



Briefing Note: Visit to Rotorua Lakes High School on Friday 11 November, from 1:00pm to 2.00pm

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	11 November 2022	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1299231
Drafter:	Susan Caudwell	DDI:	9(2)(a)
Key Contact:	Tui Rolleston	DDI:	9(2)(a)
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Briefing Note

- The purpose of this briefing is to support your visit to Rotorua Lakes High School in Bay of Plenty – Waiariki on 11 November 2022 from 1:00pm to 2.00pm to discuss operational matters including the school's pathways course for 2023 onwards, updates on the Kāhui Ako, and supporting at-risk students.
- A run sheet for the visit is attached. Annex 1 refers.

Core School Information

Rotorua Lakes High School (#154)

Contact Name: Jon Ward
9(2)(a)

Address: Porikapa Road
Ōwhata
Rotorua

Key People

Principal: Jon Ward
9(2)(a)

Board Chairperson: Todd Cheesman
027 230 4567

Ministry Official: Tui Rolleston
Director of Education, Bay of Plenty – Waiariki
021 183 1961

Profile Information

Authority	State
School Type	Secondary (Year 9-15)
School Gender	Co-Educational
Education Medium	English and Rūmaki L4
Equity Index Rating	471
Electorate	Bay of Plenty
Te Mahau Region	Te Tai Whenua Bay of Plenty- Waiariki

The July 2022 breakdown of roll information by ethnicity is shown below:

July 2022 Roll	Number	Percentage (%)
Māori	276	42.1%
Pacific	9	1.3%
Asian	29	4.4%
Other ethnicity	9	1.3%
European/Pākehā	333	50.7%
International	1	0.2%
Total	657	100%

Rotorua Lakes High School Context

- 1 Rotorua Lakes High school is located in the eastern suburbs of Rotorua and provides education for secondary students in Years 9-15. The school roll of 657 includes approximately 276 Māori students who whakapapa to local iwi and other iwi throughout Aotearoa. There is a clear focus on the learner and providing quality learning opportunities for all students. The school has a strong connection with local iwi and the Eastern Rotorua Kāhui Ako, and is working to collaborate and build on its localised curriculum.
- 2 The principal, Jon Ward, started in 2019. He shares the lead principal role for the Eastern Rotorua Kāhui Ako and also Kōkiri Alternative Education Unit which is managed by Te Iho Ake o Ngāti Whakaue at a separate location.

- 3 Rotorua Lakes High School is the lead school for the Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviour (RTLb) service, Te Hā o Te Manawa. The cluster manager and RTLb staff are employed by the school are based at the school site.
- 4 The Ministry has completed consultation and a new school zone will be implemented in 2023.
- 5 Two of the topics the principal would like to discuss with you are:
 - pathways for senior students beyond school
 - supporting at-risk students.

The principal has worked hard to develop a culture whereby all students are provided with positive pathways and individualised solutions. This includes the principal making contact with appropriate outside agencies for support. This inclusive culture is borne-out when looking at suspension and exclusion figures for the school.

Education Review Office

- 6 The school was last visited by the Education Review Office (ERO) in 2016 where ERO recommended that the school was in a strong position with a positive reporting history enabling the school to be placed on a 4 – 5-year review cycle.
- 7 The area for further development was to review the strategic plan to set specific student achievement targets that are clear and measurable particularly for Māori students.
- 8 Initial contact has been made for an upcoming review which is yet to be scheduled.

Kāhui Ako | Communities of Learning

- 9 Rotorua Lakes High School belongs to Eastern Rotorua Kāhui Ako where the principal shares the Kāhui Ako lead role with Hinei Taute, principal of Lynmore Primary School.
- 10 The Kāhui Ako comprises five schools (three primary, one intermediate, and one secondary) and 10 Early Childhood services.
- 11 The joint projects and PLD foci are Culturally Responsive practice, Literacy and Structured Literacy, Māori Engagement and Localised Curriculum.
- 12 The school has one Learning Support Coordinator with a focus on disengaged students and transitions.

Learning Support

- 13 Rotorua Lakes High School has a Universal Design for Learning classroom where students go in and out of the class based on their learning need. The school also has the Pōhutukawa classroom for students with additional learning needs in a home room environment.

- 14 The school manages individual pastoral and learning needs very well internally, with a strong supported transition from Mokoia Intermediate for those who need it. This reflects effective communication within the Kāhui Ako.

School Donations Scheme

- 15 The school opted-in to the School Donations Scheme for 2021 and has opted-in for 2023. The school received \$102,450 in lieu of donations in 2021, and \$104,550 in 2022 based on the July roll return.

Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunch Programme

- 16 Rotorua Lakes High School is ineligible for the programme based on the Equity Index.
- 17 The school is concerned about this because two of the three primary feeder schools qualify, and three of the other four high schools in Rotorua all qualify. The school considers that it is disadvantaged by this as there is a number of students from vulnerable whānau.

Ikura | Manaakitia te whare tangata – Period products in schools initiative

- 18 Rotorua Lakes High School opted into the period products scheme in March 2021. The school has three dispensers installed.

Creatives in Schools

- 19 Rotorua Lakes High School did not apply for Round 1, 2 or 3 of the Creatives in Schools projects.

Impact of COVID-19

- 20 Rotorua Lakes High School managed very well during COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, utilising hybrid and online learning. Apart from lockdown periods, there was minimal impact on school services. During the 2020 lockdown, allocation of school devices was prioritised to those students in need of a device. The school was able to provide for all students. Initially the school experienced a strong engagement with digital learning but found that this rate of engagement dropped off. Teachers contacted whānau so they could understand the reasons why students were not as engaged as they had been. The school worked with the few whānau who had connectivity issues to remove that barrier.
- 21 Urgent Response Funding (URF) funding totalling \$122,500 was used to support online learning programmes, extra staffing for tutorials, devices for students, and an attendance officer to connect with students.

Property

- 22 Rotorua Lakes High School has recently completed a Learning Support Coordinator (LSC) project which includes a build of an LSC office and reconfiguration of their administration space. A combination of LSC funding and board contribution will be used.

- 23 The school has a current 5YA allocation of approximately \$1M and an annual maintenance grant of \$114,000. Their allocation is going towards an Innovative Learning Environment upgrade to Block A and roof a replacement project to Block R and S. The project has been descoped to fit within current budget allocations. This means, the roof replacement to Block S has been put on hold. Consideration is being given to providing supplementary 5YA funding to enable the works to proceed.
- 24 The school is included in the Ministry Weathertightness Programme which will see remedial work to their administration block and gymnasium due to be completed in 2023.
- 25 The school used their SIP funding allocation of \$400,000 to create an outdoor learning environment for all students, staff and visitors. The school completed the project with planting and timber deck construction and are pleased with the outcome.
- 26 The principal has concerns that the 5YA resourcing has been applied to roofing which had deteriorated due to many years of neglect, whereas he would like to see aging learning spaces updated.

Other known risks or issues

- 27 There are no current risks or issues that the Regional Office is aware of.

Proactive Release

- a **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing once it has been considered by you and the visit has occurred.

☒ Agree ☐ Disagree



Jocelyn Mikaere
Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Mahau | Te Tai Whenua

11/11/2022



Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education
(School Operations)

11/11/2022