

Minutes of Board meeting – Raphael House Rudolf Steiner School

Monday 20 May 2024

Upper School staff room 6.30pm

Attendance

Karyn Gray (Principal), Tim Angus (staff representative), Matthias Vest (parent representative), Andrea Wakelin (parent representative), Karen Thrumble (parent representative), Janet Molloy (proprietors' representative), Kyle Gibson (Chair) and Max Letifov (student representative).

Janet opened the meeting with a verse.

Apologies

An apology was received from Christine Nicholls.

Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Principal's report

Karyn elaborated on the report. Discussion points were as follows:

- Members discussed joining the Family Violence Alert System. Under this system the School Principal or other staff member would receive a notification from the police if a family from the school had been involved in a family harm episode. The information would then be forwarded to the school's Pastoral Support Team.

Members agreed to join the Family Violence Alert System.

Moved by Matthias. Seconded by Janet. The motion was carried.

- Members agreed to approve the term dates for 2025 as detailed in the Principal's Report.

Investment Strategy

Karyn elaborated on the report. The Board holds \$300,000 in a term deposit that is up for renewal at the end of August 2024. The funds are unlikely to be needed for fixed assets.

Suggestions were as follows:

- Keep \$200,000 for contingency as an emergency reserve and \$100,00 for fixed term assets.
- Retain the \$300,000 for a combined Trust/Board drive towards a new gym building.
- Pay off some of the mortgage.
- Separate the money into two investments.
- Invest to reduce fixed costs – for example to pay for EV panels on roofs to save day-to-day operational costs - and grow a bigger surplus.

- Re-invest the \$300,00 then reevaluate in July 2025 and consider if it might be needed in the next six or 12 months.

Moved by Janet: That the Board accepts the report.

Seconded by Matthias.

The motion was carried.

Actions: Karyn will investigate options for the investment and report back to the Board.

Trust update

There was no update from the Proprietors' Trust.

PTFA update

- The 12 seater van purchased by the PTFA is not expected to arrive before the end of August 2024 due to an issue with the shipment. The PFTFA will be celebrating its arrival with a ribbon cutting ceremony.
- The PTFA are organising a series of workshops for parents involving skills such as wet painting and basket weaving.
- The Fair Craft Group is now running craft workshops in preparation for the school fair. Upper School students have embraced the idea of coordinating activities, and have committed to organising the Cookie Garden, Games of Courage, and the icecream stall.

Student update

Max Letifov provided an update as follows:

- Students from a variety of upper school classes have taken on student leadership initiatives.
- There are a number of student clubs now active within the school.
- Some students are building a shed for the school's new 12 seater van. They have asked if there is any budget available for materials.
- The school's updated phone policy has not been a big change for students because a policy was already in place at the school. Students do sometimes need their phones for class or project work.
- Some students would like to form a rock climbing club and have asked for a rock climbing wall at the school.

In response, Karyn advised:

- There is a budget available for van shed materials.
- Max needs to complete a form to request funds for the climbing wall. Karyn will look at a process for the project and ensure it fits with the school's playground development plans.
- The school provides some lap tops for project work but not one per student. It is rare that every student requires a lap to at the same time so phones should not be required.

Actions:

- Karyn will provide funds for the van shed materials
- Karyn will consider approving funds for a climbing wall once a formal request is received.

March 2024 Minutes

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 25 March 2024 were agreed as a true and correct record.

Moved by Kyle. Seconded by Karyn. The motion was carried.

Matters arising from the minutes:

- Karyn will speak with Brett about pursuing other opportunities to increase energy efficiency once the current lighting upgrade is complete.
- Karyn will find out if there are privacy issues associated with accessing the email addresses of past students.

Communication points for the Bush Telegraph

- Student leadership initiatives
- Student clubs active within the school
- PTFA workshops

Other business

Brett will be asked about organising Biodynamic Preparation 500 workshops

Closing verse

Max closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 7.18 pm

These minutes were approved at the June 24 Board meeting

**Kyle Gibson
Presiding Member**



