

CONFIRMED MINUTES

JULY 2026 BOARD MEETING

At the **August 2026 School Board Meeting** on **25 Aug 2026** these minutes were **confirmed as presented**.

Name:	Waitaki Boys' High School
Date:	Tuesday, 28 July 2026
Time:	5:30 pm to 7:30 pm (NZST)
Location:	Waitaki Boys High School, Waitaki Ave
Board Members:	Stacey Hayes (Chair), Darryl Paterson, Erik van der Spek, Greg FAMILTON, Quinn Neal
Attendees:	Linda Crossley, Stephen Briscoe
Apologies:	Heather Martyn
Guests/Notes:	Kirsty Fitzgerald, Jamaya Fisilau, Hineau M

1. Opening Meeting

1.1 Welcome

Stacey Hayes, Presiding Member, opened the meeting at 5:30pm and welcomed all.

1.2 Karakia

Darryl Paterson presented a whakatauki as our opening Karakia:

"Ka whāia te wahie mō takurua, ka mahia te kai mō tau."

If you look for the firewood in the winter, you will have plenty of food all year round.

1.3 Apologies

Heather Martyn, Board Member, gave her apologies for today's meeting



Heather Martyn's apology was accepted

The apology from Heather Martyn was accepted by the School Board

Decision Date:	28 Jul 2026
Mover:	Erik van der Spek
Seconder:	Greg FAMILTON
Outcome:	Approved

2. SLT & Termly Reporting

2.1 Learning Support report

Shona Campbell-Savage, HOD/SENCo was welcomed in to the room and her report was marked as read.

The School Board asked Shona about the additional funded Teacher Aide that the School Board approved earlier in the year, and asked about how useful that additional person was. Shona explained that all additional funding and additional Teacher Aides were appreciated, but the bottom line is that more of both would be really fantastic as both are in short supply against current needs.

Shona went on to explain that last year the decision was made to prioritise a Teacher Aide for every Yr 9 class in 2026 and this had been promised to parents, therefore the Yr 9 classes were prioritised with all except for one class having a Teacher Aide in the class at all times.

This has left some Yr 10 classes not as well supported. Shona explained that as classes get divided, there will still be a struggle. The Learning Centre have ORS students as the primary need focus for support. This results in a challenge with a lot of ORS students being in both Yr 9 & 10. They could always do with more Teacher Aides, however there has been significant progress in the way things have been taught, with both focus groups and RTLB input being really positive. Discussion followed around funding, and the explanation that it was always tight. It was also shared that this term is very busy with school exams coming up and internal assessments. It is common for there to be issues with the allocation of Teacher Aide's during exam time.

Shona shared that Learning Support do their best with what they have, and that there are huge issues at secondary schools where a lot of students arrive at high school with very basic junior levels of literacy and numeracy. This is a nation wide issue, not just a local issue. There is a significant bulge of these students needing assistance. There are no specialists available in this community to assist those students with little or no literacy or numeracy.

Shona was asked how many more Teacher Aide's would WBHS need for next years 5 x Yr 9 & Yr 10 classes. The 2027 students are not yet all finalised so it is a bit early to determine the needs for 2027 yet. Teacher Aide's ideally would be upskilled but that does not seem to happen. Discussion followed.

Shona was thanked for her report and for sharing her thoughts and expertise with the School Board.

2.2 Don House Term Report

Ryan Wilson, Director of Boarding, was welcomed and his report was marked as read.

Ryan began by explaining that the boarding student reports go out to parents twice a term. He is pleased with the response from parents, and states that it allows the boys to do a reset if needed.

Feedback is really valuable from parents, and they are understanding through these reports how their sons are getting on with boarding.

Constructive feedback is provided for the boys to grow, they are open and honest reports, and are seeing improvements with some of the boys who were not doing so well earlier.

Ryan is very happy with the Year 9's who are doing well academically. Pastoral care is very pleasing, and he says that Don House have a great bunch of yr 9 boys, despite some still learning around appropriate banter!

