Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Wednesday 17th June 2026 from 7.45 pm to 8.05 pm and 9.02 pm to 10.17 pm

Present: Anna McLean (Acting Principal); Rhiannon Jarvis; Sadie Taylor (Student Representative), Lucy Bayliss (staff representative), Sarah Sue, Juliette George (staff representative), Tara Israelson (left 7.57pm), Maryann Robertson, Stacey Newlands (Presiding Member), Jenny Jellicoe, Jo Dyer (minutes)

Online: Rod Webster (Deputy Presiding Member), Allie Ganapathy (joined 8.13pm, left 8.35pm due to internet issues)

Apologies: Ava Szabo (Principal)

In-committee Meeting

In-committee Meeting from 7.45 pm to 8.05 pm

Motion: That the public be excluded from the following part/s of the proceedings of this meeting namely for agenda items under In-Committee. Minutes are kept in the PEB minute book.

Tara Israelson was excluded from the in-committee meeting due to a conflict of interest and left at 7.57 pm.

Council hui continued after the in-committee hui and the Board hui reopened at 9.02 pm.

Declaration of Interests

Sarah Sue is a member of the Trust.
Sadie Taylor is a member of the Choir and the EOTC forms have been approved by members.

Acceptance of Previous Minutes

There were no questions or comments.

Motion: The minutes of the last Board of Trustees' meeting held on Wednesday 20th May 2026 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved by Tara / Seconded by Maryann / Carried unanimously with no abstentions or nays.

Presiding Member Updates

There have been a number of requests for approval by Board members via email lately and Stacey thought this was a timely reminder to everyone that all Board members need to respond and approve the requests. These are regulations that need to be met to make a resolution. Please ensure you keep an eye on your Board member emails and that if you have any questions, please put them forward so they can be answered in a timely manner. It was noted that there has been some difficulty in keeping up with everyone's responses, so if anyone has any suggestions on how to make this easier, they would be greatly appreciated.

Correspondence

- Staff request for leave approved via email
- EOTC approvals via email. Anna noted that we will not have the results from The Big Sing until Monday. The second choir trip will require some fine tuning - the trip has been approved in principal, however there will need to be further approval after some minor changes are made to the EOTC forms.

Tumuaki/Principal's Report – Hune (June) 2026

Anna presented the Principal's report which has a focus on the recent changes to NCEA and what this looks like. The Science Report will also be presented as a separate agenda item.

Goal 1: To support each child/ākonga's progress and achievement against the NZ Curriculum and Te Whāriki

There have been a number of recent media notifications regarding changes to NCEA that will happen over the next four years - NCEA Level 1 has already been removed and other qualifications will be implemented. These changes will have many implications for us as a Montessori School i.e. moving to a grading system etc. Rod questioned when the changes for Level 2 and Level 3 will come out? Anna noted that the current Yr 9's will be the first to go through the entire new system. What this looks like in practice at Wā Ora is still being thought out. There will need to be further conversations with SLT as there are still changes to be made by the Government. We will need to be mindful that it doesn't change our Montessori Philosophy and Authenticity.

A number of ākonga have formed a group to enter in the regional Tournament of Minds Competition. They will be competing in Wellington and the finals will also be held in Wellington. Richard is leading the group in Term 2 and Anna will take over in Term 3.

'Keeping Ourselves Safe' programme has been completed by ākonga across the Primary and High School and is a programme we would like to continue every 2 years. Both Rhiannon and Stacey noted they have received good feedback from their children on the John Parson's sessions.

Staff completing Montessori training is happening at each sector level.

Goal 2: To ensure we build, develop and practice an authentic Montessori programme and approach throughout the school aligned with MJ2EX and the Wā Ora Montessori essential elements.

Sarah questioned what the Board responsibilities are in this area? Anna noted that the Board provides money to enable staff training. Our knowledge of MJ2EX, fits in with the Strategic Plan, however a reminder that this has been deliberately delayed due to Government changes.

Goal 3: To establish, maintain and improve equitable learning outcomes as Tiriti partners, recognising the importance of partnership with Māori in education.

Matariki is coming up - we will have the Day Activities followed by the hakari and there is also the Matariki Concert.
Kapa Haka groups will be performing at Hutt Fest.

ERO Visit

The ERO report has subsequently been received. Ava had discussions with Mary Ely regarding the ERO comments in relation to the UE achievement being a small majority. Helpful information is that the cohort is 13 ākonga, whereby 8 wanted to achieve UE and 3 did not, therefore these smaller numbers have a major impact on the percentages.

Roll

There are a number of Yr 4's moving early to 9-12's (these are ākonga who have turned 9 in Term 2). They will have an extra 2 terms in these classrooms.
Hopefully we will have more people attending the next Information Evening. There have been discussions around how to attract boys for enrolments and how to support this as numbers are lower in most cohorts.

