



PIRONGIA SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Governance Procedure

Meeting protocols

The board of trustees of Pirongia School is committed to effective and efficient meetings and, to this end, sets out the following guidelines for the conduct of board meetings.

Timing of meetings

- Dates and times of meetings will be set by the board at the end of each meeting for three meetings in advance.

Agenda and meeting papers

- The principal is to ensure that secretarial services are provided to the board.
- The minute secretary is responsible, in liaison with the principal, for the preparation of an agenda prior to each meeting.
- Agenda items are to be notified to the principal three calendar days prior to the meeting.
- The agenda and board papers will be circulated to board members at least two calendar days prior to the meeting.
- The board should have access to all correspondence. Correspondence that requires the board to take some action should be distributed prior to the meeting with the agenda. Other correspondence can be listed and tabled so that trustees can read it if required.
- Papers requiring reading and consideration will not normally be accepted if tabled at the meeting.

Public participation

- The board meeting is a meeting open to the public rather than a public meeting.
- Only trustees have automatic speaking rights.
- Public participation is at the discretion of the board.
- Public attending the meeting, including staff members not elected as the staff representative, are given a notice about their rights regarding attendance at the meeting - see 1.1 Public attending board meetings.

Exclusion of the public

- The meeting may, by resolution, exclude the public (going into committee) and news media from the whole or part of the proceedings in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. The wording to be used in the motion to exclude the public is found in Schedule 2A of the Act. The board must make the reasons for excluding the public clear. Excluding the public is most often used to ensure privacy of individuals or financially sensitive issues.*
- Persons may be asked to remain after the public has been excluded because they possess knowledge that will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed. The board must pass a resolution that they may remain.

Conduct of meetings

- A quorum of more than half the members currently holding office is required.*
- Trustees will declare any conflict of interest at the beginning of the meeting.



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- Any trustees with a conflict or pecuniary interest in any issue shall not take part in any debate on such issues and may be asked to leave the meeting for the duration of the debate.* A pecuniary interest arises when a trustee may be financially advantaged or disadvantaged as a result of decisions made by the board (contracts, pay and conditions). A conflict of interest is when an individual trustee could have or could be thought to have a personal stake in matters to be considered by the board.
- The chair shall be appointed by election at the first meeting of the year except in the triennial election year where it will be at the first meeting of the newly elected board.*
- The elected chair (or, in their absence, a non-school-based trustee) presides at meetings.
- Only apologies received from those who cannot be present must be recorded. Trustees who miss three consecutive meetings without the prior leave of the board cease to be members. An apology does not meet the requirement of prior leave. To obtain prior leave, a trustee must request leave from the board at a board meeting, and the board must make a decision whether or not to grant it.*
- Points of order are questions directed to the chair that require an answer or a ruling. They are not open to debate and usually relate to the rules for the running of a meeting.
- The board's normal meeting procedures may be suspended by resolution of the meeting.

Decision-making process

- All decisions are to be taken by open voting by all trustees present.
- In the event of tied voting on a resolution, the chair may exercise a casting vote in addition to their deliberative vote.*
- A motion is a formal proposal for consideration. All motions and amendments moved in debate must be seconded unless moved by the chair and are then open for discussion.
- Motions and amendments once proposed and accepted may not be withdrawn without the consent of the meeting.
- No further amendments may be accepted until the first one is disposed of.
- The mover of a motion has right of reply.
- A matter already discussed may not be reintroduced at the same meeting in any guise or by way of an amendment.
- When a matter cannot be resolved or when further information is necessary before a decision can be made, the matter can be left unresolved for future discussion.

Minutes

- Board meeting minutes will be taken by a contracted, paid minute secretary who is not a member of the board.
- The minutes are to clearly show resolutions and action points and who is to complete the action.
- Minutes are sent to the principal for checking within 3 working days and distributed electronically to the board within 7 working days. Requests for corrections or



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amendments should be submitted by email to the chair as soon as possible to ensure accurate minutes can be confirmed at the next meeting.

- Minutes to be tabled for approval should be included in documentation made available to all board members prior to the meeting.

Meetings

- If is preferable that BOT members attend meetings in person but, if necessary, they can join the meeting by another means.
- Meetings can be held via audio, audio and visual or electronic communication providing:
 - all trustees who wish to participate in the meeting have access to the technology needed to participate, and
 - a quorum of members can simultaneously communicate with each other throughout the meeting.

Special meetings*

- A special meeting may be called by delivery of notice to the chair signed by at least one-third of trustees currently holding office.
- Meetings can be held via audio, audio and visual or electronic communication providing:
 - all trustees who wish to participate in the meeting have access to the technology needed to participate, and
 - a quorum of members can simultaneously communicate with each other throughout the meeting.

* Legislative requirement

Monitoring

This procedure will be reviewed by the board when required.

Date of approval: 18/09/2019

Date of review:



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Public attending board meetings

The board of trustees welcomes public presence at board meetings and hopes that members of the public enjoy their time observing board meetings. Members of the public include staff, students and parents of the school who are not trustees on the board.

These procedures will be provided to members of the public attending meetings so that they understand the rules that apply and will be followed unless otherwise authorised by the board:

- Board meetings are not public meetings but meetings held in public.
- If the meeting moves to exclude the public (usually to protect the privacy of individuals), members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting until this aspect of business has been concluded.
- Members of the public may request speaking rights on a particular subject that is on the agenda. Preferably, this request has been made in advance. Public participation is at the discretion of the board.
- Speakers shall be restricted to a maximum of 3 minutes each per subject, with a time limit of 15 minutes per interest group.
- No more than three speakers on any one topic.
- Speakers are not to question the board and must speak to the topic.
- Board members will not address questions or statements to speakers.
- Speakers shall not be disrespectful or offensive or make malicious statements or claims.
- If the chair believes that any of these have occurred or the speaker has gone over time, they will be asked to finish.

