



WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL – BOARD MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting held on **Monday 21 July 2025**

Present: Giovanni Tiso (presiding member), Dominic Killalea (Principal), David Cooling, Geronimo La Hood, Evžen Novak, Wyatt Page, Marama Steele, Nick Tramoundanas, Yaya Alley, Fern Ashby, Aidan Gillespie, Molly Hereaka Bowden, Sophie Hereaka Bowden

Apologies: Fiona Nichols, Nicky Birch

Visitors: Gabrielle Wall - strategic planning (online), Helena Avery - strategic planning (online), Aditiya Malhotra

The meeting opened with the Karakia

Evžen MOVED that speaking rights be granted to the visitors

CARRIED
Geronimo

Strategic Planning

- The Board was joined online by Gabrielle Wall and Helena Avery. Gabrielle led the Board's review of the 2023-2025 strategic plan confirming that the review will contribute to the plan's next iteration. The process is reciprocal between the Board and SLT with Gabrielle as consultant and convenor.
- The strategic plan's goals were previously driven by the NELPs, and are moving towards the new current Government's foci e.g. literacy and numeracy, and attendance
- In the Term 2 break SLT reviewed the current plan and progress between 2023 and now.
- Gabrielle's summary recognised the school's commitment to equity and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Dominic spoke to the work undertaken by the school as part of the most recent strategic plan in terms of each of the values that formed the plan's core: equity, whānau, excellence, respect and ora
- The Board discussed a summary list of key points from the current plan, identifying points to prioritise in the future plan
- The points determined from the discussion will form the basis of a community survey. This will be confirmatory rather than exploratory, reflecting the Board's discussion. Community consultation includes all students, whānau and school staff.
- **ACTION:** Gabrielle will amend the strategic planning timeline as a result of the Board's discussion. The timeline will be recirculated when amended.

Gabrielle and Helena were thanked for their contribution to the meeting and left at 7.36pm.

Aditya left the meeting at 7.37pm

Minutes of last meeting

Wyatt MOVED to confirm minutes from the 16 June meeting as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED
Geronimo

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Reports

Principal's report

- Property: Kathryn Yorke (MOE) has been in contact with regards to the gymnasium allocation. The Ministry's roll projection is not reflected in the number of gymnasia in current property planning. (MoE projected roll 1310: this should provide 2.7 gyms but the school currently has 1.6 as 0.4 of current provision is Board owned).
- The detailed design for WSP continues
- It was noted that the cultural narrative is not reflected in the proposed prefab option.
- The next property meeting will take place towards end of July
- It was noted that the last property meeting did not provide the assurance that Board consent would be required in the property development process.

Wyatt MOVED that the Principal's report be accepted by the Board

Evžen
CARRIED

Te Whānau a Taraika report

- There has been no whānau hui since the last Board meeting.
- Kapa Haka rōpū going to Manawatu for regionals, strengthening relationships across rohe. Kapa Haka competed in Te Whanganui a Tara ki a Ōtaki and now could compete in Palmerston North for regionals in mid-August.
- Next hui is 25 August
- **ACTION** Marama to discuss with Nicky how whānau hui is convened in Whakamarurangi's absence
- **ACTION** Dominic to contact Gabrielle Wall to ensure Te Whānau a Taraika involvement in strategic plan development, ideally this will be the focus for the August whānau hui.

Student report

- The student representatives spoke to the success of Guys and Dolls and the hope that there is a musical again in 2026.
- School mascot - discussions with Student Council will lead to a vote between Wheke, Rātā tree or Kaka bird.
- Geronimo suggested that the Student Council provide a forum for collaborative conversation with students re: strategic plan
- Spirit Week is planned for Term 4 and the Talent Show will take place later this term.
- Fern reported that the Rarotonga trip returned on 18 July and was an incredible experience for all students involved.

Wyatt MOVED that the Student Report be accepted by the Board

David
CARRIED

Finance report

- Wyatt spoke to the Finance report which identified three income streams that have been diminished by the government, two of which hadn't been signalled by the government: ESOL funding, Secondary/Tertiary funding have both been reduced.
- The mid-year revised budget will be presented at the August meeting.
- Lower income in International and from CEC have also been recorded.
- ORS funding has reduced as ORS funded students have left WHS. This has resulted in a reduction in Teacher Aide funding.
- The school is seeking advice from Ministry of Education consultant, David Hyland.
- The Finance Committee will meet regularly to discuss and monitor the budget. WHS does have cash reserves but the ideal goal is not to need to use these.
- It was confirmed that essential spending will be maintained, but some expenditure will be postponed until next year.
- It was noted that donations are down with arrears in some areas e.g. Sports

Evžen MOVED that the Finance report be accepted by the Board

CARRIED
Nick

Geronimo MOVED that the meeting be extended for 15 minutes.

CARRIED
David

Strategic Business

Strategic planning 2026-2028 - see above

Staggered election feedback

Wyatt MOVED that the Board confirm the move to a staggered election cycle.

CARRIED
Evžen

Succession planning

- **Giovanni noted that the new Board should consider co-opting a disability representative.** It was noted that this could also be considered by the Student Council.
- As part of the new Board's induction a half hour session on master planning should be included.
- It was suggested that current Board members be invited to the new Board's first meeting to speak as visitors and support the Board's transition.

Functional business

EOTC

Wyatt *MOVED* that the summary of EOTC approved since the 16 June meeting be accepted by the Board

CARRIED
Geronimo

Tahiti Trip

- This trip has been moved to 2027 as the numbers are not currently viable.

Correspondence received by the Chair and actions taken:

Date		From	Concerning	Action
Magazines, Newsletters, Promotional				
23.6..2025		Ministry of Education	Education Gazette vol 104. No 6	
11.7.2025		NSBA	Onboard - June 2025, Issue 5	
Letters and other addressed mail				
24.6.2025		Simon Russell	Baring Head - letter to Board	
25.6.2025		SchoolDocs	Advisory: Mid term 2 updates	
25.6.2025		Ministry of Education	Notice of disestablishment - Capital City Kāhui Ako	
26.6.2025		NZSBA	Get complaint-smart this Thursday night!	
7.7.2025		Jon Brown	Feedback (include's Dominic's reply)	
3.7.2025		NZSBA	AGM livestream – help shape the future of school governance from home!	
9.7.2025		NZSBA	Board Matters Term 3	
13.7.2025		Heather Collie	Laptop use at lunchtime	
15.7.2025		SchoolDocs	Term 3 review and Board assurances	

Baring Head letter

It was noted that EONZ have revised their entire policy framework. The focus is on developing standard operating procedures to be approved by the Board and applied by the school. This will result in more details than the RAMS form and is an evolution of the current framework.

Nepal feedback

Nothing further has been received and the concerns raised have been taken on board and responded to.

Laptop use at lunchtime

Roblox has been blocked and the parent has confirmed they are happy with the school and Board's response.

Kahui Ako disestablishment

This will have budgetary and staffing implications for 2026.

David *MOVED* that the correspondence be received by the Board

CARRIED
Wyatt

The meeting moved to in committee at 8.39pm.

Karakia

The meeting closed with the karakia at 8.55pm.

For future agendas: (see also the [Board's annual plan](#))