Board Pānui

March 2026

Kia ora te whānau

From the Boardroom
Our March hui/meeting had a full agenda. We approved the 2026 budget and discussed our 10 Year Property Plan (10YPP). We also talked about whether our current strategic plan is still fit for purpose.

What We're Hearing Across Our Kura
Each month the board receives reports from different areas of the kura/school. This month we heard updates from EOTC, Science and Maths. These reports help us understand what is happening across the kura and give us confidence that things are on track. We also receive regular updates on attendance and pastoral care so we can see the bigger picture.

We appreciate the time staff take to prepare these reports - thank you to Erina Butterworth, Shaun English, Pani McLean and Glenda Curtis, as well as all the staff who have joined the newly created Health & Safety committee.

Planning Ahead in Challenging Times
Like many schools, we are facing some funding challenges this year. Our enrolments have dropped slightly, which affects the funding we receive from the government. Some other funding streams we previously relied on are also less certain.

This creates financial pressure for the school. The board is working closely with school leadership to review our options and develop strategies so we can continue providing the best possible learning opportunities for our ākonga/students.

Our focus is ensuring the school reflects the hopes and aspirations you have for your rangatahi.

Looking at Our Future Direction
One area we are reviewing is our strategic plan. This plan should guide the direction of the kura/school and help shape the decisions we make. While formal community consultation for a new plan is not required until later this year, ahead of a new plan in 2027, we believe the current plan may need a few adjustments.

We will continue discussing this and expect it to be on the agenda again at our first hui in term 2.

Looking After Our School Environment
Property is a major responsibility for every school board. The Ministry of Education provides funding every five years for property work, and schools must create a 10 Year Property Plan to identify future maintenance and improvement needs.

We work with a Ministry property advisor and a project manager to help assess the school's buildings and plan future work. At the moment we are carefully considering where investment is most needed as funding is limited.

Many schools across Aotearoa/New Zealand face similar challenges with aging buildings. Our goal is to make the most of the funding available so our learning spaces remain functional, welcoming, and fit for our ākonga.

Every Day Counts
Thank you for your continued support in getting your child to school each day. Attendance continues to be a focus for us, but we are happy with our term one progress. We hope you all have a safe Easter and school holiday break.

Board Hui & How to Connect
Whānau are welcome to attend board hui as observers. Please RSVP at least 24 hours in advance of our hui to Linda Hutchison, our amazing board secretary if you would like to attend via board@rotorualakes.school.nz.

Next hui: Tuesday 5th May, 5.15pm.

Hui dates and meeting minutes are available on the website under "Board".

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch, please email us at board@rotorualakes.school.nz.

Ngā manaakitanga,

The Rotorua Lakes High School Board
board@rotorualakes.school.nz

Annamarie, Ben, Bruce, Divjot, Gwyneth, Tāmati, Te Ao, Tony & Vernon