

Pukekohe High School PTA Meeting

Wednesday 21st August 2019 – 6pm

PRESENT

Jo Mould, Debra Bell, Donna Stitchbury, Karena Brady-Leathem, Kelly Herangi, Lyndal Fonokalafi, Shelley Small (Parents),
Richard Barnett (Principal)

APOLOGIES

Dianne Morrison, Diane Hargraves, Brigitte Rose, Lisa Perry

Previous minutes passed by Jo Mould, seconded by Richard Barnett

Matters Arising from Previous minutes

Website staff contact list still to come. PHS website can still do with improvement especially compared to other schools. It can be very expensive though.

Uniform still a problem. Will look into the hoody option.

Wellbeing at school still a work in progress.

Student survey to come in week 9. Staff survey completed.

YEAR 10 CAMP

Richard had a small presentation on the Tapapakanga Camp. It is in replacement of the Te Awa Poutama week that was previously in year 10. All agreed that the new camp was a great idea with costs kept down and lots for the students to learn.

YEAR 13 LEAVING PRIVILEGE

The problem with year 13s being allowed to leave the grounds at break times and in study periods was discussed. It tends to lead to other years leaving too and is hard for anyone to know the difference. Not a good look down town. School is looking at stopping that privilege and installing gates on the back entrance and tidying up old fence lines. The reasoning was sound to everyone but it is good for year 13s to have some privileges to look forward to and for that transition to adulthood and leaving school. Could the trade off for year 13s be that they get a common room to congregate in on their breaks? Perhaps talk to current year 13s and also next years?

EARLY WEDNESDAY FINISHES

There is evidence that some parents find the early finish on Wednesday problematic having to collect students at the earlier time. The town's shop owners are inundated with students. Only a minority of students use the time wisely with jobs, gym, band practice, volunteering, etc. It is unsuitable for the bus students who have to wait till 3.30pm. Buses can't be changed as the Intermediate and St Josephs students are shuttled to PHS for the correct buses. The reason for the early finish is for Staff professional development. They partake in courses or group discussions and learning activities. Many secondary schools do professional learning during the day. Primary school teachers have to do their professional development after school. If we were to change, what would we have on a Wednesday instead? Do the positives outweigh the negatives? Do we need to survey staff and parents?

ITEMS FOR A STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

A hardcopy book to give out to year 9s and new students. What should be included?

- * timeline of key events for the year
- * channel of communication
- * extra curricular groups to join (up-to-date)

Could this be in an app for students too?

The 'school loop' app was shown and discussed as an option. Other primary schools use it. It is free with non intrusive adverts from local businesses. It contains notices, newsletters, contacts, calendar and a way to notify the school of absences.

MASSEY BLOCK REFURBISHMENT

Refurbishment is nearing completion. It hasn't had much done to it in 25years. The ground floor is to get shade sails and new seating eventually. There has been some low level vandalism around the school. Mainly in the weekends. If the place is made more appealing and the students can take pride in it, hopefully that will help. Could the art students be involved in doing new murals? The technology students involved in making new seating or tables? Have students be involved in environmental issues. If the students feel involved hopefully they will take more pride in their school.

AUCKLAND SCHOOL MEETING

Richard attended a meeting with principals from other Auckland schools and the subject was raised of banning phones at school. It seems to be a current movement. Most parents were all for it and believe it would be backed by most parents. It would support more attention in class and more social interaction between students in break times. The idea of students being allowed their phones once they are seniors was another option discussed. Some parents still wanted their bus or sports students to have a phone afterschool. Messaging would still be possible from laptops but not as easy to quickly use. It would encourage students to all bring their devices for school work instead of just using phones. Details to be worked out but all in agreement to the idea.

Meeting Ended at 7.14pm

Next meeting – Wednesday 13th November 2019.