Year 10's need the most focus. Some boys are not doing so well in some subjects. Ryan spends time talking with them and helping them. Some boys are struggling, and these are mostly the boys with behaviour issues at school. Yr 10's are usually the hardest group of any year group. They are the biggest group in Don House, but they struggle with basic expectations. They have always been the hardest to manage.

Ryan explained how there are consequences based around the loss of privileges. Two new yr 10's have started in 2026. Year 11's are academically not doing so well with literacy and numeracy, although there are no pastoral concerns for these boys.

Year 12's are having good results. A number of these boys are involved with ARA courses and Alternative Education pathways. There are no major pastoral issues with the Year 12's or with the 3 year 13's. With so few Yr 13's, the yr 12's have been asked to step up in leadership roles, which has been a challenge for them.

Ryan has no concerns that the Yr 13's will not get level 3 NCEA. One boy has an interview already lined up at a highly regarded station, and Ryan is working with this boy around motivation, working to ensure that he gets over the line.

On the whole, Ryan is happy with how things are going. He has no concerns with staff. During Term 2 was Scrano, that resulted in very disappointing results for the Don House boys who came last in each category. This was a bit demoralising and has taken some time to recover from. Thought is now being put in to next years plans on how to manage the Don House boys, who have far fewer numbers than the other House teams, to ensure that they are able to do better despite their smaller number.

After more discussion, Ryan was thanked for his time.

2.3 Teaching and Learning

Jordan Horrell, Assistant Rector was welcomed in to the room and his report was taken as read.

He started the conversation by explaining that the results from the recent literacy tests were reasonably disappointing. Year 10 was in ballpark of previous year. Literacy had been stronger than numeracy in the past but it has flipped this year. Literacy has been the big focus working towards progress towards NCEA Levels 1-3. On average most students are about 40 credits away.

Some assessments may still be outstanding, and that would explain the low results. Most students are slightly higher than how they appear in the report.

A student with 10 credits who could be DUX next year looked like he would get low results but he has managed to pass everything. If you only looked at the numbers it doesn't look good, but these results are due to the combination of subjects he has chosen to do.

Ryan said that it was pleasing to see how many teachers are trying out the new digital tools, with some teachers raving about how good the move to google has been.

Academic tracking is very important for us. The SLT team are trying it from a few different angles, including now providing Inspire study classes for seniors, and dedicated teaching staff keeping engaged with the students to ensure that they have all they need and to keep the focus.

The School Board asked if there was anything that the board could do to assist with Literacy? Jordan answered no, they feel that the work they have in place will work, but it will take some time. Smaller class sizes are useful, as are Teacher Aides.

Jordan went on to explain that for the literacy exam, lots of students just missed out by small margins, and these are expected to pass at the next assessment.

Discussion followed, including the changes in assessments. When asked about the blob of students who were really struggling without these core skills, it was shared that this is a national issue, and that it may well be Covid related.

Jordan was thanked for his time and his report

2.4 Compliance and Welfare

Stephen Briscoe, Deputy Rector was welcomed and his report was marked as read.

The Red and Yellow card system for monitoring attendance was discussed. It was shared that this system does not help with all students, but there are a number of students whose attendance was showing as lacking, but these students are absent due to sporting events. Now that they know that they cannot play if they have had too many unjustified absences, has made a big improvement in attendance.

There have been changes in Yr 10, from 5 to 4 classes in 2026. There are currently 5 year 9 classes, to 4 year 10 classes. Having 5 year 10 classes would have been beneficial. More classes with fewer students would be very helpful for the junior students.

Attendance communication is causing tension with some families. Our ERO review stated that only one school that they had reviewed was meeting the targets set by MOE. Our auto emails are regularly sent out, with the irony being that those who read these emails are the ones who are responsible parents, but the ones who are not reading these emails about their child's attendance are the ones that the school was hoping to reach.

Discussion followed.

Considerations for the 2027 budget would be additional cameras, behind squash courts, the future pathways area and the farm area.

