

C1 Meeting protocols

The New Plymouth Adventist Christian School board is committed to effective and efficient meetings and, to this end, sets out the following guidelines for the conduct of board meetings.

Timing of meetings

- Dates and times of meetings will be set in the board workplan and not go longer than 2 ½ hours.
- A resolution for an extension of time may be moved but will not normally exceed 30 minutes.
- Any business remaining on the agenda at the conclusion of the meeting is transferred to the following meeting

Agenda and meeting papers

- The presiding member is responsible, in liaison with the principal, for the preparation of an agenda prior to each meeting
- The principal is to ensure that secretarial services are provided to the board
- Agenda items are to be notified to the presiding member 3 days prior to the meeting
- The agenda and board papers will be circulated to board members at least 2 days prior to the meeting
- The board should have access to all correspondence. Correspondence that requires the board to take some action should be photocopied/scanned and distributed prior to the meeting. Other correspondence can be listed and tabled so that board members can read it if required
- The agenda for the part of each meeting that is open to the public will be posted on the board's section of the school website at least 48 hours prior to the meeting and copies made available at the meeting place for any members of the public
- The agenda is to be collated with the items placed in order and marked with an agenda item number
- Agenda items will reference relevant strategic goals and board policies
- Late agenda items will only be accepted with the approval of the board and in rare circumstances where a decision is urgent
- All items in the agenda are to carry a recommended course of action and where appropriate be supplemented by supporting material in the meeting documentation.
- Papers requiring reading and consideration will not normally be accepted if tabled at the meeting.
- The order of the agenda may be varied by resolution at the meeting

Public participation

- The board meeting is a meeting open to the public rather than a public meeting
- Only members of the board have automatic speaking rights
- Public participation is at the discretion of the board
- Public attending the meeting, including staff members not elected as the staff representative, are given a notice about their rights regarding attendance at the meeting – see NZSTA model C1.1 Public attending board meetings

Exclusion of the public

- The meeting may, by resolution, exclude the public (going into committee) and news media from the whole or part of the proceedings in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).* The wording to be used in the motion to exclude the public is found in Schedule 2A of LGOIMA. The board must make the reasons for excluding the public clear. Excluding the public is most often used to ensure privacy of individuals or financially sensitive issues
- Persons may be asked to remain after the public has been excluded because they possess knowledge that will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed. The board must pass a resolution that they may remain*

Conduct of meetings

- A quorum of more than half the members currently holding office is required for the board to be able to conduct any business*
- Meetings can be held via audio, audio and visual or electronic communication providing:
 - all board members who wish to participate in the meeting have access to the technology needed to participate, and

- a quorum of members can simultaneously communicate with each other throughout the meeting*
- Board members will declare any conflict of interest at the beginning of the meeting
- Any board members with a conflict of interest or pecuniary interest in any issue shall not take part in any debate, deliberation or decision making on such issues. They must be excluded from the meeting for the duration of the debate, deliberation or decision making.* A pecuniary interest arises when a board member may be financially advantaged or disadvantaged as a result of decisions made by the board (contracts, pay and conditions). A conflict of interest is when an individual board member could have or could be thought to have a personal stake in matters to be considered by the board
- The presiding member shall be appointed by election at the first meeting of the year except in the triennial election year where it will be at the first meeting of the newly elected board*
- The elected presiding member (or, in their absence, a non-school-based board member) presides at meetings
- Only apologies received from those who cannot be present must be recorded. Members of the board who miss three consecutive meetings without the prior leave of the board cease to be members.* An apology does not meet the requirement of prior leave. To obtain prior leave, a board member must request leave from the board at a board meeting, and the board must make a decision whether or not to grant it
- Points of order are questions directed to the presiding member that require an answer or a ruling. They are not open to debate and usually relate to the rules for the running of a meeting
- The board's normal meeting procedures may be suspended by resolution of the meeting

Decision-making process

- All board decisions are made in light of board policy and the board's primary objectives of ensuring that; every student at the school is able to attain their highest possible standard in educational achievement; the school is an inclusive and safe place for all students and staff; the school gives effect to relevant students' rights and gives effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- All decisions are to be taken by open voting by all board members present
- In the event of tied voting on a resolution, the presiding member may exercise a casting vote in addition to their deliberative vote*
- A motion is a formal proposal for consideration. All motions and amendments moved in debate must be seconded unless moved by the presiding member and are then open for discussion
- Motions and amendments once proposed and accepted may not be withdrawn without the consent of the meeting
- No further amendments may be accepted until the first one is disposed of
- The mover of a motion has right of reply
- A matter already discussed may not be reintroduced at the same meeting in any guise or by way of an amendment
- When a matter cannot be resolved or when further information is necessary before a decision can be made, the matter can be left unresolved for future discussion

Minutes

- Board meeting minutes will be taken by a contracted, paid minute secretary who is not a member of the board
- The minutes are to clearly show resolutions and action points and who is to complete the action
- Minutes are sent to the presiding member for checking within 3 working days and distributed electronically to the board within seven working days. Requests for corrections or amendments should be submitted by email to the presiding member as soon as possible to ensure accurate minutes can be confirmed at the next meeting
- Minutes to be tabled for approval should be included in documentation made available to all board members prior to the meeting
- Once minutes are approved as true and correct, recordings of that meeting are to be deleted

Calling special meetings

- If the Board has adopted procedures regarding special (extraordinary) meetings, then those would apply
- In the absence of board procedures, a special meeting may be called by the presiding member. Otherwise, one third of board members currently holding office agreeing to call a special meeting would be good practice

* Legislative requirement