



Pukekohe High School PTA Meeting Wednesday 13th November 2019 – 6pm

PRESENT

Jo Mould, Debra Bell, Donna Stitchbury, Karena Brady-Leathem, Lyndal Fonokalafi, Maggie Carter (Parents),
Richard Barnett (Principal)

APOLOGIES

Lisa Perry

Previous minutes passed by Karena Brady-Leathem, seconded by Donna Stitchbury

Matters Arising from Previous minutes

- Website is getting a complete overhaul. Might not be ready for the new year but it is being worked on.
- Wednesday early finish changing was not favoured by teachers and some students with sport. So it will not be changed for 2019 but is still a discussion point.
- Phone bans – not for 2019 but still in discussion. Rangitoto college have a system where when you enter each class, students phones are placed in a numbered shelf or similar and collected at the end of class.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees chairman Mr Ben Stalworthy attended the start of the meeting to introduce himself and talk with the PTA. He spoke of the board's intentions. They are wanting to improve the school's image and address the concerns raised in the last ERO report and from the community. They would like to be very transparent and contactable. They will be putting their reports on the new website so parents can see what they are working on and why some decisions were made. They will also have their contact details on there. They would like to be visible, supportive and be brave with some decisions. They aim to change the community's perception of the school to be more positive.

SCHOOL DONATIONS

The Board of Trustees have opted into the new Government scheme for decile 1-7 schools, giving them \$150 per student. This means the school will no longer be asking parents for the \$100 donation. Currently only 40% of parents were paying this so it will provide the school with a more consistent income. However it also means they can't ask parents for payments for any class activities like the current system. (ie fees for technology subjects, class trips – the exception being overnight camps) This will mean the school will have to be very careful about managing their money. It will not affect any activities that are optional. (ie sports teams) They can still fundraise, get sponsorship or ask for parents financial input. PTAs are also not affected and can still fundraise for their school.

SCHOOL CHANGES FOR 2020

It has been decided to cease the privilege of year 13s being able to leave the school next year. They are still working on giving them a bigger common room to use for study breaks / free periods.

Vertical forms are changing to horizontal forms. (ie all students of same year in a home room instead of mixed years) This will make it easier for home room teachers to deal with the needs of one year group as they all have different needs. Yr 13s will still be encouraged and trained to be peer supports of year 9s and there will be a staff member in charge of this.

A change in house names has been discussed but nothing definitive has been decided.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance has improved. The Ministry guidelines count 90% attendance for a student as being a fully participating student. So by that guideline in 2018 PHS had 52% of students achieving that. In 2019 it is 61%. This is currently in line with other decile 6 schools. An improvement, however it is still something to work on. The school will look at improving attendance. Also discussed was the mix up of attendance texts to parents when their child is at school at a music lesson or class trip. This is down to miscommunication within the school.

NCEA ACHIEVEMENT TRACKING

Level 1 – Pacifica students nationally achieving is at 63%. By November 7th at PHS we have 40% of those students already achieving level 1. With exams currently being sat, we are on track to be near the national norm. It is a similar situation for Maori students.

A lot of this group drop off before year 13 and it would be nice to improve this.

OLD SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL AREA

The Old school swimming pool was covered in years ago. The outside fence & changing sheds have now been demolished to hopefully make way for classrooms. The Ministry have said PHS needs 10 more classes by 2021. It is unclear at this time whether the old pool site will be suitable for a 2 storey block of classes due to the pool filling.

Meeting Ended at 7.15pm

Next meeting – Term 1 2020. Date and Time to be confirmed.