

MINUTES

For the meeting of the **Middleton Grange School Board** **Monday, 10 August 2026**

6.00 - 9.09 pm / SLT meeting room

Welcome & Devotion

Present	Mel Hikuroa, Presiding Member, Gregg Le Roux (Teams), Chris Hannen, Chris Murray, Geoff Wallis,
In attendance	Matt Vannoort, Tony Kan, Kerry Malcolm, Eden Mackey, Carolyn Childs, David Gillon, Rebekah Immanuel
Prior Leave	No SLT
Apologies	Hillary Carley, Minute Secretary
Devotion	Eden Mackey: Deut 31:6 and Heb 13:5. Prioritise God over all things. Be strong and courageous because God will never leave nor forsake you. Eden ka inoi / prayed

Special Topic

1. **Special Character Review Preparation / Practising Faith in Learning School Evaluations**

- The Proprietors were thanked for their financial support of this important review.

Dimension Three: School Board Stewardship

The extent to which the School's foundational documents intentionally shape Board governance, demonstrating theological understanding and mission vigilance.

i. **Inducting new Board Members**

Describe the processes the school board uses to induct new board members into their governance role in stewarding the school's Special character, including its Christian foundations, history and traditions, and the respective roles of the proprietor, board, and principal. What evidence shows that this induction cultivates deep understanding and conviction?

- Discussed at 29 June 2026 Board Meeting

ii. **Proprietor role understanding**

In what observable ways does the school board demonstrate understanding of the unique role of the proprietor, and how is clear

communication maintained on matters relating to the school's special character?

- Proprietor Members (up to 4) are part of the school Board.
- The Proprietor, Christian Schools' Trust (CST), CEO is Deputy Presiding Member and works from the Old House on site.
- Proprietor oversees the school's Special Character and property.
- Developing good communication around Special Character is a high priority due to its influence in the life of the school and parent community.
- Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between school and Proprietor.
- Proprietor can consider any variances in understanding of Special Character across it's schools and bring clarity.
- The Enrolment Process includes many robust and regular conversations with the Proprietor.
- Teaching staff Appointments include a Proprietor Member on the panel and a special character reference check is completed.

iii. **Succession Planning**

How robust and forward-looking is the board's succession planning for key school leadership roles, particularly regarding both professional competence and Christian conviction and character?

- The Appointments process is rigorous with Christian conviction and character being of paramount importance and prior advertising used to screen and focus applicants.
- Principal voice about future desired attributes.

Action

- Board to:
 - Include teaching and Presiding & Deputy Presiding Member succession planning in the Board Handbook.
 - Grow Middle and emerging leaders within the Christian Education Network (CEN).
 - Consider ways to connect Middle and emerging leaders outside of the CEN.

iv. **Theological understanding**

What theological understanding of the parent and school partnership most informs the Board's approach to engaging parents? Can you point to a recent example that demonstrates this influence?

- The parent is the first educator and has primary responsibility for raising their child/ren.
- The school assists families in the education of their children with boundaries eg the Board has not allowed provision for vaccinations to be given at school.
- Parents are involved when dealing with challenges involving their children with the Board holding firmly to Biblical expectations which are shared clearly with families, whilst not preventing the school from completing its function.
- Enrolment interviews provide opportunity to relay expectations with families.
- Appointment of Special Character fixed term role.
- Vision/Mission statements and working in partnership with other Christian Schools.

- Understanding around societal legalities, Human Rights, political and Ministry of Education curriculum expectations, Artificial Intelligence and online world, change in family dynamics/unit, mental health, finances etc and our Special Character requirements / obligations.
- Intentionally avoid 'Mission Drift' in many small decisions.
- Intentionally increase Biblical literacy, local church commitment and spiritual growth amongst staff, students and families including the relevance of Scripture and the expectation that we hear the Living God speak in daily decision making.

Actions

- Consider
 - If any improvement in communications between school and parents when privacy may be mistakenly given precedence over safety are required.
 - Any issues / concerns at transition entry points.

Administration

1. ADMINISTRATION

a. MINUTES

- That the Minutes of the meeting of 29 June 2026 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting with the following amendment:
 - 4.iv IBOA Committee: Moved: David Gillon / Seconded: ~~Geoff~~ Gregg Le Roux - Carried

Moved Mel Hikuroa, Presiding Member
CARRIED

b. HUI

i. DEVOTIONS

Hui & 19 September 2026 - Tony Kan and Geoff Wallis

ii. Board Photos

Scheduled for the Board Hui.

c. REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Updated

d. INTERNAL REVIEW

Updated

i. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Actions

- Any 'burning' questions the Board would like answered to be sent to Gregg Le Roux for discussion at Hui.
- Consider how this body of work may be helpful to other CEN schools.
- How much, how well and any misuse of devices throughout the school?
- What is the best age to commence device use - latest research?
- Include parent voice on the issue.

- Budgetary, employment implications - cost, resource, staffing.

e. **Board Handbook**

Update : [Handbook](#)

Discussion

Where any actions are required See Readings

1. **OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Updated

2. **STRATEGIC PLAN 2026**

a. **ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (AIP) / TERM 2 2026**

- The Board thanked Gregg and Senior Leaders for the intentional work in this space.
- There is an encouraging increase in the sharing / hosting of CEN schools, events, PLD etc.

3. **STRATEGIC PLAN 2027**

- The Kaitiaki Group continues its work in this space which will feed into Hui discussions.
- Questionnaires will be circulated to stakeholders for feedback into this soon.

