

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, 20 May 2025
63 St Georges Rd, Avondale
at 6.45pm at the school



THE BOARD OF
JIREH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 2025

Attending: Sandra Bosman, Andrew Coombridge, Gael Goulter, Vicki Morris, Amrita Sadanand, Shihan Sappideen, Philip Mark Bradley

Apologies: Tavita Fesolai

1. **Welcome** – Andrew welcomed everyone to the meeting and prayed to open.
2. **Devotion** – Vicki opened the meeting with a devotion based on the World Happiness Report. According to the latest report, the happiest nation is Finland (and has been for eight years in a row). The data from the report confirms that people are happier living where they feel cared for and supported. Previous reports suggested that health and wealth featured as important. Vicki's recent journey with her mother, and considering enrolment interviews that she has participated in, people (parents and caregivers) usually respond to the question "What do you want for your child (loved one)?" by saying they want them to be happy, in a nice, safe, secure environment. It's not the goal of our lives to be happy. We need to consider what are we living for. We are told to take up our cross. God uses all the grief, struggle and problems we encounter for our good. Malachi 2:15 states that God created believing husbands and wives to raise Godly children to trust God, and to connect with people to make other lives' better. This is a reminder that our purpose is not just living for what makes us feel good and to be in a nice environment. The best place in life is knowing our security is in Christ and the safest place to be is in His Hands. God is sovereign and He is in control. Vicki prayed to conclude the devotions.
3. **Ika Learning Area Report** – taken as read.
Mrs Breese presented the Ika Learning Area Report.
 - This is Mrs Breese's first year leading the Ika Learning Area on her own. The Ika team are working well together with Joseph and Tori as beginning teachers who have been incredible and joined the Jireh culture well, and Sarah and Linda who add value to the team with their amazing experience.
 - Y4 structured literacy levels are all almost where they need to be.
 - Y5 and Y6 are mixed group with some high needs but with good support; class sizes ensure that the issues are manageable.
 - Ika is blessed with a gifted team who have rolled out an entire music programme on Mondays, students really enjoy it. All teachers get to know all the students in the learning area.
 - Mrs Baird has organized a band, with students leading. Mrs Baird, Mr Lee and Mrs Ballard are all gifted with music and singing gifts.
 - Ika assemblies speak to the wellbeing framework and the overarching character of God.
 - Each of the Ika teachers focus on one area of sport and teach that well, but working collaboratively, upskill each other and take rotations.
 - The workload is heavy with the revised curriculum demands requiring resource heavy planning and new ways of assessing and reporting. Teachers recently completed a 3-day Professional Development Course and use their Curriculum Release Time to keep abreast of the work. It is helpful to keep these issues in mind and not add anything that isn't necessary.
 - New maths curriculum, Pr1me Maths is still being used but also requires some work to align with the new curriculum to ensure all achievement objectives are covered.
 - A question was asked regarding how school attendance has tracked so far this year. The Certificates put in place, have helped as this brings some competition and peer pressure to encourage students to attend regularly.
 - There are good, strong, home-school relationships but this doesn't have as much impact on those students who have high absenteeism.
 - Sandra spoke about the absentee statistics: Only one student is not attending regularly and this is due to struggles within the family. Others listed as chronically absent are because of families taking overseas holidays during term time. Only 4% of our roll are chronically absent. Lateness is a big problem; but this

is usually a parent issue. Mrs Breese said we are mindful in the way we approach and don't just deal directly with the child. Many avenues are used to address the problem: informal chats, letters, meetings.

- Teacher Aides – there is a lot of support, some students have ORS funding. Teachers that need support are receiving it. Eight students in Mrs Breese's room are high needs, and there are more across the learning area. These students are not all special needs, and/or behavioural problems, some are just behind in learning. Mrs Pallesen has transferred her programme to Mrs Breese to help serve this group as teachers have been aware of the needs of this group for some time and have prepared for this. Vicki pointed out that structured literacy for the Y3 group is tracking well for Y4 next year.

Gael prayed for Mrs Breese and her team. Mrs Breese left the meeting.

4. USA Report Back

- Miss Bosman's trip at the end of February beginning of March, was to attend an international Christian conference in Florida. Around 800 delegates attended.
- The highlight for Sandra was meeting Christian educators from all over the world and hearing their stories.
- There was a road trip when the NZ delegation visited several schools; this was a huge eye-opener: there were so many resources available, and lots of wealth evident in the huge school sports fields and facilities and large tracts of land for each school, school theatres, campuses so large that golf carts are required to travel around. There is a lot of private sponsorship.
- Sport is big and it's really promoted – specialised staff, gyms, locker rooms, sports fields. Each student has their own i-Pad that tracks their fitness and strength.
- This is not a classical education but gearing the students for the job market and ensuring they can get into their preferred college. Technology is being used for all sorts of projects.
- The NZ group were blessed to listen to several speakers at Baylor University in Texas, they are using sport to disciple children. Christian schools use their signage in a very intentional manner.
- The group also attended two super churches.
- Sandra reiterated that it was wonderful to network with other Christian leaders and exchange stories.
- Sandra thanked the Board for allowing her this wonderful opportunity.
- Andrew thanked Sandra for sharing the details of her trip.

