



Stratford High School Board Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday 4 August 2026 at 6.30 pm in Staffroom, Stratford High School

Present:	Jason Loveridge - Chair, Carl Triggs, Brent Watkins, Greg Topless, Kate Machen, Cameron Stone (Principal), Riejanne Campbell (Staff Rep)
Late:	Lily Single (Student Rep), Jane Tobin
In Attendance:	Joe Mack – Board Secretary
Apologies:	

Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

Member	

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Ms Campbell spoke to her Vocational HOD report as circulated in the agenda prior to meeting. She explained the Wanake process and also that a new addition has been added to the Year 13 programme, to be able to continue to offer those students in year 12 a further pathway for the next year. There is currently 9 staff in the department, and waiting for the new Careers Advisor to be recruited. She explained the employment skills students are classed at “at risk” students, and there needs to be attention paid to this stream. The Principal explained the teacher who takes employment skills and life class is generally filled by a teacher with space to teach, rather than employing a specific teacher. He noted that this report recognizes those students who are not ready to enter the workforce are still being looked after in the education space, and it gives them somewhere they feel supported and have some success.

Ms Campbell also spoke about the Gateway and Star funding for use where funding has not been allocated, eg students attending the WOW trip. Currently Taranaki has the highest rate of young adults not in employment, education or training, but we also have the lowest attendance rate of all Taranaki high schools. 3+2 is 3 days at school and 2 days at WITT – it has dropped off in the last few years, but she believes these students still need the school support but perhaps in another way, ie work experience. The students like coming to school but the learning is secondary. Transport becomes a factor as well from Stratford, but hopefully with the curriculum changes coming it could be looked at again. Build a Bach has changed its dynamic this year – building smaller things rather than working on the house as previously. There was also concern with the change of curriculum and the amount of students that could leave school without a qualification or employment skills, and therefore the classes like Gateway will become important.

Jane Tobin entered the meeting at 6.42pm.

Ms Campbell mentioned the success of 4 Gateway students who have now entered into apprenticeships this year, and two more working towards an apprenticeship. It would great to showcase these successes. She showed photos of some of the courses available to the students – scissorlift training, girls day out, working in the workplace, communication, bartending course, security safety training, health & safety, advanced first aid, barista training to name not all. The feedback has been very positive, it's not about credits but learning a skill to take away. The Principal noted these courses have been very relevant which is very positive.

Ms Campbell expressed her concern that students are missing out of things that could help in the Wai Ora space. Another programme that has been successful is Star. These students work one day a week in a local business.

From that programme two students now have part-time jobs after school. It is also a good way for the student to gain a reference from that employer.

The biggest downfall currently is not having a Careers Advisor. She mentioned some schools have employed a teacher in this space, discussion around the pros and cons of this was talked about. The career expo recently held was very positive, with many year 9 and 10 students coming along, which is positive for engagement going forward. A new website will be launched soon, and this will be available for staff, students and families to utilise. It will showcase jobs, events coming up and communications out to the community and families.

Matters Arising:

Matters Arising from previous meetings:

Board : No further discussion took place.

People & Policy Sub-Committee:

The Sub-Committee Chair gave a brief summary of the minutes as attached in the agenda. He advised he will report back to the Sub-Committee regarding the Staff PD Grant, and the Volunteer Proposal.

Finance & Property Sub-Committee:

The Sub-Committee Chair gave a brief summary of the minutes as attached in the agenda. The farm side-by-side has been purchased today after trial. It won't be registered and cover can be through the existing school insurance. The board questioned that it will need to be regularly mechanically serviced and follow health & safety guidelines. The Silks Audit standing items were explained to the Board.

A property meeting regarding the fire upgrade and BWOFF issues was held today, attended by the Principal and Presiding Member. The 5YA budget does not cover what is required for the roofing upgrade, BWOFF and fire upgrade. More quotes will be sought and a further application for an increase in funding will be sought from the Ministry. This means the project to "make a space" within the school will be pushed out. The Presiding Member advised that new costings and plans will now be considered but this will again take time to coordinate. The Ministry appointed contractors in the past have not met expectations.

Lily Single entered the meeting 7.12pm.

1. Confirmation of minutes:

Resolution:

That the Board take as read and confirms the minutes and resolutions of the Board of Trustees Meeting held at Stratford High School on Tuesday 23 June 2026.

Receipt of Sub-Committee Minutes:

That the Board receives the minutes of the People and Policy Sub-Committee held at Stratford High School on Tuesday 28 July 2026, and adopts any recommendations therein.

That the Board receives the minutes of the Finance and Property Sub-Committee held at Stratford High School on Wednesday 29 July 2026, and adopts any recommendations therein.

Moved: Cameron Stone
Seconded: Kate Machen
Carried: ALL

TRUSTEE REPORTS

2. Principal – Cameron Stone – July 2026 Report

The Principal spoke to his report for the month as attached in the agenda. In terms of attendance this Term 3 often has a decline, but SLT is watching this space. Smart Testing is a new assessment tool from the Ministry. It gives a good benchmark of the Year 9 and 10s and the opportunity to see how they progress. He explained the categories of Emerging, Developing, Consolidating, Proficient and Exceeding. In the years to come with the new curriculum and smart testing from primary onwards hopefully these marks will improve.

He also explained the pastoral data in the report, he believed the new SLT structure has been a positive influence on these numbers, with an example being only two suspensions to date this year. Males tend to be the low-level disruption, and the females were higher – being removed from class as an example. Discussion around pastoral entry thresholds were held.

The Guidance referrals were also discussed. There has been a high demand for the guidance support, and the team of two are providing a great service for the students and good work is being done in this space for the school.

The Principal thanked Riejanne Campbell for her efforts with the recent Careers Expo. He also touched on the Blake Experience trip to the MERC Centre in North Shore, Auckland and what a wonderful experience it was for a group of Year 9s.

The Principal spoke to the recommendations and motions requested at the end of his report.

Resolution:

That the Board take as read and confirms the Principal's Report for July 2026 and approves the following recommendations/motions from that report:

- *Apply for TET Grant for \$40,000 to appoint an Akonga Support;*
- *Apply for Capital Grant to cover the cost of the signage, as previously reported; and*
- *Apply for the TOI Programmes and Events Grant to support Maths & Literacy Intervention with a Teacher Aide.*

Moved: Carl Triggs

Seconded: Brent Watkins

Carried: ALL

3. Student – Lily Single

Ms Single spoke to her report as attached in the agenda.

Resolution:

That the Board take as read and confirms the Student Report for July 2026.

Moved: Lily Single

Seconded: Cameron Stone

Carried: ALL

4. Staff – Riejanne Campbell – no report.

GENERAL BUSINESS

5. Kindo – new financial software package

The Principal explained Kindo was at a recent conference the Finance Officer attended. Many schools are already using this app. This platform will allow parents to make direct payments against their child's account, rather than the Finance Officer manually checking the statements daily and transferring the amount to the individual student account. It can also accommodate other documents, eg permission slips for school trips. There would be a monthly charge dependent on the payments received. The Board agreed to Kindo purchase for a one year trial.

Inwards Correspondence

Date	Name	Regarding

Outwards Correspondence

Date	Name	Regarding

PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

Resolution:

That the public be excluded pursuant to section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act. The reason being to discuss matters regarding personnel and students, including Welfare and Discipline Committee, on the grounds to protect the privacy of individuals.

Moved: Jason Loveridge
Seconded: Brent Watkins
Carried: ALL

Meeting closed at 7.40pm

Signed:

Board Chair:  Date: 25/08/26