

Aranda Primary School
School Board Minutes
Wednesday 27 August 2025 7.45am
Community Room, Library

PRESENT	
Liz Allen (8.09am)	Board Chair
Scott Pearce	Principal
Ian Harding	Appointed Member
Dahlia Cerro	Teacher Representative
James Harrison	Teacher Representative
Jonathan Dampney	P & C Representative
Blain Berhanu	P & C Representative
Rachel Dunlop	Invited Visitor
Ellie Duckett	Invited Visitor
	Invited Visitor
Grace Edwards	Minute Secretary / Business Manager

APOLOGIES

Ellie Duckett


CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

Liz and Jonathan both work at ANU. They both work in separate areas and do not communicate at work.

MEETING OPENED: 7.56am

ISSUES	OUTCOMES
Minutes of Previous Meeting	Minutes tabled for 7 May meeting. *Changes to reflect Liz Board Chair and Blain Deputy Board Chair. Accepted Moved: NAME Seconded: NAME

ISSUES	OUTCOMES
Business Arising from previous minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nil
Correspondence In	<p>YWCA Before School Care met with Scott during the week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not financially viable - Looking at closing before school care. YWCA will work on communication with Directorate and speak to families individually. - 15 families effected across the week
Correspondence Out	
Principal Report – Scott Pearce	<p>Staffing Budget Pressures & Outlook</p> <p>System Context - Process suspended for one week effective from 25 August.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No cuts to 2025 budgets <p>JD: What is the scope of the parent/community to push minister? SP: The minister is largely on board. I will have to think about that. JD: We would love to advocate for the staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pressures are system-wide (declining enrolments, rising student needs) - Directorate requirements: - Term 3 & 4 spend ≤ first half - Reduce non-essential spending - Preserve bank interest & available cash <p>Aranda Local Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2025: Budget tracking under projection - \$60,000 - 2026: Projected over budget (\$50,000) (inclusion & support staffing) <p>SP: We are in a good position. Next year we may run over budget as we have increasing enrolments meaning we will have 4 Kindy classes. RD: We also have to consider the environment (infrastructure etc).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commitment: equal or better conditions for Aranda staff and students

	<p>Outlook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ACT Government Budget Review – complete Feb 2026 - Public School System Resourcing Review – report early 2026 - Budget pressures expected until at least 2027 <p>Principal position SP: Phil will return 1 December 2025. The position should be advertised in October.</p>
<p>NAPLAN – James Harrison</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JH: Student and School Summary Report (SSSR) Data is available for schools to access before reports. Useful to inform teaching and learning practice. - James and teachers review this data in PLTs. - IH: Are they keeping NAPLAN? - SP: We are unsure but assume so. We use PAT testing so we can get a more routine insight but also encourage staff to trust their own judgment. - BB: I have had personal experience of the positive impact the ongoing assessments is having. - JH: You can view the writing sample and the marking criteria through SSSR. - SP: Scripted learning is something we do not do. Although, it shows growth but doesn't build good people. - JD: Bushkids is the best program that Aranda runs and it has showcased growth in my children and others.
<p>Finance Report – Grace Edwards</p>	<p>School Board Finance Report for Jan-26 August 2025 was tabled.</p> <p>Notes on Board Report/Financial Position</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good position. By end of Q3 should be at 75%. We're currently sitting at 59%for expense and with current budget constraints we do not have plans to purchase any big-ticket items for the remainder of the year. • I am currently chasing outstanding excursion and activities payments. <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>RE Budget Adjustments - for ap</p> </div> <p>Table of budget adjustments presented. GE: Please raise any issues with any of the changes. Approved 31 July. I need to explain these changes to you and reflect them in this meetings minutes.</p> <p>Creative Savings Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilising two BSOs • Kal's trade experience is saving us money

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repairs and Maintenance Budget line YTD vs the same time last year we have saved roughly \$50k <p>Waste management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently in negotiation with our waste management contract that will save us roughly \$7k over the course of the year <p>Fundraising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDS Bin – we have raised enough to fund the purchase of one \$400 soccer goal so far <p>Carpet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We received \$7800 back to reimburse us for carpet damage <p>Facilities Maintenance Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have put together a plan to help inform our school budget over the next 5 years. Upgrades include carpet, paint, blinds, furniture and classroom IT for example TVs Operational Budget due 28 Nov Week 7 T4 <p>Voluntary Contributions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need to put these out this term. How do we think we should go about it?
--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Budget Adjustments	Accepted 31 July 2025 by: Moved: Liz Allen Seconded: James Harrison
---------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Voluntary Contributions & Book packs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The way Voluntary Contributions were requested last year was received well. Grace to work with Liz to draft a note to put out at the end of Term 3. Next year we will request closer to EOFY.
-------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Items for consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA: I received a letter as Board Chair that informed us of the financial position of Education Directorate. Liz would like Grace to share the letter with the minutes.
--------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IH: 2015 Critical Incident Plan Emergency Management Plan (send to Board) SP: School review 1970s
-----------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Meeting Closed	8.58am
-----------------------	--------

Next Meeting	Wednesday 12 November – 7:45am.
---------------------	---------------------------------

Signed:

Chairperson Elizabeth Allen

Date