5. Confirmation of Minutes – taken as read.

The minutes of 25 March 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record.

Moved Andrew/ AGREED

6. Matters Arising from Minutes & Action List

1. Sandra has prepared a draft AI Policy that will be discussed next Tuesday at the SLT meeting. – in progress. It will then go to the policy sub-committee to review.
2. Cola Canopy is still blocked, as the proprietor awaits council approval for building consent.
3. Question re ETAP's suitability: Sandra is in the process of setting up a meeting with ETAP and will be attending a session with HERO (a different student management system provider) to see what they offer. Sandra will present a proposal if it is decided to change the student management system to ensure that data is captured efficiently. It is noted that this is not the year to be making big changes.
4. Sandra has met with Philip Mark to see about bringing two more cabins on site, one for teachers to have a space to work during their release, and the other for small group learning support and counselling. It is expected that they will be placed near Ruru class, behind the sand pit, not impacting the field. An order for these has been placed by the proprietor with the same company which provided the cabin we have on site.
5. Archgolas have been approved by the proprietor and will be put up over Vicki and Skye's office and Ruru class.
6. Skye has broken down the committed costs, in the activity costs budget line, to reflect some of the larger expenses which have not yet been paid.
7. Andrew will send the note to staff to thank them for all their hard work in relation to PAT results.

7. Conflicts of Interest

No new conflicts of interest.

8. Policies

No Policies.

9. Attendance Report

Sandra spoke to the Term 1 data report.

- The visual representation explains the data clearly. We have higher attendance than the Government average, we still actively pursue better attendance for our students, particularly those who are chronically absent.
- All students, showing as chronically absent because of overseas trips, are achieving well academically; it's often high-risk students who have deeper issues involving whānau who show poor attendance. We have made home visits and provided other support to remove blocks from students attending school.
- It is cause for concern for those children missing school as they are falling behind in their learning. This is a national priority. Being absent or late, is also a matter of character; it is not honouring, it is disruptive for the other students and the teacher, the children often lose confidence, and it is unsettling for them. They also are at risk of missing important learning.
- A common-sense approach is used. We are not following up those students who are occasionally two minutes late, but those who are regularly late and by a significant length of time.
- Teachers take the roll twice a day as a legal requirement. Each school day is broken into two half days.
- The punctuality certificate is only awarded if everyone is on time in a class. The attendance certificate is awarded for the class with the highest rate of attendance for the week and then the class who has had the greatest attendance for the term. The winning class gets a pizza lunch.

10. Reports

Principal's Report – taken as read.

- Sandra has added one thing to her report regarding a proposed amendment to The Education and Training Act 2020. Submissions are open now but will be closed before the next board meeting. There is a link included in the report to place a submission.
- The Rata teacher is not returning this year as she is recovering from her injury. Mr Poggenpoel (Mr. Mac) is taking that class for the rest of the year. The Rata teacher is still employed and has not resigned.
- The Government has intimated that funding will stop for Kahui Ako. This is yet to be confirmed and there is no indication of the timing when this will occur.
- There was a question regarding the wait list status. We keep spaces open for younger siblings and need to ensure that our total roll does not go over 300 students by the end of Term 4 each year.

It was moved that the Principal's Report be accepted with thanks.

Moved Andrew AGREED

It was moved that the Board go into Committee at 7.56pm.

Moved Sandra/Vicki Seconded AGREED

The Board came out of Committee at 8.10pm having discussed a confidential issue regarding a student.

Finance & Property Update – taken as read

April Financial Report

Amrita spoke to the April financial report. We have a surplus which is better than expected, expenses are all good. There are no surprises. It was clarified that no deposit was paid for the COLA but that this is a projected cost for the year.

It was moved that the Finance Report for April 2025 be accepted.

Moved Amrita/ Seconded Sheehan AGREED

Budgeted Statement of Financial Position and Cashflow for 2025

It was pointed out that the numbers don't quite equate between the 2024 and 2025 column. Sandra will investigate and report back.

This problem has been resolved over email. All Board members have agreed to accept the budgeted statement of financial position and cashflow for 2025. The known costs have been added for the year, and the others have been left unchanged as we do not know what they will be yet. This is how it is done every year. The Presiding Member has now signed the budgeted statement of financial position and cashflow for 2025.

Proprietors' Representative on the Board

James Kimber's role is being discontinued, and Allan Bates will be away for the next two sessions with Board approval. Philip Mark has attended this session in Allan's stead and agreed to attend the next meeting as Allan is still overseas. Allan is expected to return for the August Board meeting.

The Board paused at Philip Mark's suggestion to pray regarding the blockage with the council consultant planner handling the case for us. Tobias resides in the UK and is contracted to the Auckland Council. Philip Mark has met with the Reformed Church and updated them as to the progress. The pressure is still being exerted on the counsel for consent for building approval.

11. Inward Correspondence – taken as read

- NZSTA Onboard magazine – March & April 2025

12. Future Business

No future business

Next meeting – 24 June. Amrita on devotions.

Andrew closed the meeting with prayer at 8.30pm

Signed as a true and accurate record:

Approved: *A Coombridge*
Presiding Member

24.6.2025
Date