

# BOT Chair Report – 2018 Senior Prizegiving

Tena ra koutou katoa. Good evening and welcome to the 2018 Morrinsville College Senior Prizegiving.

Thank you to our special guest this evening, Mayor Jan Barnes, for coming along to celebrate this occasion with us.

We welcome representatives from other schools and from local businesses, organisations and service clubs and are very grateful for the community support which Morrinsville College continues to receive.

Tonight as we gather to celebrate outstanding achievement and excellence we extend a very warm welcome to parents and family members who have come along to share in this very special celebration of our school year.

As the Morrinsville College Board Chair, I would like to firstly thank the members of our Board who spend many hours in meetings and discussions to ensure the best possible planning and governance of our school. Our Board is made up of Co-Deputy Chairs Mr Chris Wright and Mrs Tia Wikaira-Wilson, and our Board members Mr Josh Morgan, Mrs Joann Taylor, Mrs Ngaire Te Ahu and Mrs Margaret Wilton, along with our Staff Representative, Mr Kevin Rae. We received resignations from Mrs Irania Hudson, Mr Keith Holmes and late in the year Mr Josh Morgan and during the year the Board has co-opted and selected Mrs Catherine Young and recently co-opted Mr Matthew Judge. Karamjoyth Singh-Ark ended his term as Student Representative in September 2018 when we welcomed the newly-elected Tineke Buser. Mr John Inger, our Principal, is also a member of the Board of course and we are all well-supported by two wonderful people, our Board Secretary, Mrs Grace Martin, and Financial Secretary, Mrs Anne McMillian.

2018 has once again been a very busy year, with a focus for the Board on monitoring the progress of our students, particularly our priority learners, and working with the leadership team to put in place and plan strategies and resourcing to continue to promote the learning of all of our

students. Following a recent presentation to the Board from Deputy Principal Mr Bruce Forsyth, the

Board is expecting that our NCEA results in 2018 will once again be very good. We are pleased that there is evidence that the hard work that staff have put in at Year 11 has paid dividends and that we are expecting a higher success rate with this cohort in 2018. We are also confident that our success rates at Years 12 and 13 will once again be very good and compare favourably with the national and decile comparisons. There has been considerable progress made with improving numeracy and literacy, which pleases the Board. It is also pleasing that we are continuing to retain more of our Maori students to Year 13 and that these students are consistently achieving vastly improved NCEA Level 3 and University Entrance results.

The Board has been very pleased to support the efforts of the staff to implement blended learning in Year 9, with a view to this growing next year to include all classes at Years 9 and 10. We were pleased to be able to upgrade our internet access points during the year and to install some new ones in black spots too, a strategy which should ensure that our fibre network and wifi are future-proofed for the next five years. It was also very pleasing to pick up a significant grant from the Lion Foundation later in the year which will help us to ensure the provision of personal learning devices to our junior students in 2019.

In 2018 the Board has undertaken further property development. In January the upgrade of the Home Economics rooms was completed, with a very satisfactory result. Early in the year we also re-roofed A Block, installed suspended ceilings in some Science laboratories, installed more heatpumps as part of an overall plan to make our classrooms cooler in summer and constructed a new garage to house the school's van and new Gateway car. We have signed contracts for the coming summer months for the replacement of the roofs of the gymnasium, B Block South, Library, Canteen canopy and two P Block classrooms. We

have also made considerable early progress in planning to remodel the existing Hall into a Performing Arts Centre, to begin construction hopefully from this time next year in what will be a staged project because of the significant costs involved.

