BRIEFING NOTE: Visit to Northland College to meet the new Principal on Wednesday 16 June 2021

To: Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education
Cc: Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
Date: 9 June 2021
Priority: High
Security Level: In Confidence
METIS No: 1260703
DDI: 09 436 8036
Drafter: Lyndsay Whitehead
DDI: 09 4368914
Key Contact: Hira Gage
Messaging seen by Communications team: No
Round Robin: No

Purpose

1 This briefing note provides information to support Minister Davis’ visit to Northland College to meet the new Principal, Duane Allen, on Wednesday 16 June 2021 at 2.15pm.

2 Agree that this Briefing will be proactively released.

Agree / Disagree

Jann Marshall
Associate Deputy Secretary
Network and School Delivery
Sector Enablement and Support

Hon Kelvin Davis
Associate Minister of Education

9/6/2021
NORTHLAND COLLEGE (9)

Contact Name: Duane Allen – Principal
Beryl Dalton – Personal Assistant Phone: 09 401 3200
Email: duanea@northlandcollege.school.nz

Address: 62 Mangakahia Road
Kaikohe 0440

Key People

Board Chairperson: Kelly Yakas
Principal: Duane Allen
09 401 3200

Head boy: Wayne Hetaraka

Head girl: Diarvion Kukutai

Ministry Official/s: Hira Gage – Director of Education – Tai Tokerau

Background information

1 Northland College is a Year 9 – 13 co-ed state secondary school in Kaikohe. From a peak roll of over 600 in the early 1990’s, the roll has steadily declined to the current level, where for several years it has been in the low to mid 200’s.

2 The college has had several statutory interventions involving a Limited Statutory Manager (LSM) and a Commissioner, starting in 2012. An Alternative Constitution Board was approved in 2015 and was supported by a LSM until 2019. It has been governing independently since then.

3 Current principal Duane Allen took up his position at the beginning of 2021. His immediate predecessor had been principal for two years. Duane has appointed several new staff to his leadership team since taking up the position.

Issues:

4 The college had an increase in the need for counselling services after the COVID-19 lockdown. To meet this, Special Reasons’ Funding was provided to enable them to employ an extra counsellor for 2021.

5 Poor student attendance and engagement has been an issue the college has been dealing with for some years, which has been exacerbated by COVID-19.
Profile Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Type</td>
<td>Secondary Yr 9 - 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Gender</td>
<td>Co-Ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Medium</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decile</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electorate</td>
<td>Northland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 The July 2020 breakdown of roll information is shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July 2020 Roll</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Māori</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>95.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European/ Pākehā</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Impact of COVID-19

8 The college has experienced challenges in getting students to school for some time. This was exacerbated by COVID-19, where there was resistance to return following the lock-down.

9 Many students were unable to participate in online learning due to connectivity issues.

10 The college applied for Urgent Response Funding and received funding of $56 904.00 for support staff to mentor students to support them with attendance and engagement.

Additional Notes About the School

11 Special Reasons Funding has provided an additional Guidance Counsellor in 2021. This is a continuation of support to the College to enable it to focus on providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all their students.

12 The college has identified student achievement as a concern (see Annex 1 - School Leaver Achievement data from 2016 to 2020 for NCEA achievement results). A Student Achievement Function Practitioner (SAF) is working in the school and staff are making changes to improve teaching and learning.
Education Review Office

12 Since November 2017, ERO has regularly visited the college to evaluate the progress made to address agreed priorities for review and development. ERO last visited the school in February 2021 and will maintain an ongoing relationship with the school to build capacity and evaluate its progress.

Kāhui Ako | Communities of Learning

13 The college is a part of Te Arahura Kāhui Ako.

Visit and event information

Runsheet

14 Northland College are expecting you to arrive at the college at 2.15pm for a 30-minute visit.

15 There will be no formalities as such.

16 Duane Allen will accompany you on a walk around the College before you depart at 2.45pm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.15pm</td>
<td>Arrive at Northland College Greeted by Duane Allen and Director of Education, Hira Gage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.20pm</td>
<td>Walk around school with Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.45pm</td>
<td>Depart school for next appointment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participation in government programmes

School Donations Scheme

17 The college opted into the school donations’ scheme for 2020 and has continued to participate in 2021.

18 They received $46,230 in lieu of donations in 2020 and will receive $46,748 in 2021 based on the probable July roll return.

Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunch Programme

19 The college is participating in this programme. Lunches have been served to students since the beginning of Term 1 2021. Feedback from the college is that Term 1 went well and the lunches were appreciated.

Access to Period products

20 The college has opted in to receive Period Products.

Creatives in schools

21 Northland College did not apply for Round 1 or 2 of the Creatives in Schools projects.
Engagement in Secondary Transitions Initiatives

22 Trade Academies (formally known as Secondary-Tertiary Programmes) aim to provide practical industry experience towards a career pathway in various vocational pathways.

23 Northland College to March 2021, have 28 students participating in the Te Taitokerau Trades Academy. The students participate in a range of vocational pathway offerings, including Construction and Infrastructure, Primary Industries and Service Industries. The same number of students participated in the programme in 2020.

24 As at March 2021, the college also had 14 students participating in the school’s Services Academy. The Services Academies programme is run within secondary schools in partnership with the New Zealand Defence Force. The aim is to support future pathways for students through improvement of NCEA qualifications and development of leadership and life skills.

Property

25 Northland College is a decile one co-ed secondary school in Kaikohe, Tai Tokerau. The college had a roll of 268 students at July 2020.

26 The college is in a good overall condition as a substantial redevelopment and rebuild was completed in 2017, including 21 new teaching spaces and a new gymnasium and hall, at a cost of around $14m. The Board of Trustees is proactive in addressing property issues.

27 The college was allocated $659k in 5 Year Agreement funding and receives $135k in annual maintenance funding. In addition to this, the college received emergency funding of $27k to support their water supply in 2020.

28 The college is in the planning phase of their next property project cycle. Planned projects include a new caretaker shed, upgrades to the administration space, a new toilet block and a fire, water main and security system upgrade.

29 Northland College received $185k in School Investment Package funding. The college has chosen to put this towards a project to install a bore, and a project to install a permanent cover over their courts. The bore will increase the college’s ability to cope with drought conditions, which are increasingly likely as Northland’s climate trends hotter and drier.

30 The college recently experienced vandalism that left 26 doors damaged. A claim for additional funds to repair this damage is being processed and we are supporting the school while this is resolved.

Proactive release

31 We recommend that this briefing is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be redacted in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.
Annex 1: Northland College School Leaver Achievement 2016-2020

School Leaver Highest NCEA Attainment by year (2020 provisional)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total School Leavers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No NCEA Attainment</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCEA Level 1 or Above</td>
<td>72.1%</td>
<td>81.4%</td>
<td>79.0%</td>
<td>77.6%</td>
<td>70.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCEA Level 2 or Above</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>71.4%</td>
<td>65.4%</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
<td>60.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UE award or Level 3</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Maori School Leavers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No NCEA Attainment</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCEA Level 1 or Above</td>
<td>70.8%</td>
<td>82.4%</td>
<td>78.1%</td>
<td>78.1%</td>
<td>67.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCEA Level 2 or Above</td>
<td>47.7%</td>
<td>72.1%</td>
<td>65.8%</td>
<td>48.4%</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UE award or Level 3</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
</tr>
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