerry share the Personnel portfolio with MM now he steps back? Ask him. Put the change in the newsletter in 2 weeks time</p>	<p>Next</p>
<p>Possibility of an end of year thing on Friday 15 Dec. For staff and Governance. Do we invite children? Does anywhere have an idea of a space. Angela suggested the Gasworks. To be followed up.</p>	<p>AN/AC</p>
	<p>MT</p>

Next meeting date – Tuesday 12 December.

Closing verse

Key to Initials : Clare Ridout (CR), Management Team (MT), Proprietors Trust (Props), Emily Czibere (EC), Michelle McGrath (MM), Natalie Bartonova (NB), Jerry Hsu (JH), Anna Noble (AN), Esther Gilbert (EG), Angela Clark (AC).