2.5 International Students Reporting

Darryl Paterson presented Sue Robb's international student report.

There is currently only one year long international student, however we welcomed a new short term international student just today.

With Darryl's upcoming international trip visiting existing international relationships, and building on new ones, we are hoping for 2 x Japanese boys full time next year, as well as our 1 x Ikubunkan student. N High School, who sent a short term group to WBHS early in 2026 are planning a return trip.

Darryl will also be spending time with Vajiravudh students in Thailand, and is hoping for one or two full year students, and of course we will be discussing another short term group trip. This year's short term group trip was extremely successful.

With continued communication from various agents and parents to Sue and Ryan, we are hoping to grow the 2027 international cohort.

There remains on going interest in WBHS as an international destination, and we are committed to building on this.

3. Interests Register & Minutes Confirmation

3.1 Confirm Minutes

School Board June 2026 Meeting 30 Jun 2026, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



June 2026 Board Minutes accepted

The previous meetings minutes have been approved

Decision Date:	28 Jul 2026
Mover:	Greg Farnilton
Seconder:	Erik van der Spek
Outcome:	Approved

3.2 Interests Register

4. BOT Administration

4.1 Casual Vacancies

Stacey Hayes welcomed the three prospective interested parents who had attended tonight's meeting.

She explained the need to fill the casual vacancies, with the statutory time expiring the following day.

It was noted that only one response to the community requested the school go through the election process.

Discussion followed around having three parents co-opted on to the School Board, with this being done online or in person.

Stacey shared that there would be an induction process and a school tour prior to the next meeting.

5. Sub Committee and reporting

5.1 Rectors Report

Darryl Paterson, Rector, presented his report and it was marked as read.

Darryl opened by explaining that each new term he reviews the annual plan and progress to date, with the new additions and updates to the report being highlighted yellow due to this being a cumulative report.

The school have decided to reallocate the Inspire classes to provide students the opportunity for study as we move closer to exams.

As discussed in the SLT presentations, the big focus remains on co-requisites with literacy and numeracy. Darryl has found it very heartening that these strategies are front and centre for all staff. 60 boys in yr 10 and yr 11 are really close to being able to be helped over the line. Discussion followed.

Attendance, as we know from ERO, was the only area of the 14 areas that ERO noted that we had to do better in. Darryl explained that the reports show 45% regular attendance, however there remain so many variables that cannot be controlled that affect these numbers. He shared that the school had improved in the attendance figures by 1% from 2025, but 9% from 2024.

There remain less intermittent absences, being a significant reduction in this area. Of the absences 56% were medical. The school are rewarding boys with 100% attendance, and are doing a lot of positive things to encourage attendance.

The cultural response has been very positive, and is making steady progress. The Hall of Memories Centenary celebrations are moving forward in a positive manner. A marquee for 350 is on hold, with final numbers yet to be determined. Darryl shared that Glenda is doing a great job with the organisation.

Another important initiative is underway, being the creation of an online Old Boys Network. Seed funding for this has already been provided by the WBHS Foundation, and going forward, the management of this will be done with student input.

Discussion followed. Darryl remarked that the improvements in to Lone Pine has been a very positive investment, providing a new safe revenue stream. The student numbers for next year are looking positive. Parent Teacher interviews coming up again.

Darryl was hoping to advise the School Board today that there had been no stand downs, however unfortunately late today there have been two.

Darryl's highlights have been the Matariki celebrations, and the atmosphere at the St Kevins interschool, both were really successful.

First year teachers have provided great feedback that Darryl and Stephen have been able to take with them when talking with new teachers, as part of recruitment. Yesterday he spoke with 2 x Te Reo teachers. Unfortunately one was not interested in working for a boys school, and the other person had logistics issues and no desire to relocate.

5.2 Finance

In Heather Martyn's absence, Linda Crossley presented the financials for both the hostel and the school, and the reports were marked as read.

Both are on track with no major concerns, however from mid year onwards we will be watching spending closely, and will start working on the 2027 budget in the next few weeks.

