



FRUITVALE SCHOOL BOARD

MEETING No: seven

Tuesday 1 September 2025

Fruitvale Staff Room

40 Fruitvale Road
New Lynn
Auckland 0600
Phone – 09 827 2752
Email - office@fruitvale.school.nz

1. Meeting Opened

Karakia

All Present

6.12pm

Poata Eruera

Poata Eruera (Chairperson), Donal McLean (Principal), Tracy Ogden-Cork, Denise Hall (Treasurer), Janelle Callaghan (Staff Representative), Kreepa Rai Shrestha, Alex Kirkham.

Minute Taker

Alex Kirkham

2. Apologies

William Brown

3. Chairperson Introduction

This is our last meeting for this board. Over the last 9 years Donal and I have had an agreement there is to be no surprises and no ambushes. The other night at the curriculum night, I got a good ambush and a good surprise. Flowers, whiskey and chocolate. I want to thank this current board and the teachers and senior management team over the last 3 years. Coming into production week, I do want to acknowledge Mark Phillips of Show Light for supplying the lights, the cost of rental for the 2 weeks would be enormous but he's donating all of that. Dave Seaton is going to be managing all of the lighting on the night. Thanks to Mark Phillips and Dave Seton for their support. Tracy asks if anyone is going to film the school show. The best way to do it would be to have a set camera up above the stage to get a wide shot, and have a roving camera. We'll leave it to the Senior Management Team.

We know that we have a number of candidates for this election. There have been a few withdrawals. We're at 16 per cent of the school population who have voted. Other schools tend to be 6-8 per cent so we're doing ok. We have until the 10th September until elections close so we're doing a push on that. Good luck to our current members who are wanting to sit again.

Poata wants to say a special thank you to Janelle Callaghan for her contribution as the staff representative to the board, and for the valuable insights. It's really great to have a good staff representative.

Donal thanks Poata for the strength and stability he has offered the board, he is irreplaceable. Thanks for the promise of continuing to support the next Chair until the end of the year. Poata has done a wonderful job and is leaving big shoes to fill.

A meal for the outgoing board will be arranged in the next couple of weeks.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting dated 28 July 2025

The minutes sent out and dated 28 July 2025 are tabled.

Motion: That the correct version of minutes of the previous meeting dated 28 July 2025 be accepted as true and correct.

Moved: **Kreepa Rai Shrestha**

Seconded: **Tracy Ogden-Cork**

Passed: **Unanimous**

5. Matters arising from these minutes.

Actions at the back in progress are still in progress.

- Astroturf of courts is completed.
- Worksafe report on bus safety matter completed – no response from Worksafe.
- School zone demographic report – Alex Kirkham and Tracy Ogden-Cork – still to be completed. Tracy will stay on this task even after completing term with the BOT.
- Meet the new BOT applicants event completed.

6. BOT

a. Financial Summary July 2025

For the July Summary, the Projected Working Capital for December 2025 is \$272,033.

This includes a deduction for special reserves for F.F.C. of \$27,730.

Operating Position is at 58% Income 60% Expenses 58%

We currently have Term Deposits amounting to \$450,000.

Fruitvale School's Year to Date surplus is \$19,163 against a deficit budget of \$601.

Motion: Move that the July 2025 Financial and Summary reports be approved and accepted.

Moved: **Denise Hall**

Seconded: **Donal McLean**

Passed: **Unanimous**

(2) ERO documents - tabled.

The 22 page document is something that the Chair and Principal have to fill out for Board Assurance. It's a self-audit process so is easier than previous years. Donal is meeting with Education Review Office (ERO) in term 4 so we have until 2 weeks before that to complete it. Poata included it in the board papers so that the BOT members could familiarise themselves with it.

3) RTLits Report

\$70,000 has accrued since 2010 and is sitting in the RTLits fund. The school is administration for RTLits for a group of schools. There's correspondence between the accountant, Ministry of Education and the Principal that there is no intention by the Ministry of Education to recover this money. We think it's admin money that has come through over time for the school to manage these roles and the school hasn't spent it.

What Donal is proposing is that were acting in a role that required greater administration for managing the RTLits, and so there should be some recognition for that concurrence over the last 15 years.

If they agree, then the money would be held aside until we know the outcome of the high court action by NZEI.

At this board, the BOT gives the Principal the go ahead to propose this to the Ministry, and then it will be up to the Ministry of Education to say yes and no.

Motion: Move that Donal investigate concurrence for the RTLits between 2010 and 2025.
Moved: Poata Eruera
Seconded: Denise Hall
Carried: Unanimous.

(4) Policies - Tabled.

Dogs on School Grounds

From a management perspective, have you had any problems with dogs, are the community respecting the school? There need to be two separate rules for a dog coming in with a teacher as a support dog, and a visiting dog coming in with a parent who is on school grounds for only a short time during pick up and drop off.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

This is going to be a very big issue and we will need to consult on it. One of the RTLBs has done a lot of work on this and has developed a policy. Kids are not yet starting to use AI on their own initiative but it won't be long before they do. In the primary school age group it's not such a threat but heading into intermediate and high school age, much more concerning. We've tabled that policy so everyone can see where the policies are heading.

(5) Attendance Term 2 2025 - Tabled

There is a discrepancy between what the school is recording as an average attendance rate at around 88 per cent last term, and what the Ministry of Education records for our school which states is only 55 per cent of students showing up 90 per cent of the time or more. It's a different way of recording the data. Donal will be asking for clarification on this when he meets the Ministry to discuss ERO.

The Ministry number is confusing and misleading but is essentially saying there is a group of students who are regularly absent. It's a very negative way of reporting attendance.

