

Pukekohe High School PTA Meeting

Wednesday 19th June 2019 – 6pm

PRESENT

Jo Mould, Diane Hargraves, Debra Bell, Dianne Morrison, Nina Gordon-Peters, Donna Stitchbury, Karena Brady-Leathem (Parents),
Richard Barnett (Principal)

COMMITTEE FORMAT

Richard brought up the discussion of the committee format and leaving it informal. It will not be a fundraising committee but more feedback and discussion group. Karena offered to look after the minutes at each meeting.

NIGEL LATTA

A Nigel Latta evening is being held in the community. Information was shared on this.

SUBJECT SELECTION

There will be some changes to student subject selecting. The discussion will be started earlier. More thought needs to go in to the selection process to avoid all the changes that are requested at the beginning of each year. This is not good for the students or the staff and school. Some changes will be unavoidable due to exam results, but quite a few are thought to be avoidable. The process will now start with discussions in term 3. The Vertical form teachers will discuss with students what subjects they like. What they're good at, etc. There will be a subject information evening on 6th August 4-6pm. We need parents to discuss choices with their children. (Perhaps attend the Careers evening on tomorrow night.) The Dean will then follow up at the end of the process. PHS does have a careers library and staff. In the future it would be great to have a dedicated careers teacher who only does that. Some subject teachers are starting to offer more than just straight classes, like academies and extra courses. There is discussion around police courses for students sitting level 3. As times change, schools are needing to be more flexible to keep up.

PARENT HELP

It's not just NCEA. Teenagers need to be encouraged to get their licence, bank accounts, IRD, etc.

WELL BEING AT SCHOOL

Concerns about bullying. The recent media article was not entirely accurate however there are some lessons to be learned. The email home was generally appreciated. It showed that the school weren't hiding from it, but addressing the situation.

There are many myths about bullying. We need to improve the climate around the school. Richard suggested a student survey and an anonymous reporting system. Peer mediators could be useful. It was also suggested that a parent survey could be valuable. It would show parents that the school is making efforts to combat bullying and you may even get some great suggestions from knowledgeable parents.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance overall has improved and continues to improve. The school is presently working on punctuality.

Although Kamar is being helpful to parents on attendance worries, some parents are having to contact the school about concerns and wonder why the school hasn't contacted them.

What are the punishments for bunking. Deans report which is only temporarily helpful.

Classes need to be interesting to keep students interested and wanting to attend.

COMMUNICATION

Communication to parents has greatly improved. The texts, emails and notices home are being appreciated.

SUBJECT INTERVIEWS

Great feedback on how helpful they were. It was thought that the senior ones which take place next term, would be more helpful to have earlier next year. For year 9s, perhaps a welcome/meet the teachers very early in term 1.

UNIFORM

Many students are still wearing incorrect uniform. The woollen jerseys are not popular. Could a school hoody be designed?

VAPING/DRUGS

It has become a trend to vape. It is being treated the same as smoking by the school. Health class do discuss this type of thing. The local police do talk regularly with the school in regards to drug sales and taking which can be adjacent to the school.

STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

An email list for deans or teachers is still to come for the website.

STUDENT SUPPORT

For new or lonely students, a support group of help from peer mediators or the Wellbeing council would be helpful.

Meeting Ended at 7.10pm

Next meeting – Wednesday 21st August 2019.