

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, 2 December 2025
held at school at 6.45pm.



THE BOARD OF
JIREH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 2025

Attending: Sandra Bosman, Allan Bates, Andrew Coombridge, Anna Fernandes, Tavita Fesolai, Robyn Lesatele-Paiti, Vicki Morris, Shihan Sappideen.
Greta Mackie attended to give the Tiwai Report.

Apologies: None

1. **Welcome** – Andrew welcomed everyone to the meeting and prayed.
2. **Devotion** – Andrew opened the meeting with a devotion based on John 1:14 and the Christmas message. The Word that steps into the universe, in the person of Jesus, and the Word that brings Christmas to its fullness. He is not distant but close, and becomes vulnerable. Ultimately He came to save and we are automatically drawn to the person who went to the cross on our behalf laying down His life for our sins. He rose again which testifies that He is who He says He is – the Lord of the universe. So, at Christmas we get to be reminded about this, and that resurrected life is available through Him. We know He is going to return and we celebrate that good news. We are reconciled to a good and loving God, that we might celebrate the joy of Christmas.

3. **Tiwai Learning Area Report – taken as read**

Greta highlighted the following -

- Tiwai is blessed to have Maliah this year. She organized the Sports Camp this year which went really well with great results. She has also organized other trips as well as the Camp and the graduation. All staff in Tiwai have worked to their strengths.
- A new teacher is coming on board next year. She has worked in this area already and we feel she will fit in well.
- Curriculum changes are creating extra pressure but there are a lot of positive things around these changes. The shift is around explicitly teaching rather than discovery learning. It does increase teacher workload, but it is for a positive result.

Questions –

- If the government were to change next year, what will happen? Staff shared that a lot of the changes are being brought in world wide and the changes in NZ are in alignment with that. These changes embed a knowledge based curriculum and, in general, people could see a need for this, as could teachers. So, they listened and moved it forward.
- Regarding the GATE programme, it was explained that there isn't a formal programme but students are extended within the classroom. Teachers are always on the lookout for those students who have the potential but aren't quite there maturity wise.
- Special Character – Greta said students are actively engaged with Special Character although she has noticed this year that students are not so keen to pray in front of the class but are happy to pray in pairs. She felt that Christian understanding that used to come from Christian homes is not as apparent as it used to be and felt that there is a greater need for a focus on salvation and salvation scriptures that we didn't used to have to do. There is still plenty of opportunity to develop students who are perhaps missing this in their home life.
- Regarding the pressure that staff are under. It was felt that a real positive is the fact that the Government is not expecting everything to change overnight but are looking to see that progress is being made. Jireh Christian School is in a good place with the new curriculum, and we will continue to move forward with the changes as they come through.

- Music teacher – what could this look like? In the past Linda Baird has run a programme in this area. Yr 7&8 need more expertise than can be offered by general teachers and employing a musician would be the ideal.

Anna prayed for Greta and the team and then Greta left the meeting.

4. Confirmation of Minutes – taken as read.

The minutes of 21 October 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record.

Moved Andrew / AGREED

5. Matters Arising from Minutes & Action List

1. Resolved. This is the issue regarding the cola canopy. Allan gave an update stating that the Kingsway Trust had a meeting, on site, a few weeks ago and told the Principal and the Chairperson that verbal approval from the Proprietor has been given to move forward with the Cola. Once the formal letter has been received by the Board we can continue with this project. Quotes will need to be reviewed as they are nearly a year old and MOE approval needs to be sought once the official letter is received. There is at least 6 months lead time to install something of this nature. Sandra is aware that the contractor will need to be notified about the risks of driving over the court area with heavy trucks. Sandra assured the Board that the money raised from the Walkathon will still go towards the cola and is currently sitting in the PA account. This also means that the perpetually renewable lease with the Reformed Church has been agreed to and signed by both parties. HALLELUJAH! This was needed before Council approval could be sought to develop the land. Today an architect was on site to begin the process of developing some long term plans for this site.

6. Conflicts of Interest

No new conflicts of interest.

7. Samoa Mission Trip – taken as read

Approval is sought to have a Mission Trip next year. The plan is to run these every two years, alternating with a musical. At present 15 students and a number of parents have signed up to go. Three staff members will also go. This trip is basically the same as the previous trip but Board approval is still required as it is overnight. It will take place in the first week of the 2026 October holidays. The ratio aimed for is three children to one adult.

It was moved that the Board approve this trip.

Moved SANDRA / Seconded ALLAN AGREED

8. Annual Plan Update. Confirm strategic goals and annual plan for 2026

Every second meeting Sandra gives an Annual Plan Update to the Board. The new curriculum that is to be implemented is included in the Annual Plan. The 2026 plan has been tweaked and now shows only two goals. This is mainly due to how much work is involved with the new curriculum. Next year's focus is about becoming fluent in structured learning. There will be two literacy leads – Nicola Pallesen for the Juniors and Tash Breese for the Seniors. They will work alongside the Leaders of Learning. Key competencies have been removed, as have NELPS and Kahui Ako as they no longer exist under new legislation. The Key competencies have been refined and are now woven into the learning areas rather than sitting outside them. Next year we will also look at the daily discipleship programme and review that based on our Jireh values. The new achievement target is Reading for Years 4 – 8.