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Committee principles

The board may set up committees/working parties to assist it to carry out its responsibilities and due process (e.g. staff appointments, finance, property, disciplinary).

The Education Act 1989 Schedule 6 (17) gives the board the authority to delegate any of its powers to a special committee, except the power to borrow money.

Board committees:

- are to be used sparingly to preserve the board functioning as a whole when other methods have been deemed inadequate
- can include non-board members but at least one must be a trustee
- may not speak or act for the board except when formally given such authority for specific and time-limited purposes - such authority will be carefully stated in order not to conflict with authority delegated to the principal or the chair
- assist the board chiefly by preparing policy alternatives and implications for board deliberation
- are intended to assist the board and not to advise or carry out the work of staff
- must act through the board and can only recommend courses of action unless they hold delegated authority to act on the board's behalf
- are to have terms of reference drawn up as required, usually containing information as to their:
 - o purpose
 - o membership
 - o delegated authority.

The board of Pirongia School currently has the following standing committees

- Property
- Finance
- Personnel
- Health & Safety

Any other committees established for special purposes should conform to the above principles.

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Student behaviour management committee terms of reference

Purpose

To ensure that all processes relating to the suspension of students adhere to the requirements of the Education Act 1989, Education Rules 1999 and Ministry of Education guidelines.

Committee members

All members of the board excluding the principal. The chair of the committee is the board chair or, in the chair's absence, will be determined by the committee. The quorum for the committee shall be three trustees.

Delegated authority

Under Schedule 6 section 17 of the Education Act 1989, certain powers of the board shall be delegated to the student disciplinary committee of the board of trustees. The committee will:

- act in fairness, without bias or prejudice and with confidentiality
- act within legislation and the Ministry of Education guidelines
- act only on written and agreed information, not verbal hearsay
- use processes of natural justice in discipline hearing procedures
- make recommendations on discipline matters to the board as necessary, or
- decide the outcome of any student disciplinary meeting.

The board will be kept informed by the principal of the number of stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions at each board meeting.

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Finance committee terms of reference and annual calendar

Purpose

The finance committee is formed to provide guidance to the principal in the financial management of the school.

Scoping

The board of trustees has overall responsibility for the financial management of the school but delegates the day-to-day management of the school's finances and budget to the principal.

As a committee of the board, the finance committee is responsible for providing guidance to the principal on financial matters.

Delegated authority

The finance committee is responsible to the board for:

- recommending, in association with the principal, an annual operating and capital budget, including professional development budget allocation for the principal and the staff
- determining the level of budgetary discretion available to the principal
- monitoring and reporting on the annual budget via the principal
- reviewing on behalf of the board accounts passed for payment by the school
- advising on additional funding sources
- assisting the principal to prepare a financial results report, where appropriate, which is to be provided to the board by the principal at every board meeting
- recommending changes to financial policy
- overseeing the preparation of the annual accounts for board approval
- assisting the principal in reporting financial performance to parents and the community
- providing input into the school's strategic plan
- preparing special reports for consideration by the board
- annually reviewing the school's risk management needs and insurance cover
- assessing and making recommendations to the board on requests for spending on individual items outside of budget.

Finance committee annual calendar

Mar-May	Adopt draft accounts once available
31 May	Ensure audited accounts have been submitted to the Ministry *
Jun	Ensure any issues raised by the auditor have been addressed
Jul	Prepare revised budget for approval in August
Oct/Nov	Prepare next year's budget for approval in November
Nov	Minute acceptance of current year's cyclical maintenance figure for YE accounts
	Minute following year's cyclical maintenance figures for following year's budget

* Legislative requirement

Monitoring



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Finance committee terms of reference and annual calendar

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Trustee induction process

The board is committed to ensuring continuity of governance and a smooth transition when trustees join the board. New trustees will receive a welcome letter on their joining the board which includes:

- where and when they can access their governance folder
- the suggested date of the induction
- an outline of what will be covered in the induction meeting
- the date of the next board meeting
- chair and principal contact details.

New trustees will be issued with a governance manual (either electronically or in hard copy) containing copies of the school's:

- strategic and annual implementation plans
- policies
- current budget
- last ERO report
- last annual report
- triennial board workplan
- minutes of the last three open board meetings
- any other relevant material.

New trustees will be invited to attend an induction, facilitated by the chair or delegate, which will include:

- explaining board policy and other material in the governance folder
- code of behaviour - trustees to sign and agree to work within the board's code
- overview of the requirements of the board chair role with reference to policy
- introduction to the strategic plan and explanation of its importance
- summary of any opportunities or risks facing the board
- professional development from NZSTA
- overview of first board meeting - election of board chair, delegations.

The principal and chair or delegate will brief all new members on the organisational structure of the school.

The principal will conduct a site visit of the school.

New board members are to be advised of the professional development that is available from NZSTA and other relevant providers.

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Internal evaluation process

A planned process for internal review enables continuous improvement in the governance and performance of the school.

The board's triennial review schedule is based on annually updated workplans.

A copy of the current workplan will be available to be considered at each board meeting to ensure the evaluation cycle is on track.

Performance for each area itemised on the review schedule will be evaluated against evidence that includes but is not limited to:

- the annual report including the AoV/SoV and audited financial statements
- student achievement data
- Education Review Office (ERO) reports
- feedback from parents, caregivers and staff
- student voice
- principal performance review
- any other means deemed appropriate by the board.

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