The Board continues to be very positive about the future of our Morrinsville Community of Learning which includes 11 schools. We see this as a key strategy within our wider Morrinsville community to improve learning outcomes over time for all students. Last year I commented in my prizegiving address that we had seen a significant growth in relational trust between the 11 schools and we have been pleased to see this continue to grow in 2018. A significant step this year was the confirmation of our CoL's Achievement Challenges, so that late in the year we have been able to appoint Across School Leaders and Within School Leaders whose job it will be to formulate a plan to deliver quality professional learning to all of our cluster schools from 2019, with a focus on improving teacher efficacy, student agency, hauora and well-being and community partnerships, particularly with our Maori community. This very able team will be led by our Deputy Principal, Mrs Thilo Govender, who has been selected to take over from Mr Brian Harrop as our CoL Leader for the next two years. I congratulate Mrs Govender on her selection and am confident that she will do an excellent job in leading our CoL's professional learning journey. I want to pass on our grateful thanks to Mr Harrop who over the past two years has inspired our 11 schools' principals and leadership teams in the hard work that has been necessary to get our CoL to this stage. He has done this very competently, while still continuing to ensure that his own school, David Street School, has remained a high-achieving local primary school.

2019 will see the Board continue to plan for the future development and advancement of our school, ensuring that funding is used to optimally benefit students and staff.

A huge thank you to all staff for their outstanding work this year. Once again, strong NCEA results and success across the board in the arts, culture and sporting arenas are testament to the skill, dedication and time given by staff, who often go above and beyond the call of duty.

There will be very few staffing changes for 2019, with only one of our teachers leaving us at the end of the year and another going on maternity leave. This is probably just as well at a time when there is a chronic teacher shortage, particularly in some curriculum areas. As it has turned out, the Board has had to look off-shore for a teacher of Hard Materials Technology because our advertisement drew absolutely no applicants. While we are confident that we have found a very good replacement for Mr John Davidson, the poor teacher supply is a considerable worry. It is to be hoped that our teachers' union and the Government will shortly be able to settle their collective contract negotiations so that there is a significant improvement in pay and conditions to attract more very good people into the teaching profession and back from overseas, as our teachers are critical in ensuring the success of our New Zealand youngsters and the future success of our nation.

At this point, I want to pay a special tribute to our departing Librarian, Mrs Alison Holloway, who is retiring after serving the school incredibly well for the past 31 years. Mrs Holloway has been a consistently helpful, friendly and very knowledgeable librarian who has been well-loved by both staff and students. She has worked hard to maintain the outstanding collection of books which we have in our library and to continually update this collection with a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books, magazines, cuttings for the vertical file and displays. She knows her books so well that she has been very helpful in selecting books for students and staff for their personal reading and through doing so she has promoted the reading of books and developed a huge love of books in many people over her 31 years. We thank Mrs Holloway for her loyal and dedicated service and wish her all the very best for a long and happy retirement. I ask Mrs Holloway to come forward to receive flowers from the staff and students of the school.

To our dedicated PTA, thank you for your ongoing fundraising work and the generous 2018 donation used to allow our learning areas to purchase additional resources which will directly benefit and provide opportunities for all of our students. I will take this opportunity to try to encourage our parents to join this important support group.

Meetings are low key and informal and also provide an opportunity for parents to be more connected with the school, what is happening in the school and to meet new people. This is a great way to support your children and be well-informed at the same time. If you are interested in joining the PTA please contact the school Office staff who will put you in touch with a PTA executive member.

To our Principal, Mr John Inger, a huge thank you from the Board of Trustees. I acknowledge the long hours that you spend working with the Board to lead the strategic direction of the school and to implement strategies that ensure that all of our learners are given the best opportunity to succeed. Your commitment to Morrinsville College as Principal, and formerly as Deputy Principal, over 27 years has been and continues to be outstanding.

Finally, the support of our staff, families and community is absolutely vital and the Board acknowledges and thanks the staff and parents/caregivers for their continuing encouragement, teaching and mentoring of our young people as they progress through their teenage years and into young adulthood. As a Board we are extremely proud of our students and their achievements in all areas – academic, cultural, sporting, arts and civic services to the community. We remain committed to providing the best education possible for all students in our Morrinsville community – to educating fine young people – now and for the future.

Best wishes to you all for the festive season, and for 2019.

Thank you