

MINUTES

For the meeting of the **Middleton Grange School Board** **Monday, 16 February 2026**

6.00 - 9.21 pm

Papers taken as read

Present	Mel Hikuroa (Chair), Gregg Le Roux (Principal) , Chris Hannen, Chris Murray, Geoff Wallis, Kerryn Malcolm, Matt Vannoort, Tony Kan, Eden Mackey
In attendance	Shane McConnell (DP Senior College) Hillary Carley (Minute Secretary)
Prior Leave	David Gillon
Apologies	Rebekah Immanuel
Welcome	Eden Mackey, incoming Student Board member, was welcomed to the meeting.
Devotion	<p>Kerryn Malcolm. Ps 133. Unity from the head down. 'Together, Together'. Sit at the tale, lean in, in heart, mind and spirit. Unity is good in the eyes of God and pleasant in the experience of people. Unity is a carrier of spiritual authority and stewardship. What is created in governance is important to creating life giving space. God commands unity which is also life giving generationally. Sitting in humility, grace, stewardship and unity is as important as all else.</p> <p>Kerryn ka inoi / prayed</p>

ELECTIONS

1. **Recommendation**

Made that the Board consider running an end of year digital survey inviting nominations for Presiding Member and Deputy Presiding Member roles. The Board Secretary or Principal could verify that the nominated person is willing to stand and the election then be run via electronic vote at the end of the year. This allows continuity into Jan and Feb and for the first board meeting each year. Agreed to consider this going forward.

2. **PRESIDING MEMBER 2026**

Mel Hikuroa vacated the Chair asked Hillary Carley, Minute Secretary, to lead this section of the meeting.

Mel Hikuroa accepted the nomination for Board Presiding Member

Nominator Tony Kan

Secunder Geoff Walls

CARRIED

3. **DEPUTY PRESIDING MEMBER 2026**

Chris Hannen accepted the nomination for Board Deputy Presiding Member

Nominator Mel Hikuroa

Secunder Gregg Le Roux

Mel Hikuroa and Chris Hannen were congratulated on their appointments and Mel Hikuroa resumed the Chair of the meeting as Presiding Member.

Special Topics

1. YEAR 11 CERTIFICATE

Shane McConnell, DP Head of Senior College spoke to the Year 11 Certificate review paper thanking Richard Vanderpyl for his excellent and informative review, and Isaac Stanton for his magnificent mahi working with the Year 11s and developing the programme including eg Growth Days that will be further developed during 2026. Learnings have been identified and addressed including:

- *Communications* with stakeholders have been developed and improved.
- *Examinations* cannot be moved from the end of Term 3 for various reasons, and parents indicated they wished for exam pressure to prepare students for Year 12.
- *Study Leave* will be reduced to 3 days in 2026 and students will finish school in Week 9 (not Week 6 as 2025).
- *Examination Schedule* has been reduced to 6 exams with Christian Studies having been removed.
- *Assessments* have been reduced to reduce pressure.
- *Preparation* for Level 2 has been achieved with staff confident it aligns well for Year 12.
- *Tracking* of Year 11 students who have not achieved in some way through to Year 12 and Year 13 is monitored and will continue to occur. Lots of students performed well with good results anticipated at L2.
- *International College* students [summary received post meeting: There has been no negative impact on International College students. In fact it is better for the Year 11 students who come in for the first time, as it allows them to get used to systems before they hit NCEA in Year 12. There has been no pushback in terms of students not wanting to come to Middleton Grange School because of the Year 11 Certificate.]

Discussion

- *Student Board Member experience.* Eden stated that whilst having nothing to compare it to, she has found it positive and appreciated the lack of pressure involved in entering the gym for exams and was able to increase her own focus and achievement due to there being less academic pressure.
- *Christian Education Network (CEN) students* have been able to acclimatise better because they have not entered a high stake exam environment.
- *Standards* are being added where this might aid some students eg Science and employment skills courses.
- *Reporting.* Continuous reporting was appreciated by some 10-15% of parents as it provided real time updates on their children's results, however, a majority of parents did not value it. Continuous reporting will cease, however, early intervention is core business and will continue where appropriate and the system enables tracking in liaison with the Learning Centre.
- *Ministry of Education* requirements will be adapted to should they affect the current programme.
- *Special Character*, whilst well set up, is an area for improvement due to the loss of a timetable period. Work will be undertaken with Heads of Faculty with reference to the Foundational Principles for Curricula (FPCs).
- *Assessment changes* to include some Level 2 credits being offered during Year 11, however, these will be limited due in part to timing issues.
- *Transitions from CEN schools.* The Board reiterated their request/understanding that the Year 11 Certificate a) focus on learning rather than assessment thus preparing students well for Level 2 and b) make time at the commencement of Year 11 to intentionally build culture and connections and develop relationships between CEN, Middleton Grange and other students ie Culture Term1 / Learning Term 4. A large number of students from CEN schools were successful in their Year 11 Certificate achievements.
- *Prizegiving* The significant numbers of students who achieved Excellence and were acknowledged by walking across the stage was celebrated.
- The team were congratulated on the implementation of a great programme in a short time frame and their desire to continue thinking creatively to achieve the best academic outcomes for students.

Actions

Ongoing actions / items added by agreement
See Readings below

1. None

Administration

1. ADMINISTRATION

- a. **STATEMENT OF BELIEF / CODE OF ETHICS**
Board Members signed their personal documents.

b. **MINUTES**

Motion

That the Minutes of the meeting of 8 December 2025 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

with the following amendment

Treaty of Waitangi Statement

~~All the Christchurch~~ **Some Christian Education Network (CEN)** Schools have similar statements being sent to their communities.

