

WAIKATO DIOCESAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES – WDSG

Held on Tuesday 15 February 2022 at 2.30 pm via Zoom Conference

PRESENT: Dan Moore (Chair), Giles Brant, Dr Richard Calderwood, Mary Curran (Principal), Thomas Gibbons, Raewyn McPhillips, Dean Anne Mills (joined meeting at 2.40 pm), Brigham Nordstrom, Pat Peoples, Karlene Verryt, Susi Webb (Staff Representative), Ken Williamson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Rev Stephen Black (Chaplain, Chair of Covid Response Team), Delwyn Guilford (Commercial Manager), Theresa Miller (DP Senior School), Joy Houghting (Board Secretary).

APOLOGIES: Jamie Bidois (Student Representative), Doug Wilson.

1. UPDATE ON CURRENT ISSUES FACING THE SCHOOL RELATED TO COVID-19

Rev Stephen Black provided an update on the current number of students absent from school on account of either testing positive for Covid-19 or a requirement to self isolate on account of being a close contact of a positive case. Currently seven students have tested positive.

On Monday 14 February 2022 the number of absent students was 190 and the number had increased to 208 by Tuesday 15 February 2022; approximately one third of the School. Three teachers were also self isolating currently, as close contacts of positive cases.

There was discussion about the impact on the school of further positive cases, with respect to protecting the health and safety of students and staff and effectively managing the administrative requirement to contact trace.

Rev Black and other members of management responded to questions.

2. RESOLVE TO GIVE THE BOARD CHAIRS AND MANAGEMENT THE POWER TO, AT THEIR DISCRETION, TEMPORARILY TAKE ALL TEACHING AND LEARNING ONLINE IF DEEMED NECESSARY

Management was of the view that, depending on numbers, it may become necessary to transition the school to online learning to limit the number of cases and allow staff time to effectively manage contact tracing.

In the face of uncertainty about what the future might look like in terms of the nature of Covid testing and contact tracing, there was consensus that a move to online learning was not desirable, but that Management, in consultation with the Board Chairs, needed to have discretion to effect the change to online learning, should circumstances require it to protect staff and students and enable effective management of contact tracing.


Moved: That the Board of Trustees authorise the Principal and Board Chairs to temporarily take all teaching and learning online if, in their opinion, it is required to manage the health risk and administration requirements related to the present outbreak of the Omicron Variant. The online teaching and learning status should be reviewed regularly with a view to returning to in-person teaching and learning as soon as practicable. The authority granted pursuant to this resolution shall expire at the beginning of term two of 2022.

Dan Moore / Thomas Gibbons : **CARRIED.**

4. MEETING CLOSURE

The Meeting closed at 3.00 pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record:



Chairperson, Board of Trustees

13/4/22

Date