A question was raised about collaborating with other Christian Schools now that Kahui Ako has gone and Sandra explained that three Christian School Principals met the other day to see how we can continue our relationship in some way. It may be that staff visit the other schools and learn from each other. Jireh is very happy to be involved with other Christian Schools and work together.

JCS well-being assessment tool. The survey was done but the results were lacking, and it may need to be supplemented.

The 2026 plan has been put together mainly by senior leadership, and the Literacy Leads, but teachers do have input.

It was moved that the Board adopt the 2026 Annual Plan and the changes to the Strategic Plan 2025 - 2027.

Moved SANDRA / Seconded VICKI AGREED

There will be information accompany the new report so that parents understand the terminology of the new curriculum and structured approach.

9. T4 Curriculum Data and PAT Data – taken as read

Sandra explained the data as this is a new format, and it is the first time that we have done PATs twice in one year. At risk means that if they continued on this trajectory they would not be on the right trajectory for later in their learning and intervention is needed. Overall, the results are encouraging.

The Government now has 4 areas – Well Below, Below, At or Above. Yr 5&6 are the covid children, and this is currently the weakest area.

In 2026 Nicola Pallesen will be taking up the position of SLA and LSC to give intensive support to tier 3 learners who are significantly behind in literacy. She will also be assisting with students with learning needs.

10. Principal PGC – Professional Growth Cycle – Andrew

This year Sandra has worked with Mark Larsen as her appraiser/mentor who has given a summary of the work covered. He also met with Andrew to discuss and give assurance. Mark Larsen was a mentor and went above and beyond and brings a balance and accountability to Sandra's Progressional Growth Cycle

Sandra is part of 2 PLGs as per the Teaching Counsel's move to a PGC rather than an appraisal. The groups are about Principal's supporting each other and sharing professional knowledge. Principals from the south-west cluster (BHB Primary, Avondale Intermediate, Chaucer) and principals from Edendale, Dominion Road and Balmoral Primary, make up the 2 PLGs.

There is a positive side to doing something different and to that end Sandra and Vicki are looking at attending the Springboard Trust Coaching for Leadership programme.

11. Junior playground space – Proposal Sandra – taken as read

More play space is needed for the Junior School alongside the mud kitchen. Three quotes were received.

This spinner can be used by more children, is popular and helps with climbing skills. It is cheaper than the other options we looked at, and they will prepare the ground to match the other playgrounds. The cost will come from Capital Expenditure. The drainpipes for the cabins need to be finished properly first so that they go into the soak hole. They may also need to dig down a bit and put some drainage in. Sandra is to check this and Shihan is to have input. The court run-off needs to be channeled somewhere as well so Sandra will talk to Alan Grave. We are hoping to have this up and running before the start of the 2026 school year.

It was moved that the Board agrees to engage Park Supplies and Playgrounds to install a Spinner at the cost of \$54281.36, with Shihan's guidance supporting Sandra to ensure that the drainage is suitable.

Moved Sandra / Seconded Vicki AGREED

12. Reports

a. Principal's Report – taken as read.

Sandra highlighted –

- Targets should read Years 4 – 8.
- New items included in the report are in italics.
- The Education and Training Amendment Bill – it is important for the Board to read this information.
- We are looking at having our pepeha screen printed on a wall of one of the new cabins so it is visible.
- A new caretaker has been appointed.

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

Moved Sandra / Allan Seconded AGREED

b. Finance & Property Update – taken as read

• October Financial Report

- An amended report was sent out this afternoon after the sub-committee questioned some figures. They responded with the amended report and explained that the difference was in income from the MOE Operating Grant of 100,583 which had included November and December. It should have been split between the three months; October, November and December, \$35,000 allocated to each. There has been good overall performance for October, and we are ahead of budget by \$153,000.

- Overall our financial performance on a monthly basis is good and therefore our financial position is sound, steady and sustainable.

It was moved that we adopt the Amended Finance Report for October 2025.

Moved Tevita / Shihan Seconded AGREED

- **Property Report** – nothing further to add to what is under Matters Arising from the Minutes.

13. Inward Correspondence – Helen

NZSTA Onboard magazine for October was uploaded this evening.

AIS Term 4 2025 Newsletter was included in the pack. The Conference is on 27 and 28 August at the Holiday Inn Auckland Airport next year and Board members are encouraged to attend. Attending helps to gain a better understanding of integrated schools across NZ.

14. Future Business –

- Allan suggested we consider a Deputy Chairperson.

It was moved that we appoint Tevita as Deputy Presiding Member.

Moved Allan / Seconded Shihan AGREED

Next meeting – 17 February. Allan on devotions.

Tevita closed the meeting with prayer at 8.36 pm.

Signed as a true and accurate record:

Approved: *Andrew Coombridge*
Presiding Member

17.2.26
Date