Moved Tony Kan

Secunder Kerryn Malcolm

CARRIED

c. **DEVOTIONS**

Confirm for next meeting / 30 March 2026 - David Gillon

d. **REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

Updated

e. **BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Updated

f. **INTERNAL REVIEW**

Updated

g. **NZSBA Learning Event**

Board Members were encouraged to sign up for at least one of these events. Video resources are beneficial and a suggestion made that some could be reviewed and discussed at future meetings.

Christan Education Network (CEN) training will follow.

h. **Board Handbook**

[2025 Board Handbook - Final](#)

Discussion

Where any actions are required See Readings

1. **OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Updated

2. **POLICIES / PROCEDURES**

a. **Delegations Policy**

- **2026 Committees** Yet to be reviewed.
- **Appointments Panel** Wording updated as per motion below.

b. **Concerns or Complaints Policy & Procedures**

- Recommendation to accept final draft and SLT work on flow charts, to have the policy reviewed by some key stakeholders eg staff, NZSBA, parents, Critical Friends.

Actions

- Policy to include procedures for where an allegation moves straight to a complaint eg serious misconduct.
- Senior Leadership Team to work on flow charts to have the policy reviewed by some key stakeholders eg staff, NZSBA, parents, Critical Friends.
- The policy to be reviewed and compared to those of other state schools and School Doc policies.

4. FROM THE PRINCIPAL ...

Gregg was thanked for a thorough and informative report.

a. Reporting on National Curricular / Years 7-10

Action

- Provide reassurance to the Board that there are processes in place to identify students requiring support and to cover areas that may have been 'lost' in the move from the old Curriculum Year 5 to the new Curriculum Year 6.
- Identify 'critical literacy resources' / recommended text approach / a rigorous review around Special Character.

b. Attendance Management Plan (AMP)

- Coding will be administered accurately.
- The accuracy of correct coding may impact future Maximum Roll Increase (MRI) applications.

Action

- Report back on the work being undertaken to determine correct coding for Year 11-13 during exam leave / exam / finishing.

c. Trends / OIA Requests

- Increasing numbers of OIA requests are being received. Resources to correctly follow process is being developed.

d. Uniform Committee

- Rigorous work continues on the change to the PE uniform including around cost, modesty and gender neutrality.

Action

- The Board may be required to respond to the proposal before the next meeting by email due to time restrictions around ordering.

e. Student Achievement - NCEA

- Thanks was given for the good results.

Action

- DP School Management, will attend the next (a future) meeting with comprehensive analysis.

f. Canterbury Adventure Race

- The proceeds of the 2025 race were split \$10,000 Primary School (most personnel support); \$4,000 Middle school and \$4,000 Senior College.

Action

- Gregg to investigate whether another group (staff or parents) are able to take over the running of this event.

g. Correspondence / OIA Request

- It appears the request may have been sent to every school in New Zealand.
- The Board does not have policies on trustee use of personal devices.

h. Principal's Strategic Report –

Any questions or discussion?

Motions

See Readings for any relevant papers

1. ADMINISTRATION

Minutes - above

2. COMMITTEES

No Committees have met since the December meeting

3. POLICIES & PROCEDURES

i. Delegations Policy

To adopt the Delegations Policy, noting the Committee sections are yet to be reviewed, and with the following amendments

Appointments Panel

Principal responsible for

16.4.1 Establishing the Appointments Panel in consultation with and with the final approval of the full

Board (and Proprietor if necessary). ~~The panel may include an expert (internal or external) to~~

~~add necessary skill and expertise.~~

16.5 Other Teaching ~~and Support Staff~~ positions

16.6 ~~Other Support Staff Positions.~~ Principal responsible for:

~~16.6.1 Establishing the Appointments Panel. The panel may include an expert (internal or~~

~~external) to add necessary skill and expertise.~~

~~16.6.2 Administering the Process~~

~~If the Appointments Panel is considering appointing someone who is not a Christian, the~~

~~Principal will advise consult the Proprietor before a decision is made to appoint.~~

ii. Concerns or Complaints Policy and Procedures

Not moved

4. PRINCIPAL'S STRATEGIC REPORT

i. OVERSEAS TRAVEL REQUESTS

1. To approve the following overseas travel requests:

- Dean McKenzie attend an AI Conference at Baylor University (Christian), Texas from 23 February 2026 until 3 March 2026.
- Gregg Le Roux and Presiding Member visit Pacific Hills Christian School for a Critical Friends visit during 2026. (provisional)

Moved Geoff Wallis

Secunder Chris Murray

CARRIED

ii. That the Principal's Strategic Report be accepted.

Correspondence

See Correspondence section

1. OIA Request

Verbal update from Management as to whether this is feasible or not; who would undertake; cost etc.

2. Board Email

Investigate a Board email for inward correspondence to be sent to.

Student Board Member

Eden said lots is going on at the start of the year and the new two week timetable is generally working reasonably well.

Eden Mackey left the meeting at 8.04 pm.

Public Excluded

Motion

‘That the public be excluded from the following part/s of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under [section 48\(1\)](#) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of is resolution This resolution is made in reliance on [section 48\(1\)\(a\)](#) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by [section 7](#) of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public.’

Moved Mel Hikuroa, Presiding Member

CARRIED

Motion ‘That the meeting move back into public session.’

Moved Mel Hikuroa, Presiding Member

CARRIED

There was a prayer time following which the meeting closed at 9.21 pm

Next Meeting

Date	30 March 2026
Devotion	David Gillon
Discussion Topic	
Prior Leave	

office@middleton.school.nz

www.middleton.school.nz

03 348 9826

30 Acacia Avenue, Upper Riccarton, Christchurch 8041