Board Pānui

June 2026

Kia ora te whānau

There is plenty happening in the governance space at the moment. This month we'd like to update you on our board vacancy, strategic planning, property projects and uniform review.

NEW BOARD MEMBER NEEDED

We have two options to fill our vacant board position: a by-election or a selection process. A by-election would involve repeating the online voting process used last year but this time just for a single vacancy. As this is a mid-term vacancy, the cost would need to be met by the school rather than the Ministry of Education (MOE).

Given the financial pressures currently facing the school, the Board has decided to proceed with a selection process. However, legislation allows the community to request a by-election instead. Details of this process are included in the official notice at the end of this update/pānui.

No matter which way a person is selected, via election or not, we will be looking for someone with skills in property and/or financial management, governance experience, and the flexibility to participate in committee work. If this sounds like you, we encourage you to consider applying when the process opens. Our board is here to represent our whole whānau community and diversity of voices and opinions is as important as skills.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Every few years the Board develops a strategic plan that sets the direction of the school. With a new Board, a new Tumuaki/Principal and exciting aspirations for our ākonga/students, this is an important opportunity to shape the future of Lakes High.

We are keen to hear from our school whānau/families. Board members and Whaea Gwyneth will be available during parent-teacher interviews next Tuesday and Wednesday, as well as at our Matariki Kapa Haka evening on Thursday. We invite you to stop by, share your thoughts and help us understand what matters most to you and your whānau.

PROPERTY

As many of you know, work continues with MOE regarding our gymnasium. Progress can sometimes feel slow, but we remain optimistic that the outcome will be worth the wait for our ākonga. We did have some more weather-related issues recently and we appreciate our PE staff and our rangatahi/young people for being so understanding.

We also have several areas of the school that require maintenance and upgrades. With limited property funding available, careful decisions are required about where we invest. We are currently finalising our 10-Year Property Plan, which will guide these priorities and help us create a safe, attractive environment our ākonga can be proud of.

UNIFORM REVIEW
The next stage of our review is hearing directly from our ākonga, who are most affected by any changes. This engagement will take place early next term.

In the meantime, we have approved the introduction of a school hoodie as an additional winter uniform option. This decision reflects feedback we received about the woollen jersey. Both items will remain approved uniform choices. We are currently reviewing prototypes and will share pricing and availability information once these details are confirmed.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our kura/school. We appreciate the partnership we have with our whānau as we continue working to provide the best possible opportunities for our ākonga.

BOARD HUI & HOW TO CONNECT
Whānau are welcome to attend board hui/meetings as observers. Our next hui will be held on 18 August at 5.15pm in the Boardroom following the school holidays. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Board Secretary Linda at board@rotorualakes.school.nz at least 24 hours beforehand. Board minutes are also available on the RLHS website.

Ngā manaakitanga,

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

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

Te Kura o Ngā Moana/Rotorua Lakes High School School Board

Casual vacancy for a parent representative

A casual vacancy has occurred on the school board for an elected parent representative.
The board has decided to fill the vacancy by selection.

If 10% or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.

Request for a by-election should be sent to:

Annamarie Jensen
Presiding member (Chair)
RLHS Board
Via email: board@rotorualakes.school.nz

Or post:

Porikapa Rd,
Owhata,
Rotorua
by: Friday 17th July