

Draft Newtown School Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes



Monday 9 December 2024, 6.45pm
Library

Board members: Joe Winkels (co-chair), Nick Booth (co-chair), Nicki Read (tumuaki), Naomi Taylor, Trey Tanuvasa, Fatima Osman Amin, Jess Gorman (arrived 7.40pm)

Also present: Steve Kerr (minutes)

Apologies: Katy Te Amo



1. Karakia timatanga

Joe welcomed everyone. Nick confirmed there were no conflicts of interest.

2. Te Tiriti in action

All board members shared examples of honouring Te Tiriti in their lives. These included: the submissions party for the Treaty Principles Bill; encouraging other community members to submit on the Bill; talking to new whānau about how this country works; appreciating the thread of kaupapa Māori at work that is reflected in the way that mihi whakatau for new staff are run; induction of new staff to school and the amount of kōrero about what te Tiriti means; doing a ten week mihimihi course with colleagues at work;

3. Tumuaki report

Nicki thanked the board for their support. She said the school was very fortunate to have such a strong group of people who support the community the way the board does.

She had a list of stand-outs to celebrate for the year, which she said was useful to remind herself of the strengths of this year. The list included the ERO review, the growth of Ngāti Kotahitanga, the leadership team working well together, successful intervention for English language learners, Te Kākano support of te reo and tikanga influences across the kura, conversations about the restorative process, the performance celebration, the different programmes and therapy that teachers and TAs use, education outside the classroom and using our local places, literacy pathways used across the school, Garden to Table because Tania is always pushing the parameters of what we can do, sandpit, biking, pool, bees, Saoman language week, Matariki, Somali interdependence, Eid and Pride, the hīkoi, the Samoan teachers visit.

Nicki shared her dreams and aspirations for 2025. These included: increased kaiako Māori, continuing to grow Ngāti Kotahitanga, Te Tiriti action plan, Te Tipu programme, Continuing to lift achievement for Māori and Pasifika

Trey asked Nicki how she thinks the school is placed to support Pasifika students. Nicki said that the plans for next year will start with talking to families, to understand what families are noticing and wanting for their children. She said the school is always wanting to learn more about how we teach, and awareness is the first part - knowing who the students are and spending time connecting at the beginning of the year.

- **ACTION - Nick and Joe to add item on support for Pasifika students to agenda for a future hui**

Nick thanked Nicki for a year of really hard work. He congratulated her on completing her time as a beginning principal. He asked Nicki to thank all the staff too.

4. Moving to six-weekly hui

Nick said the board will try a shift to six weekly hui in 2025. He said it'll work if board members are prepared and sub committees meet before the main meeting. Trey said it would be easier to have a school email address to manage email inbox.

- **ACTION - Nicki to investigate school giving board members a Newtown School email address**

5. Reflections and looking ahead to next year

Nick said next year he was looking forward to hearing more from Trey's work to improve engagement with all communities, and looking forward to embedding the constitution.

Joe said that the Māori caucus has seen a much improved internal communication and engagement with kaimahi Māori, growing trust across the school in terms of understanding te Tiriti and kaupapa Māori from the school and the community, seeing kaimahi Māori at the SLT level, great to see more numbers coming through at Ngāti Kotahitanga, whānau Māori have really appreciated Nicki's presence at whānau hui. He said there was lots of learning after one year in a co-governance role with Nick, he said he was really grateful for that opportunity.

Joe said there's lots happening around the school in terms of property. He said implemented a bit more structure in that space. He was learning the ten year plan process with Giles. He was looking forward to the playground project commencing next year.

Trey said she was feeling a bit more confident about the community engagement portfolio, there's so much happening, so much to celebrate, whakawhanaungatanga around campus. She said we have a principal who is very open to ideas, she always has a way to work with us even when we challenge her. She also acknowledged the hard work of the co-chairs.

Fatima had noticed that the kids understand more about each others' cultures and the kids look after each other. She said we need more events like Somali Independence Day, it exposes kids to wider thinking, you can see the change. She said she was really proud of them. She said Nicki and the team work really hard behind the scenes.

Jess said that next year will be a big year because it'll be the last year of her last child at Newtown School. She said she was really keen to come back in the new year with renewed energy and make contributions to the playground and the constitution.

6. Previous minutes and action items

The minutes of the previous meetings were approved as true and correct.

#	Action	Assigned to	Status
208	Draft letter to the staff to thank them for work to support the hīkoi	Naomi	Done
207	Circulate BOT hui dates for 2025	Nick and Joe	Carry forward
206	Share an update on cultural competency at the next board meeting	Trey and Fatima	Carry forward
205	Share the past comms survey results and other material with the board	Nicki	Carry forward
204	Talk about how best to organise the visit from Samoan primary school staff	Nicki and Trey	Done
203	Invite someone to run a community session on the restorative practice	Nicki	Done
202	Talk to Berhampore School to learn from their experience	Nicki	Done
201	Find a project manager to support the playground project	Naomi	Done
200	Add playground mahi to their work programmes	Portfolio leads	Carry forward
199	Add school policy on stand-downs to agenda for a future hui	Joe, Nick	Done
198	Add school website, comms, and social media to agenda for a future hui	Joe, Nick	Carry forward

197	Explore whether the screening of Tatarakihi could be held at a cinema	Nick, Trey	Carry forward
196	Create document on shared drive for BOT members to add their comments on the proposed changes to NELP	Jess	Done
195	Add playground to agenda for future board meeting	Joe, Nick	Done
194	Do a safety assessment to inform decision about whether to do a short term repair or take another approach	Naomi	Done
193	Draft up a health and safety overview document and bring to the board	Nicki	Carry forward
189	Consider how to ask whānau at Whakanuia next week about barriers to achieving or excelling and possible solutions	Nicki	Done
188	Form a sub-committee looking at barriers we are already aware of, actions we take and could take	Naomi, Trey, Fatima	Carry forward
178	Look into what can be done to support Palestinian whānau	Naomi and Fatima	Carry forward
175	Prepare a calendar of community events, language weeks, etc	Trey and Fatima	Carry forward
173	Write up notes of how they see their portfolio responsibilities	All	Carry forward
172	Arrange an opportunity for the board to meet with the school parent who is interested in joining the board	Nick	Done
170	Add consideration of draft co-option policy to future meeting agenda	Joe and Nick	Done

7. Closing karakia

Meeting closed at 7.50pm