

News from the Board March 2023

Tēnā koutou katoa

It's been a great start to the year, and to anticipate a year without major Covid disruption. Attendance was a major focus for the school and board in 2022 and will continue to be this year. We know it is important to make education inspiring and engaging (and this is a focus for us as a school) but we also recognise it is important for our students to commit to attending school regularly in order to progress in their learning. Attendance is about so much more than academic learning, it gives our ākonga opportunity to be involved in our other three pillars - arts and culture, sports and service. We think these are important activities to foster and want to provide our young people a broad range of opportunities and experiences.

Our School Charter encapsulates our desires for our rangatahi and the strategic direction of the school. Each year we adapt our annual goals to reflect on where we feel the emphasis of our efforts needs to be. In addition to attendance, our 2023 annual goals are focussed on pedagogy (the development of teaching by supporting professional development for staff), student wellbeing (through the provision of free and healthy lunches prepared in-house by the school) and staff wellbeing (recognising and supporting the needs of all staff). At our first meeting for 2023 we reviewed our progress against our 2022 goals – you will find these presented in our Analysis of Variance Document which is available on the Horowhenua College website. We also spent a good proportion of our first meeting examining our NCEA results from 2022. We explore this data by gender, ethnicity, year levels, and it also gives us a steer on what we are doing well, and where we need to make improvements. This is something we use to assist us in planning, including informing discussions the Board will have with the Heads of Faculties at our forthcoming meeting.

Each time the Board meets we endeavour to have visitors from different parts of the school. This enables the Board to learn about the different roles our students and staff have and for the Board to consider how it can support our visitors. At our February meeting we met some of our new staff – it's amazing to learn about their past experiences and all that they bring to Horowhenua College.

As is the norm for our first meeting of the year we elected the Chair and Deputy Chair (Garry Good) and it was great to welcome back our other parent trustees for another year – Bob Slade, Megan Bolton, Jhyslle Ratima, Alasdair Maclean, our student rep Irene Vehikite and our staff representative Chris Fearon and of course our tumuaki/principal, Mr Congdon. Kate Searle also attends our meetings and does a huge amount to support us as Board secretary. During our February meeting we also renewed delegations and membership of the various Board committees we serve on (health and safety, property, discipline, and finance).

It is great to be part of the Board team, and to feel we can contribute to making a difference in the lives of our students. We look forward to all that 2023 brings.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Juliana Mansvelt". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Juliana Mansvelt (Horowhenua College Board Chair)