

# CONFIRMED MINUTES

## HOD MEETING

At the **February 2026 School Board Meeting** on **24 Feb 2026** these minutes were **confirmed as presented**.

<b>Name:</b>	Waitaki Boys' High School
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, 17 February 2026
<b>Time:</b>	5:30 pm to 7:58 pm (NZDT)
<b>Location:</b>	Waitaki Boys High School, Waitaki Ave
<b>Board Members:</b>	Stacey Hayes (Chair), Akuhata Pirere, Darryl Paterson, Erik van der Spek, Greg FAMILTON, Heather Martyn, Megan Innes, Quinn Neal
<b>Attendees:</b>	Rectors PA Kirsty Sheaf, Linda Crossley, Stephen Briscoe

### 1. Major Decisions and Discussions

#### 1.1 Confirm Minutes

**January 2026 School Board Meeting 27 Jan 2026**, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



#### January 2026 Board Minutes Approved

Approved without changes

<b>Decision Date:</b>	17 Feb 2026
<b>Mover:</b>	Heather Martyn
<b>Seconder:</b>	Erik van der Spek
<b>Outcome:</b>	Approved

#### 1.2 Welcome

Stacey Hayes, Board Chairperson, welcomed everybody and opened the meeting at 5:30pm. There were no apologies, and all members were in attendance.

#### 1.3 Karakia

Stacey presented the Karakia

Kia tūturu tātou  
Kia manaaki tātou  
Kia whai hiranga tātou  
Kia tūhonohono tātou  
Whano! Whano!  
Haramai te toki!  
Haumi ē! Hui ē!  
Taiki ē!

Let's be real

Let's be caring

Let's pursue excellence

Let's connect

Join together and affirm our agreement

We are united in purpose and ready to proceed

## 2. HOD/TIC reporting

### 2.1 Technology - John Robinson

John Robinson, HOD Technology was welcomed at 5:30pm.

He was thanked for his report, and it was marked as read.

Asked what John may like to express to the School Board, John expressed his pleasure at having the two additional technology teachers this year as the school had been searching to fill these roles for quite some time. He stressed how much better for the students it is.

Discussion followed.

John remarked on timetabling, and discussed how he was keen to look at technology in a more creative way, eg: for the tech students to assist with stage settings or other useful applications around the school.

Darryl Paterson, Rector, discussed the changes to the timetable in 2026, and the restrictions on what was possible. MOE have directives for how many hours were recommended for each subject, and it was shared that we have met these requirements.

Discussion followed about the difference in students ability and attitude, and John expanded on that and expressed the challenges around teaching such a variety of students.

New project development was talked about, such as the planned fixing of the cricket pavilion that desperately needs repairs and maintenance by the Tech dept. Discussion followed around proposed plans to develop little buildings and to on sell them. John shared that this proposal was a work in progress as more research was required to ensure that any building work was constructed to industry standard.

Hand tool requests were talked through. Industry standard tools that are able to be used in a school are ideal, it was noted that it would be great to invest in more robust hand tools for the older students. Discussion followed.

Inspire classes have been offered, with over 100 boys selecting Metal Technology, closely followed by Digital Technology. This interest in these subjects are great, and provides food for thought going forward in terms of offerings to students.

John was thanked for his time and attendance to address the School Board.

### 2.2 Agriculture Alan Grant

Alan Grant, HOD Agriculture entered the room at 5:45pm.

He was thanked for his report, and it was marked as read.

Alan was asked how he found working with Fraser Farm. Having been at WBHS for under a year, he talked through his entry to the school focussing on the academic side of agriculture. Alan shared that student interest was more broad with a lot of practical application being sought by students. Since integrating the farm into agriculture, Alan explained how there was limited opportunity for achieving standards except for in a few areas of farming. It was noted that the

resources on the farm are great but that there needs to be a reason to be on the farm, in terms of teaching and learning.

Discussion followed. Alan is keen to continue to build a relationship with Lincoln in terms of exposing students to future career pathways and for visits. None of the current year 13's have shown any interest in moving on to university study, as they appear more interested to get straight in to working, despite many scholarships being available to them. Alan is keen to expose the students to the broad depth study that would lead to potential senior or management positions, and higher earning capacity that university study can offer students.

Specific support that Alan requested from the School Board is some resources, particularly for the junior classes. The heated propagation bench that Alan mentioned in his report is circa 1.5k.

Fencing equipment was discussed, around having more resources so that they could rotate them around. Some old hydroponics system that was in the school was talked about. They are currently not being used, but have been in the past. There are still some parts available. Potential grants for this subject were discussed.