Personnel

An Assistant Teacher in Tawhai has been appointed. The Wellbeing Coordinator vacancy will be readvertised.

Health and Safety

No injuries to report.

Questions

No questions.

Motion: The Principal's Report be accepted.

Moved by Maryann / Seconded by Tara/ Carried unanimously with no abstentions or nays.

Science Report

The report shows the Board how the curriculum is being presented at school, which then provides assurance on student achievement. It was noted that the report is very comprehensive and shows how Science progresses throughout the school. There is a proposal to have science taught as compulsory subject for Yr11 and that ākonga are tested at the end of the year.
It was noted that there are a lot of proposed changes that cannot be implemented in a short time frame. The draft Yr0-10 Curriculum will be implemented in 2027 once it has been finalised.
Rod questioned if there is alignment with Montessori Philosophy? Anna noted that standardised testing will eventually come into the Primary space - other than this, we do cover most aspects already within our Montessori teaching. Rhiannon noted that having mixed age groups across all levels may be difficult for testing.

Question raised about what this might look like for Occupations in Kawakawa? Anna noted that Kawakawa teachers will put forward topics that are related and/or integrated to the outside world and focus on this for 1 term - topics will then change each term. These topics are usually fed back at Coffee House by ākonga presenting what has been learnt.
Tara questioned what do recommendations for the Board mean and what are the areas of development? Anna noted that If it is operational, it will be dealt with by the Principal, who would then be able to take any other recommendations through to the Property Committee.
It was also noted that the Annual Plan holds a lot of this information also, which then feeds into the Strategic Plan. The Principal takes on any recommendations at an operational level and will weigh competing priorities for possible inclusion in the budget.
There was a suggestion to change the wording of "recommendations" to "considerations".

Motion: The Science Report be accepted.

Moved by Lucy / Seconded by Juliette / Carried unanimously with no abstentions or nays.

School Docs Policy Review

Updates will be provided at the next hui for Term 3 upon Ava's return.

BoT Financial Updates

It was noted that if members have any questions in the meantime to please send their questions to Sarah
It was noted that once Hayley returns, the reports will be more detailed, however this may not be until Term 1 2027.
Stacey reminded members that everyone has a responsibility to ensure they understand things are running smoothly, however she also noted that this has been difficult with Sarah coming on board whilst Hayley has been away on maternity leave.
Sarah noted that there seems to be large variances to the budgets and her suggestion would be to look into this further.
It was noted that the Board annual financial reports are yet to be presented (this should have been completed by the 31st May).
Challenges included that there were multiple versions between Schooled and the auditors with lots of adjustments. We are wanting to ensure they are a correct and accurate record. The Auditor has been made aware of the delay as has the MoE. It is looking likely that they will be submitted tomorrow.
It was noted that there are recommendations made in the report that will need to be looked at.

Motion: That the May Board financials are accepted.

Moved by Rhiannon; Seconded by Sadie; All in favour motion carried.

Administration

No administration items.

Other Business

Jo Dyer was elected as Returning Officer for the upcoming Staff and Student Board elections to be held in September.

Agenda for next meeting

- Strategic Plan - 2027/2028
- Community Consultation
- Review Donations
- Interim Report on Reading, Writing and Maths

The meeting closed at 10.17 pm.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 19th August at 7.00pm in the Tāwari classroom at the High School.

Closing Karakia

Te whakaeatanga e, te whakaeatanga e
Tēnei te kaupapa ka ea, tēnei te wānanga ka ea
Te mauri o te kaupapa ka whakamoea, Te mauri o te wānanga ka whakamoea
koa ki runga, koa ki raro
Haumi e, Hui e, Tāiki e

It is completed, it is done, we have achieved our purpose, completed our forum, let the purpose of our gathering rest for now, let the vitality of our discussions replenish, we depart with fulfilled hearts & minds, bonded in our common goal & unity
Written by Scotty Morrison

Signed Presiding Member, Wā Ora Montessori School

Date 21/9/26

Action	Personnel	Due

2026 Council/BOT Meetings

7.00pm at Wā Ora Montessori School – Tāwari Classroom

January – No meeting

Wednesday 18 February 2026 (Week 3, Term 1)

Wednesday 18 March 2026 (Week 7, Term 1)

April – No meeting

Wednesday 20 May 2026 (Week 5, Term 2)

Wednesday 17 June 2026 (Week 9, Term 2)

July-No meeting

Wednesday 19 August 2026 (Week 5, Term 3)

Wednesday 16 September 2026 (Week 9, Term 3)

Wednesday 21 October 2026 (Week 2, Term 4)

Wednesday 18 November 2026 (Week 6, Term 4)