4. **COMMITTEES**

a. **Finance Committee**

A Finance 101 manual has been created for Board Members and time will be provided at the Hui for any questions and answers.

b. **Uniform Committee**

PE Shorts are to be approved, however, no decision has yet been made on which gender will be assigned which style.

5. **POLICY & PROCEDURE**

a. **Delegations Policy**

Will be approved following discussion at the Hui on appointment processes and procedures.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

a. **Tim Lalahi / Pasifika Studies**

Recommendation from Mel that this is given discussion time at the Hui and an associated paper, including implications, will be prepared.

7. **FROM THE PRINCIPAL ...**

a. **Primary School Head of School Report / Term 2 2026**

- Encouraging and thorough report that includes a detailed Special Character and (parent) service opportunities.
- Good to hear of the Primary School worship band.

- Curriculum change is impacting all areas of the school.

Action

- Encourage student leaders to identify more opportunities for students to serve.
- The updated Primary School Head of School Report that included information on the curriculum leap for some Primary School students has been uploaded to August OneNote.

b. Middle School Head of School Report / Term 2 2026

- Encouraging student voice from students who transitioned into Year 9 2026 from Rolleston Christian School (RCS).
- Some families continue to remove students for holidays during term time. The Attendance Management Plan (AMP) provides clarity for staff and families.
- Conversations around the Te Haerenger programme for 2027 are underway.

Action

- Management to determine if any further resourcing is required to aid transition into Year 9 from RCS.

c. Senior College Head of School Report / Term 2 2026

- The 11 week term has been challenging for students with end of term assessments ongoing.
- Attendance is understood and managed appropriately and well by the Deans and Senior Leader.
- Vandalism in toilet blocks is being monitored and solutions sought / implemented.
- Challenges for staff include the constant curriculum changes. The upcoming Teacher Only Days will provide space for staff to plan and reflect on next steps.

Action

- Future reports Include brief commentary on reasons for absences eg medical etc.

d. International College Head of School Report / Term 2 2026

- Recent staffing changes continue to be challenging for the International College.
- The professionalism of the International College staff was noted and they were congratulated on the number of FTE students enrolled in the IC.

Action

- Future reports to include a section on 'Challenges', prayer points to be more specific and a commentary on how International College students integrate with domestic students.

e. Learning Centre House / Zohar House

Action

Chris Hannen to contact Proprietor to consider approving proposed name change.

f. Prayer Space

A discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of a dedicated, non-integrated, exclusive for prayer space giving consideration to the evangelical Special Character nature of the school.

Action

Proprietor to be asked to provide their feedback on the request for a separate prayer / sensory-quiet space within the school.

g. EOTC Board Training

Action

Presiding Member and Principal to discuss training, inclusion of other Boards/schools further.

Motions

See Readings for any relevant papers

1. ADMINISTRATION

i. Minutes - above

ii. Board Elections 2026 - Student

1. To appoint Vanessa Manning, Administration Support / Student Services, as Returning Officer for the Student Board Member Elections 2026
To ratify the email motion of 27 July 2026 be approved.

Moved Mel Hikuroa, Presiding Member

RATIFIED

2. That the Student Member Board elections will be held on Thursday 3 September 2026.

Moved Mel Hikuroa, Presiding Member

CARRIED

2. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

None this meeting

3. COMMITTEES

i. Finance Committee

To accept the Minutes of the 31 July 2026 Committee meeting and any recommendations contained therein.

1. Richard Vanderpyl to provide methodology and a quote to complete this work providing: 4–5 scenarios to assess and identify the optimal Granary target in order for the school to remain resilient.

NOT MOVED

ii. Uniform Committee

(Not moved since 11 May 2026. Deferred for review)

To accept the following recommendations of, but not the Minutes, of the 23 April 2026 Committee meeting.

1. That the Terms of Reference were confirmed and adopted by the committee.
2. That Christine Buckley be formally confirmed as Chair of the Uniform Committee as per Delegations.
3. That the PE Top Sample be approved without further amendments.
4. That both PE shorts styles be approved subject to:

- Updated shield design
- Inclusion of zip pockets as discussed by the Uniform Committee

Moved David Gillon

Seconder Kerry Malcolm

CARRIED

4. POLICY & PROCEDURE

i. Sensitive Expenditure & Gifts Policy

That the Board approve the Sensitive Expenditure Policy.

Moved Chris Hannen

Seconder Tony Kan

CARRIED

- ii. **Delegations Policy**
Deferred from last meeting
That the Board approve the Delegations Policy.
NOT MOVED

5. PRINCIPAL'S STRATEGIC REPORT

- i. **Learning Centre House / Zohar House**
That the name of Learning Centre House be changed to Zohar House, with effect from Monday 17 August 2026
NOT MOVED
- ii. **That the Principal's Strategic Report be accepted**
Moved Geoff Wallis
Seconder Matt Vannoort
CARRIED

Correspondence

Noted

Student Board Member

The term has started pretty well, however, the vandalism in the bathrooms is challenging for students using them. It is an area students would welcome a solution to. Please do pray for students about to undertake their Prelim examinations. Eden thanked teachers for 'having students backs' at this stressful time.

The Board prayed in small groups and Eden left the meeting at 8.03pm.

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

The meeting closed in prayer at 9.09 pm

Next Meeting

Date	Hui & 19 September 2026
Devotion	Tony Kan & Geoff Wallis
Discussion Topic	

Prior Leave

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