Discussion followed

5.3 Don House

Ryan Wilson presented the Don House report, with his report being marked as read.

2027 has 8 x enrollments already, which is great. We are hoping for double figures for year 9's.

It looks like we will have 7 boarders for year 10, and with these junior numbers growing, it will feed through to the overall count and we are hoping will continue to grow. Our aim is to get up to 50 boys.

Naturally the possibility of having the Waitaki Girls' High School boarders moving to Don House is another significant potential change for the hostel. This week those girls, their families and current staff are coming over for dinner, and they will be shown around. There will then be a Question and Answer time, and they will be provided with enrollment forms. WBHS will need commitments by Friday 21st of August. This is the first step for the girls and families.

The Virgil St flats were flooded during the recent weather event. Insurance is managing the remedial works required to get them back to being habitable flats.

Lone Pine was very busy over the holiday period with three sports teams who used it, and it was a very positive experience all round. There is only one other group booked in for this term, as at today's date.

5.4 Property

Erik van der Spek presented the Property Report, and it was marked as read.

The 10 year property plan has been finalised, with both bridging and roofing being included.

The flooding was discussed in more detail.

MOE have committed to the removal of the burnt pine trees, on both sides of the road. The school are looking to replace the pines with pittosporums. Removal will need to be timed between the various sports seasons.

Both boilers are running again.

There has been a letter from Network Waitaki regarding the Middleton power lines. Erik will manage this.

Moving the schools archived documents to Archives NZ was discussed and approved.



Relocation of WBHS archived files to Archives NZ

Discussion was had before this motion was carried

Decision Date: 28 Jul 2026
Mover: Stacey Hayes
Seconder: Erik van der Spek
Outcome: Approved

5.5 Policy & H&S

Greg Familton presented his report and it was marked as read.

The Wellbeing At School survey would be circulated to students tomorrow.

Once this is completed, then a survey will go out to staff.

There has been a reduction in incidents this month.

6. General Business

6.1 Inward and outward



Rectors' Leave Request & Higher Duties Allowance for Stephen Briscoe Request

Darryl Paterson is going overseas for the international student recruitment from 7-15 September when he will be working. From 16-25 September, he has requested annual leave (8 days annual leave).

Stephen Briscoe will receive the Higher Duties Allowance for the duration.

Decision Date: 28 Jul 2026
Mover: Stacey Hayes
Seconder: Erik van der Spek
Outcome: Approved

6.2 Chair scan

6.3 Hostel

The final decision will be made at the August School Board meeting.

6.4 PEB (Public Excluded Business)

7. Action List

7.1 Action List

Due Date	Action Title	Owner(s)
26 May 2025	Signage on Sports Fields Waitaki Avenue Status: Completed on 30 Jun 2026	Erik van der Spek
24 Jun 2025	Rectors Residence Status: In Progress	Darryl Paterson

Due Date	Action Title	Owner(s)
31 Mar 2026	Risk Management Status: In Progress	Erik van der Spek
24 Apr 2026	Cut off date for Mid Term Elections for School Board Status: On Hold	Stacey Hayes
30 Jun 2026	Letter to the community regarding Board Nominations Status: Completed on 21 Jul 2026	Stacey Hayes
30 Jun 2026	Darryl to gathering information about the South Island Boys' School Network Status: Completed on 30 Jun 2026	Darryl Paterson

8. Forward meeting schedule

8.1 Meeting Evaluation

Stacey Hayes presented the meeting evaluation.

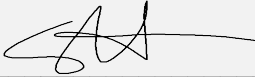
She really enjoyed hearing from the staff at tonights meeting, and she is feeling positive about the opportunity of supporting the girls later this week.

Everything went well with tonights meeting, it was great to have the three interested folk attend, and Stacey appreciated everyones input.

9. Close Meeting

9.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: August 2026 School Board Meeting - 25 Aug 2026, 5:30 pm

Signature: _____

Date: 25/8/2026