Alan is keen to start a Young Farmers Club, particularly in regards to the Hostel boys, and for the students to learn, and there are good mentors available. A collaboration with Girls High was discussed and how that would work, potential interest etc was talked about. Alan is keen to look at all opportunities to build and expand on opportunities for the students.

Alan was thanked for his time and report.

### **2.3 Social Sciences - Sam Henehan**

Sam Henehan, HOD Social Sciences entered the room at 6.04pm

He was thanked for his report and it was marked as read.

Sam started by sharing how History had challenges last year, but reassured the School Board that with the new good teachers and consistency in staffing, this would improve.

Pacifica studies were changed this year, being smaller classes and with a more experienced teacher in charge, to ensure this will improve outcomes for students.

Tourism numbers have doubled since last year. Sam discussed how it seems that there are more boys staying at school, and this course seems to offer plenty of interesting vocational pathways. They use the NZ School of Tourism for resources and go on trips. Some students from last year had moved on to Queenstown Tourism College to further studies in this area.

Boys struggled with Economics, so they are moving back to accounting for a couple of years.

Discussion was had around getting more students from diverse cultures involved in geography, and Sam was working towards this.

Sam shared that a real effort was made to include more literacy and numeracy in the Social Sciences.

The creek was discussed, and Sam is really keen to see the creek flow. It was acknowledged that the Board was also keen on this.

Collaboration was discussed with WGHS. Polyfest is going to be combined with all of the Oamaru schools collaborating together. Sam is happy with where he is at, and he is keen to move forward with his plans.

Sam was thanked for his report and his time.

### **2.4 Science - Jeremy Mansell**

Jeremy Mansell, HOD Science entered the room at 6:20pm

He was thanked for his report and it was marked as read.

Jeremy began with sharing how pleased he is with results of chemistry and physics. He did mention that he had small numbers last year, and is keen to have more students this year.

He discussed Biology suffering due to a teacher taking a term off in 2025, and the teacher who filled in for them was simply not up to scratch, ultimately resulting in a lot of students being put off biology in 2025 due to this. Quinn was able to confirm that this was his experience.

In 2026 there are 30 in chemistry, which is really pleasing for Jeremy. As team leader, Jeremy is pleased with having more students. A complaint is the cost for trips like Crab Camp, currently around \$200 per student. Jeremy said another 2 or 3k would be really useful to offset these costs. He said they are well resourced as a dept, but is keen to upgrade some of the equipment.

SciPad workbooks are requested, and collaboration was discussed.

Jeremy explained that all three science subjects are required for med school, and for engineering along with calculus. He discussed the support offered to those students who are very academic.

Jeremy was thanked for his report and his time.

## **2.5 PE - Ian Cathcart**

Ian Cathcart, HOD Sport entered the room at 6:45pm

He was thanked for his report and it was marked as read.

Ian talked about how proud he was of results, particularly for the Pasifica boys. Having a change in level 3 has really made a difference providing more opportunity for students to succeed. Along with this, students are given the option to move in to the more academic side of sports.

Ian shared how Level 1 students have improved. He said he was very pleased with his team, and particularly enjoy having Scott Mayhew and Ryan Wilson on the team. He is happy with staffing.

Another area that he is pleased with is the uniform situation, with boys now wearing house colours, and it was noted that when dressed correctly the students seem more engaged. Ian talked about incorporating some outside agencies to come in which has been really positive, and this also provides the students with more connections and resources locally, which is valuable.

Discussion followed around timetabling, and health being incorporated in to learning.

The numbers in senior classes are 2 classes of 22 in them. Andy has 22 students and Scott has 16. Ian was concerned about moving back to 5 periods, but he has found it a positive move.

Reflection and well being is a struggle, but they are hopeful that it will help students and provide further skills for their toolbox.

Ian discussed that PENZ hold a number of events and great conferences that are extremely good for upskilling and networking. With this years conference being in the North Island, they will not attend but would be keen to attend every second year when in the South Island.

The gymnasium floor was discussed, with Darryl Paterson, Rector sharing with Ian that this was raised with MOE who have included that along with other gym building repairs, but it was noted that the funds will not available until July 2026 at the earliest.

Ian was asked about workbooks, and he reassured the School Board that all workbooks are supplied, students just bring a pen.

Ian was questioned how Te Reo was being incorporated, with Ian responding that Scott Mayhew was championing that and leading it.

There remains some external parties using the gym, and the Nathan Smith Performance Centre was discussed. The plan is to have it opened soon at lunchtimes. Membership is \$50 for the year, and students can use it when they want to (not just in school hours), for Year 10 students and above. It was noted what a great resource this is, and that Ian is looking at ways to maximise it.

Extra curricular sports were discussed, with Twyla and Ian sharing that load. Touch was also discussed.