(6) BOT Elections 2025

We're at 16 per cent, Jacqui is in touch with Eric at the election platform. Reminders are going out to people via email, 28 August, 3 September and 9 September. When they send it out, Jacqui will send one out from the school via ETap as well. Some parents have pulled out.

It is a requirement that the first BOT meeting with the new board be set within 14 days of the election result being confirmed.

RTLB

Monthly Financial Reports

This is all part of the Fruitvale Financial Reports so if we approve those, then we approve these financial reports also.

Annual Report Declaration – tabled

This was completed and sent off on 1 August 2025.

RTLB Term 3 Cluster 6 Newsletter - tabled

7. Principal's Report

The current school roll is 360 students, projected roll is 395.

Production

A note that we have a whānau Māori meeting with parents tomorrow along with Te-Kawerau ā-Maki. Whakawhanaungatanga, sharing stories and pūrākau. That is going to be good to have done before the production. This is the second major event that we have conducted with Te Kawerau-ā-Maki, the first being the art show last year. Met recently with Denise and Josie from Te-Kawerau-ā-Maki, and even though they are mana whenua, inside the gates of Fruitvale, we are pan-tribal. They were understanding and accepting of that. Tracey Moka is our cultural reference point within the school whom we can run things by.

Curriculum

Shirley and Bridget have been in the classroom with kids that are a bit below the average, for half an hour, it seems to be helping the kids and their confidence is building, particularly year sixes, pushing them before they leave.

The literacy process can be a little dry and not very engaging so the teachers are having to try and make it more interesting.

All teaching staff have been on an AI course with Kōtuitui. The Ministry is pushing schools to make sure teachers are exposed to the implications of AI.

Complex student needs

There is a growing number of children with special needs. Some of these are needing more resources than the school can manage as a mainstream school. Around 5 children across the junior school and the same in the senior school fall into this group. They would be extreme cases. Some of whom have Ongoing Resource Scheme funding and some do not.

We are struggling with this as a school because we have a good reputation, families want to come here but we need to manage the applications from out-of-zone families very carefully. Conversation about this needs to continue to be had.

Teacher Absences

The team (Bridget, Shirley and Jacqui) do an amazing job of finding cover for sick staff and juggling absence.

Electricity

Proposal to expand solar resource and add battery on the school so that we can enhance what we are generating. Payback period is around five years, cost is \$116,000 which we pay off through our power bills. Grid feed in tariff is around 12 cents a kWh.

LastMyle meeting about installing Maestro tech into the classrooms – smart devices to optimize electricity use from heat pumps and hot water heating in the school. An electrician has been out to the school.

Security

We are looking to put more safety cameras on the property.

Parent/caregiver survey results.

Motion: Move that the Principal's report to the Board of Trustees be accepted, including the BOT being fully supportive of investigation into more efficient electricity usage.

Moved: Donal McLean

Seconded: Poata Eruera

Passed: Unanimous

8. Correspondence

Inwards -

- Dragon Community Trust, North and South Trust, Milestone Foundation and BlueSky Foundation all declined applications for funding.
- Woodlands Park are moving to include Year 7 and 8.
- NCEA change information was included for parents whose children are going to high school soon.
- RTLits notification letter from MoE.
- Staff function letter – Every year we support the staff with their Christmas function. They've asked for \$45 per person for a comedy show and a contribution to dinner.

Motion: Move that the correspondence be accepted.

Moved: Kreepa Rai Shrestha

Seconded: Janelle Callaghan

Business arising from Correspondence.

Motion: that Fruitvale reapply to Dragon Community Trust, Milestone Foundation, BlueSky Foundation and North South Trust and apply to others for smaller funds.

Move: Alex Kirkham

Seconded: Denise Hall

Carried: Unanimous.

Motion: The BOT will once again acknowledge the staff's dedication to the school with a \$45 contribution per staff member to attend the Staff Christmas Function. Non staff members are not covered.

Move: Janelle Callaghan
Seconded: Denise Hall
Carried: Unanimous

Outwards – None

Move that the inward and outward correspondence is accepted.

Moved: Poata Eruera
Seconded: Kreepa Rai-Shrestha

9. General Business

None

The Chair moved "that in terms of the Local Government Official Information Act 1987 the public be excluded from the meeting because the Board wishes to discuss matters relating to (student's discipline and personal staff matters) and discussion of these matters in public would infringe the privacy of a natural person under Section 9 (2) (a) of the Official Information Act 1982.

Board Meeting Closed : 8.19 pm

10. In Committee 8.19pm pm finished 8.19 pm

No items.

Closing Karakia by Poata Eruera

Next meeting: to be set by the next board.

Actions from this and Previous Meeting/s

In Progress

- a. Obtaining pricing for replacing cushioning under playground areas and concreting around tree areas. - Still in progress.
- b. Astroturf court resurfacing. – Complete.
- c. Report to WorkSafe on the incident on 23 October 2024 with the Day Trip and Touring Company Ltd buses - 20 November 2024 – emailed the business owner Peter Verryt to say there was going to be a report to Worksafe, never heard anything back. Had emailed Worksafe directly on 9 June 2025. No response – May consider this matter closed as they don't always respond.
- d. School Zone matter – Action for Tracey Ogden-Cork and Alex Kirkham to look into understanding the population/demographics of the area (home ownership rates, young families as feeder pupils etc) and how changes are likely to influence in zone and out of zone pupils, in order to support the development of a policy. Still in progress.
- e. Set down a date of Monday 11 August for meeting the people who have been nominated for the Board of Trustees. Full board or whoever can make it – from 6-6.30pm. Event completed.

These Minutes dated 1 September 2025
were ratified by the Board of Trustees on
06 October 2025



Presiding Member (BOT Chairperson)

06.10.25