



MARIAN SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FINANCE POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that accountability and control of the school's financial resources is maintained. In addition, it is to ensure that the financial resources of the school are used in the most efficient and effective manner consistent with the school's special character.

POLICY

1. GENERAL FINANCE

- 1.1 The Board of Trustees (the Board) retains primary responsibility for the overall financial management of the school in accordance with the obligations of governance.
- 1.2 The Board will produce and approve an annual budget by 30 November of each year.
- 1.3 The annual budget will be monitored monthly and reviewed by 30 September of each year.
- 1.4 The Board may, at its discretion, delegate some financial authority and responsibilities to Committees, positions of office, and staff members.
- 1.5 The Board will, from time to time, approve a schedule of delegations and responsibilities. The schedule will be annexed to this Policy.
- 1.6 The Board will direct the management and control of cash by way of a cash management procedure manual. The procedure manual will be annexed to this Policy.
- 1.7 All persons required to perform any individual financial function must indicate in writing their awareness of the Board's Finance Policy and any annexure, the nature of the delegation and the limitation of their authority as per the attached schedule of delegations.
- 1.8 The Board retains the following financial management responsibilities:
 - a. Approval of the finance policy;
 - b. Approval of all delegations;
 - c. Approval of the Ten Year Property Maintenance Plan including Fixed Asset Replacement;
 - d. Approval of the annual budget; and
 - e. Approval of any expenditure in excess of budgeted amounts.

- 1.9 The Board's Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day management of the school's financial resources, commitments and obligations. The Committee shall:
- a. Oversee the preparation of budgets;
 - b. Monitor revenue and expenditure, ensuring compliance with accepted accounting practice and statutory requirements; and
 - c. Provide advice to the Board and Principal on financial matters.
 - d.

2. THEFT AND FRAUD PREVENTION

- 2.1 As preventative measures against theft and fraud, the Board requires the Principal to ensure that:
- a. The School's physical resources are kept secure and accounted for;
 - b. The School's financial systems are designed to prevent and detect the occurrence of fraud. All such systems must meet statutory requirements and standards as well as of generally the accepted accounting practice promulgated and supported by the Institute of Chartered Accountants;
 - c. Staff members who are formally delegated responsibility for the custody of physical and financial resources by the Principal are proven competent to carry out such responsibilities and that such persons are held accountable for the proper execution of their responsibilities; and
 - d. All staff members are aware of their responsibility to immediately inform the Principal should they suspect or become aware of any improper or fraudulent actions by staff, suppliers, contractors, students or other persons associated with the School.
- 2.2 In the event of an allegation of theft or fraud the Principal shall, either immediately report the matter to the New Zealand Police or proceed as outlined in this paragraph.
- a. So far as possible and within 24 hours:
 - I. Record the details of the allegation, the person or persons allegedly involved, and the quantity and/or value of the theft or fraud;
 - II. Request a *written statement* from the person who has informed the Principal, with details as to the nature of the theft or fraud, the time and circumstances in which this occurred, and the quantity and/or value of the theft;
 - III. Decide on the initial actions to be taken including consulting with the person who provided the information and, if appropriate, confidentially consulting with other senior members of staff about the person who is the subject of the allegation; and
 - IV. Inform the Board Chairperson of the information received and consult with them as appropriate.
 - b. On the basis of advice received and after consultation with the Board Chairperson, the Principal shall decide whether or not a *prima facie*

case of theft or fraud exists, and if not, to document this decision and record that no further action is to be taken.

- c. If a *prima facie* case exists, the Principal shall then carry out the following procedures:
 - I. Investigate the matter further in terms of procedures as set out in paragraph 2.2.a;
 - II. Invoke any disciplinary procedures contained in the contract of employment should the person be a staff member;
 - III. Lay a complaint with the New Zealand Police;
 - IV. If necessary, commission an independent expert investigation;
 - V. In the case of fraud, require a search for written evidence of the possible fraudulent action to determine the likelihood or not of such evidence;
 - VI. Seek legal advice; or
 - VII. Inform the Manager, National Operations, Ministry of Education local office and/or the school's auditors.
- d. Once all available evidence is obtained, the Principal shall consult the Board Chairperson. The Board Chairperson may, if they consider it necessary, seek legal or other advice as to what further action should be taken.
- e. If a case is considered to exist, the Principal or a person designated by them shall, unless another course of action is more appropriate:
 - I. Inform the person in writing of the allegation that has been received and request a meeting with them at which their representative or representatives are invited to be present;
 - II. Meet with the person who is the subject of the allegation of theft or fraud and their representatives to explain the complaint against them;
 - III. Obtain a verbal or preferably a written response (all verbal responses must be recorded as minutes of that meeting, and the accuracy of those minutes should be attested by all persons present); and
 - IV. Advise the person in writing of the processes to be involved from this point on.
- f. The Board recognises that supposed or actual instances of theft or fraud can affect the rights and reputation of the person or persons implicated. All matters related to the case shall remain strictly confidential with all written information kept secure. Should any delegated staff member or any other staff member improperly disclose information the Principal shall consider if that person or persons are in breach of confidence and if further action is required. Any action the Principal considers must be in terms of the applicable conditions contained in their contract of employment and any code of ethics or code of responsibility by which the staff member is bound.
- g. The Board affirms that any allegation of theft or fraud must be subject to due process, equity and fairness. Should a case be deemed to be

answerable then the due process of the law shall apply to the person or persons implicated.

- h. Any intimation or written statement made on behalf of the School and related to any instance of supposed or actual theft or fraud shall be made by the Board Chairperson who shall do so after consultation with the Principal and if considered appropriate after taking expert advice.
- i. Any allegation concerning the Principal should be made to the Board Chairperson. The Chairperson will then investigate in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 2.2.a.
- j. Any allegation concerning a member of the Board of Trustees should be made to the Principal. The Principal will then advise the manager of the local office of the Ministry of Education and commence an investigation in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 2.2.a.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed triennially according to the Board's Programme of Effectiveness Self-Review.

APPROVED 14 November 2006

Board of Trustees Chairperson: