



RATHKEALE COLLEGE

Wairarapa

OPEN MINDS | OPEN SPACES | OPEN FUTURES

RATHKEALE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 6.00PM, IN PERSON

PRESENT

Mr M Owen (Presiding Member) Mr M O'Grady (Principal), Mrs S Jonas, Mr M Wailing, Mr D Chapman, Mr N Broom, Mr R Donworth, Mr J Gouws, Ms C Archer, Ms V Read.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs B Gordon (Board Secretary), Mr B James

1. PRAYER – Mr Owen

2. APOLOGIES – Ms Lana Stockman

3. STRATEGIC GOAL 1: Student Engagement and Achievement.

3.1 Mr Owen welcomed Mr Schaeffer, who presented the board with data from the 2024 NCEA results.

3.2 Overall, results for Rathkeale boys and Senior College girls are very pleasing.

3.3 A different assessment structure for NCEA level 1 in 2024, has negatively affected national results. Rathkeale had put strategies in place which has led to good results for Level 1 in comparison.

3.4 The number of boys getting Merit and Excellence endorsements is trending down. This can probably be explained by the increasing trend of boys undertaking vocational courses assessed by Unit Standards, in which students can only gain Achieved or Not Achieved results.

3.5 Retention of boys from Year 12 to 13 at Rathkeale is higher than in some schools.

3.6 UE statistics are also trending down, but data includes boys who do not require UE for what they plan to do post-school, so their NCEA courses would not allow them to gain UE anyway.

3.7 Fewer students are interested in taking NZQA Scholarship exams. The work required vs financial reward provides little incentive for them.

ACTION: A letter will be sent to all teaching staff congratulating them on the 2024 NCEA Results.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Minutes circulated, and on Teams, and taken as read.

Resolved: *"That the minutes of the Rathkeale College Board of Trustees Meeting of 11 December 2024 be accepted as a true and correct record."*

BROOM/JONAS

Carried

5. MATTERS ARISING -Nil

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Mr Owen spoke to the letter which was received from St Matthew's Collegiate School on December 10, 2025, regarding the reduction in the Senior College Transfer.

7. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Circulated and taken as read

7.1 Three teaching staff are away with significant health issues. All staff are supporting those away and each other.

7.2 EAP services are funded by TSTB and available for all staff.

7.3 Mr Owen acknowledged the pressure that exists for the Principal and staff to cover absent teachers.

7.4 A discussion took place about how incidents between boys, both physical and emotional, are captured in terms of Health and Safety Recording.

7.5 Mr O'Grady explained that this information is recorded in Pastoral Care files (on KAMAR).

7.6 The Principal's report contains information from the school counsellor regarding the number and type of issues requiring her input. This summary can be provided quarterly.

7.7 Duty staff in breaks and lunchtimes can alter their surveillance if issues come to light which need to be monitored. This can be informed by data collected in KAMAR.

7.8 Health and Safety is the first agenda item on all Head of Faculty and Assistant Head of Faculty meetings.

7.9 Mr Wailling would like to look at data collected and how this could be reported.

7.10. The 2025 roll is lower than predicted, due in part to the impact on families of their financial situations.

7.11. Marketing for Open Day will have a greater reach. We need to get our good stories out to the community.

Resolved: *"Rathkeale College Board of Trustees approve the company 'Schooled' acting as Returning Officer for the 2025 Board of Trustees Parent Elections, and the Board Secretary, Mrs Barrie Gordon, acting as Returning Officer for the 2025 Board of Trustees Student and Staff Elections."*

BROOM/READ

Carried

Resolved: *"Rathkeale College Board of Trustees approves the following overnight/high risk trips."*

- Duke of Edinburgh Trip to Holdsworth Forest Park 1-2 March
- Year 12 Geography Tongariro Trip 2-4 March
- Year 12 Biology to Pukaha 13-14 March
- Duke of Edinburgh Trip to Aorangi Forest Park 29-30 March

JONAS/WAILLING

Resolved: *"That the Principal's Report as tabled be accepted."*

WAILLING/GOUWS

Carried

8. STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT - Verbal

- 8.1 Boys have adopted a positive mindset to start the year and are embracing new opportunities.
- 8.2 The Year 9 camp was successful, and the prefects assisted with team-building activities.
- 8.3 The Senior College prefect team are organising ice-breaker activities.
- 8.4 There was good house spirit on show at the Athletics Standards.
- 8.5 Rathkeale student leadership is represented in the Trinity Youth Group.
- 8.6 Rehearsals are underway for the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare competition.

9. STAFF TRUSTEE REPORT – Verbal

- 9.1 A new company took student ID photos on Day 1 this year. The process was efficient and contributed to a smooth-running first day.
- 9.2 There is a lot of support from staff for their colleagues who are suffering with illness.
- 9.3 Rathkeale is lucky to have relievers who have been able to step in and cover these teachers.
- 9.4 The Year 9 cohort is responding well to routines and structure.
- 9.5 Year 9s and 10s will be given a small homework notebook. A trial of a digital HW diary was not successful.
- 9.6 Meetings for Core Class teachers have been introduced twice a term.
- 9.7 Two catering staff have left in recent weeks. There was an emotional farewell to them from staff.
- 9.8 The new TTS IT technician is efficient, smiling, and helpful to staff and students.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS –

- 10.1 Mr Owen appreciated the opportunity to speak to staff at the teacher-only day before term started.

11. IN COMMITTEE MEETING

The Board agreed to move "In Committee" at 7.29pm to discuss Rathkeale College Board of Trustees re Proprietor Responsibilities.

Resolved: *"That in terms of Section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act 1987, the public and press be excluded."*

OWEN
Carried

Resolved: *"That the Board move out of Committee at 8.53pm*

OWEN
Carried

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Chair: 

NEXT MEETING DATE:

5.00pm Wednesday 19 March

Archives Room, In Person

Prayer: Mr M O'Grady