



## **Russell School Board of Trustees 2021**

Meeting of Wednesday 24 February 2021  
Held in Russell School Classroom 4  
Meeting began: 5:35 PM

### **PRESENT**

Melissa Jackson (Principal), Shane Maddren (chairperson), Erin Bomati, Ru Tauri, Louise Davey,  
Guests: Heather Lindauer, Jayne Shirley, Bridget Haagh, Simon Tait, Lara Tauri

### **APOLOGIES**

Bronwyn Fulton (Staff Rep)

### **MINUTES**

Bianca Kindler

### **MINUTES: Wednesday 9 December 2020:**

THAT the minutes recorded on Wednesday 9 December 2020 are a true and accurate record of the Russell School Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting held that day.

MOVED Shane Maddren    SECONDED    Erin Bomati

### **Matters Arising:**

NIL

### **BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **Inwards**

We received an email from Claire Pearson, announcing her resignation from the BOT.  
Resignation accepted.

We received an email from Bronwyn Fulton, announcing her resignation from the BOT.  
Resignation accepted.

#### **Outwards**

An invitation was sent to the community, inviting people to join in on the school year opening ceremony.

### **FINANCE REPORT**

NIL

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

This year, with our strategic plan in place, we will report related to the strategic plan, rather than to NAGs.

Highlights in the report:

We received a donation of TVs from an anonymous donor.

Concrete poured. It might be a good idea to report this to the community.

Staff updates: one staff leaving

Discussion: Is there anything that shows how we track the goals we set in the report? Principal: yes, we report this through the board. If we do not reach a goal, what do we do to make sure we do? Annual plan / policy for each goal so we can track where we are Ru suggested Traffic Light system - to be adopted in principal's reports.. Example: the introduction of devices will require a range of policies for best practice.

Refurbishment. Some jobs were not done to a satisfactory standard. Additional work had to be done, including over Waitangi weekend, to get things ready for the start of school.

The sleepover has been removed from Activity Week due to the current climate.

AOV's. Melissa Jackson clarified some goals set by the Ministry and how teaching staff dealt with them last year. Refers to the handout regarding AOV Reporting. Standardised assessments are in place earlier this year as supposed to last year. Question: Do we review the results of those assessments? Yes, at next meeting.

Back pagoda is being designed. Drafting a plan for fundraising.

Melissa Sunshine Jackson MOVES THAT the Principal's Report for 24 February 2021 be accepted and approved by the Russell School Board of Trustees

MOVED: Melissa Jackson SECONDED: Erin Bomati, Ru Tauri

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Property Update

Council donated whiteboards.

### **BOT Elections**

We will carry the elections over to our next meetings. Election grant of 800 dollars not used.

### **Melissa's appraisal**

Statement is not available yet. We can move this to next meeting or discuss after next Monday.

### **Garden volunteer leaving and negative community reactions on Facebook**

Summary of the situation: The volunteer in question has been working in the gardens for a long time. The school appreciates her efforts. Lately there were a number of issues with how the gardens are run and how petty cash is handled. Over the last 3 months, school staff have had

several conversations with her about this, trying to get her to follow proper procedure and get on board with the Garden to Table program. Unfortunately things did not improve and a break time was proposed by the school. This caused the volunteer to leave permanently and take to the Russell Noticeboard on Facebook to vent her frustration. This has triggered a torrent of negative comments that reflect badly on the school and includes personal attacks on the school principal - to such an extent that she does not currently feel safe at school and at home.

Guests given speaking rights and shared disappointment with the post, responses and offered support to the Principal and the Board.

Next steps? Get the FB post taken down - Louise has contacted the administrators of the Russell noticeboard but they refused. Letter written to the site administrators referring to the Russell School Code of Conduct policy.

Possible response from the school, if any:

Any response should not be on FB, should be thoughtful and not emotional. We cannot give details about why the decision was made and who made it - confidential information. We can answer some questions that do not divulge personal details.

**Meeting closed: 7pm**

**Next Meeting: March 24 2021**