Minutes for Tahatai Coast School Board of Trustees Meeting

23rd June 2026 – 5.30pm

In Attendance: Tim Acker, Dee Piermarini, Matt Skilton, Calvin Twigg, Anthony Goddard

Apologies: Hayden McCormack, Benji Crossley

Welcome to: Darren Scott, Toni Loveridge

Actions from 26th May 2026:

- No Actions

Minutes from 26th May 2026: Moved Dee , Seconded Anthony and all agreed to approve

1. Bilingual Learning Pathway (Toni)

The Board received an update on the investigation into a potential Reo Rua/Bilingual learning pathway at Tahatai Coast School. Darren and Toni shared insights from their visit to Te Kura o Manunui, highlighting how te reo Māori is authentically integrated across the curriculum and supported through everyday classroom practice.
There was a discussion on the community survey findings, which indicated the strongest level of interest in a Level 4 bilingual programme. Funding implications, programme sustainability, staffing capability and long-term implementation were considered. It was agreed that the preferred approach would be to explore a phased introduction, beginning with a Level 4 programme while continuing to build capability and community understanding. Action: Toni to clarify the Ministry funding processes relating to māori language programme funding levels.

It was decided that the Board supports proceeding to the next stage of consultation, including a community information evening and further expressions of interest from whānau.

2. Community Survey (Tim)

Tim presented the findings from the 2026 Community Survey and acknowledged the overwhelmingly positive feedback received across the school. Members noted the strong sense of belonging among students and families, confidence in the school's culture, and high overall satisfaction.

Discussion identified several themes to inform future strategic planning, including:

- strengthening communication around student achievement and learning progress;
- continuing to develop opportunities for both learning support and extension;
- reviewing consistency of behaviour management practices across the school;
- providing greater clarity around the educational use of digital technologies;
- strengthening partnerships between home and school; and
- continuing to celebrate diversity and foster an inclusive school culture.

The survey findings will help inform the development of the school's 2027–2029 Strategic Plan.

3. Principals Report (Matt)

Taken as read

Student Learning and Wellbeing:

There was a discussion around the importance of maintaining a strong focus on student achievement while continuing to support learner wellbeing and belonging. Members acknowledged increasing learner complexity and the importance of consistent school-wide systems that support both students and teachers.

The Board also discussed the value of greater consistency in homework expectations as a possible way to strengthen learning partnerships with families.

Staffing:

The Board acknowledged the significant contribution of Charlotte James following her resignation after 17 years of service to Tahatai Coast School. Discussion took place regarding the appointment process for the Assistant Principal – Learning Support and Inclusion (SENCO) position and the future structure of the leadership portfolio.

Action: The appointments panel will progress the recruitment process for the Assistant Principal/Learning Support & Inclusion position

The Board also acknowledged Matt Skilton's upcoming Principal Sabbatical, with Darren Scott assuming the role of Acting Principal during Term 3.

The Board approved the TeachNZ Sabbatical applications submitted by Kirsten Bell and Trudi Farrelly for 2027.

Action: Darren to share the term 3 leadership structure while Matt is on sabbatical

Finance and Property:

The Board received the monthly finance report and noted the school's healthy financial position.

Updates were provided on current property projects, including the backflow prevention works, drainage investigations and the construction of additional hall storage modules. The Board approved the construction of six storage units to replace the existing hired storage containers.

Strategic Planning:

The Board discussed the development of the 2027–2029 Strategic Plan. Feedback from students, staff, whānau and the wider community, together with Ministry priorities, will continue to inform the strategic planning process.

Members also discussed the current strategic goal structure and considered opportunities to further strengthen alignment between learning, community and culture.

International Education: (thanks to Rowan)

The Board received an update on international student recruitment, including recent promotional activities in Christchurch and Thailand, as well as future opportunities in Korea and Japan.

Meeting closed: 7.20pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 28th July 2026

Board Chair:

Date: 30/6/26

Actions before the next meeting:

- Toni to clarify ministry funding processes relating to māori language programme funding levels
- Darren to share the term 3 leadership structure while Matt is on sabbatical
- The appointments panel will progress the recruitment process for the Assistant Principal/Learning Support and Inclusion position