

Dunedin Rudolf Steiner School Board Meeting

Monday 12 December 2022 5.30pm via Teams and in person

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 :

Jerry Hsu (JH), Clare Ridout (Board Secretary), Helen Thomlinson (HT), Cassino Doyle (CD), Michelle McGrath (MM), Natalie Bartonova (NB), Pene Johnstone (PJ), Danny Fridberg (DF), Chris Bay (CB), Emily Czibere (EC), Anna Noble (AN).

Apologies :,Danny Fridberg

1. Minutes and matters arising	Action by Who
No conflict of interest. Apologies accepted	
<p>Approval of prior minutes Minutes of 21 November approved CB/ EC. JH to sign the minutes as approved</p>	JH
<p>Approval of 6 year olds in kindergarten 6 year olds approved for their education in kindergarten – including Leonardo Reid, Bo Fei Cotton, Oscar Wigley, Lacy Mae Earl, Suede Earl.</p>	
<p>Matters arising</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HT, MM, JH met to go over what is required in the Principal Performance Agreement (PPA) process and will meet with PJ will meet to finish the PPA on 9 January 	HT, MM, JH, PJ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CR followed up with the Ministry re Cyclical maintenance and the fact that our grant does not cover the work required in maintenance. The Ministry has found we were being underpaid as they had incorrectly entered our floorspace on their database. We will receiving a retrospective top up in January 2023. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CR has circulated end of year report on Annual Plan, so no mid year update provided. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMS data provision – Edge has been approached about this discrepancy, no answer. We still have problems at the year end. To be followed up this week. 	PJ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How we use the SEANZ Special Character review tool should be a matter for further development. The whole tool has been circulated as requested to the Board. 	all
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance – yet to write letter of concern to Ministry re relief teachers costs CR will draft. 	CR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action point re Strategic plan – the Board will look at it early in 2023 and extend to 2025: approved AN, seconded MM 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher aides and possible placements from Polytech– will be taken on by Anna 	AN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flowform, budget on agenda 	

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2. Principals Report	Who
<p>Health and Safety tour complete – many concerns are now dealt with</p> <p>What is happening to current class 6 had not been communicated to the Board. Class 6 are mainly leaving with two of them being taken into class kereru. Families all OK except for one.</p> <p>Literacy and numeracy</p> <p>Edge reporting is once again awry as the student numbers are not correct. Cannot understand why this has transpired and it means the bar graph are not reliable. Writing shows a weakness in the middle years, especially in the boys. Next year may look at combining classes to mix abilities across the years, extending some children and supporting others – more differentiation. The writing is the area where there seems to be more weakness.</p> <p>For the younger children we are measuring against Steiner Learning steps rather than standardised tests. The Learning Steps were agreed on with the MoE.</p> <p>Do we have fewer Māori students than in prior years? We do – no specific trend, had a family with quite a few children in this category previously. Graphs seem to indicate males are doing better than female. How do we work with archetypes? This is a living issue.</p> <p>Might it be helpful to move children who are significantly out of the norm out of the sample for some review.</p> <p>More useful to see where we are adding value to children’s learning? Does a kind of streaming go against current advice in education – EC said it would not be so much as ability grouping. Parents would be informed and feedback sought.</p> <p>HT reminded Board that there is the standard reporting from the Board with children with particular needs, and therefore this is more a broad brush look at trends and if anything radical is happening.</p> <p>How many children have specific learning needs etc – this would be hard to report to the Board, without it being a privacy issue. Would like a report from teachers on CEP students, especially with input from TA.</p> <p>The Principal’s report now includes a section on how we comply with the requirement to be a good employer. We meet these, but do need to work better with the provisionally registered teacher.</p>	<p>AN</p>

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3. Update on annual report	Who
HT was very impressed with the report. PJ felt that goal 2 was the area we need more work. Important that every board member reads this document. Can everyone read through it before the next meeting. Board will be looking at Strategic plan in the first meeting of the new year so the annual report is important background reading. An analysis of variance will also be provided to the Board in February.	All Board

4. PPA	Who
<p>The Board agrees a policy change that would include a special character person proposed by the Trust</p> <p>One member thought the policy should not include Te Tiriti. However the consensus was that it should be in.</p> <p>Policy should include special character goal too.</p> <p>Curriculum policy – EC approves/ CD seconds</p> <p>Policy on teaching of Te Reo, tikanga CB approves, EC seconds</p>	

5. Finance report	Who
<p>2023 budget approved</p> <p>Flowform</p> <p>Can show Helen the flowform information and have a walk around, then approve by email. It had been approved in principle by the Board. Then will be approved by email.</p> <p>Concern about using email in this kind of decision making – would prefer consensus decision making.</p> <p>Is it a health and safety issue for young children on the site – - not considered to be.</p> <p>Waiora is the word to use!</p>	All

6. Staff leave of absence	Who
Approved as unpaid leave for Emily Czibere and Trisha Geraets	

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7. Curriculum Policy review	Who
As above	Mgt

8. Social event	Who
Next Board meeting to be followed by a meal.	
Monday 12 th Dec for meeting at 5.30pm and a dinner following at 7.30. Props to be invited and staff – JH will invite and the former Board.	JH
Venue – Careys Bay – PJ will pop in and see if it is available.	PJ
Pene will check the location and then JH will invite.	

Next meeting 20 Feb 2023

Meeting closed 7.35 pm

Key to Initials : Pene Johnstone (PJ), Clare Ridout (CR), Cassino Doyle (CD), Management Team (MT), Proprietors Trust (Props), Emily Czibere (EC), Danny Fridberg (DF), Helen Thomlinson (HT), Michelle McGrath (MM), Natalie Bartonova (NB), Chris Bay (CB), Jerry Hsu (JH), Anna Noble (AN)