Ian was thanked for his report and for his time.

## 2.6 English - Richard Browne

Richard Browne, HOD English entered the room at 7:07pm.

He was thanked for his report and it was marked as read.

Richard discussed CAA's which feed in to NCEA, noting that upskilling the younger students is one of his aims.

Internal standards don't appear to have had a great pass rate. Richard discussed this standard, and the difficulties around not all teachers having the skill to manage that type of teaching, resulting in some complications. To counter this, Richard is teaching this standard himself. He personally really likes the standard and he has some positive plans to improve the students pass rate.

Internals, some are doing very well. There is a flow on from the junior school, and getting them ready for the more comprehensive standards. Level 1 is considered harder than Level 2, as there are big assessments where you need to be very capable to pass, this makes it difficult for those who do not have that level of skill. NCEA is still in a state of flux. Richard endorsed Level 1.

IT structure was discussed with some staff needing further IT assistance. A digital divide exists, including a digital divide in terms of being able to use digital research skills. AI is very useful but it is a delicate balancing act to arm staff who may be at different levels of competence and confidence using AI, with some upskilling required for them to use it in teaching.

Richard talked of content management tools being very useful. Discussion followed.

Subscription costs were discussed, including various ways to manage that cost. WritersToolbox was really helpful. Richard is keen to meet with them to discuss what options are available for WBHS.

The library was discussed, Richard is keen to see more interactive activities, and scholarship materials available in the library. Richard has an interest in libraries and has some experience with enriching the library environment.

Ugly Shakespeare & Poetry in Action was discussed. He is very enthusiastic about this and the resulting impact on students who are exposed to both of these. Poetry is circa 1.6k to 3k, Ugly Shakespeare is a similar price.

Richard was thanked for his report and his time.

## 2.7 Maths - Emma Prosser

Emma Prosser, HOD Maths was welcomed at 7.30pm

She was thanked for her report, and it was marked as read.

Emma discussed how the departmental goals are challenging, with some students having a lack of skills and others having great skills. She shared that there is a great deal of different levels of ability within the maths classrooms.

Emma shared how there are students who do well with calculus, and this was a direct result of plans within the maths department that were put in place in 2024. Discussion about this followed.

Emma was asked what support was required of the School Board. Emma said that support in teaching, as they are finding some of the lessons released are suitable, and yet teaching material does not yet exist. They are still running off 3 different curriculums putting a lot of pressure on the Maths Dept. Access to teaching resources is substandard.

Discussion followed. Emma explained how having Sue Brydges and her expertise in assisting those with learning difficulties is very valuable, and she, and the rest of the team, appreciate Sue's input.

Emma was thanked for her report and her time.

## **2.8 Music - Nikolai Valov**

Nikolai Valov, HOD Music entered the room at 7:47pm

He was thanked for his report, and it was marked as read.

NCEA analysis from last year was included in the report, with Nikolai (a new HOD in 2026) being keen to improve music literacy, and incorporating NCEA requirements.

He mentioned that small classes would be worth considering, and noted that among other issues he has discovered, the school have a lot of string instruments, yet no strings instructor.

Nikolai is really happy with having a music room full of instruments, as his recent experiences overseas were not so well equipped or catered for.

He really enjoys his Level 1 class, and is very pleased with the students enthusiasm and capabilities.

Nikolai has taken it upon himself to pick up learning how to play the organ within 2 weeks, of which the School Board congratulated him heartily!

Nikolai was thanked for his report and his time.

## **2.9 Art -**

Kay Strathern, HOD Art, was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but her report was marked as read and her report was discussed.

The School Board found her report to be very informative and well presented, with some discussion following.

## **2.10 Chair Scan**

There was no Chair Scan due to this being a Heads of Department meeting

# **3. Meeting Evaluation**

## **3.1 Meeting Evaluation**

Quinn Neal, Student Representative presented the meeting evaluation.

He shared how great it was to receive reports being in the same format, making them easy to follow and read through.

Many good discussions were had with the Heads of Department, and the School Board asked good questions.

All in all, it was a very informative and valuable meeting.

# **4. Close Meeting**

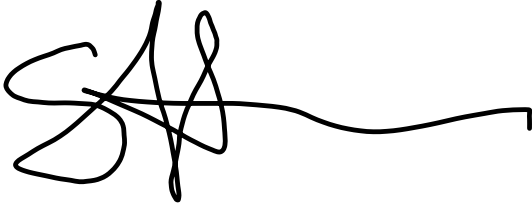
## **4.1 Close the meeting**

**Next meeting:** February 2026 School Board Meeting - 24 Feb 2026, 5:30 pm

Karakia

Evaluation

EOM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SH' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Stacey Hayes  
26 Mar 2026