



## Briefing Note: Auckland Central Principals Meeting

<b>To:</b>	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)		
<b>Cc:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	25 November 2022	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1300540
<b>Drafter:</b>	Julie Spedding	<b>DDI:</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Key Contact:</b>	Rachael Laurenson	<b>DDI:</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	Yes	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Briefing Note

The purpose of this paper is to support Minister Tinetti's meeting with four central Auckland Principals at ECO, 54 Ponsonby Rd, Ponsonby, Auckland 4 to 5pm on Tuesday 29 November.

### List of Schools and Principals

Sarah Dwan	St Mary's College (Ponsonby) [REDACTED] 11 New St Ponsonby
Keith Simento	St Paul's College (Ponsonby) [REDACTED] 183 Richmond Rd Grey Lynn
Nick Shaw	Waiheke Primary School [REDACTED] 26 Sea View Rd Ostend Waiheke Island
Jacqui Tutavake	Richmond Road School [REDACTED] 113 Richmond Rd Ponsonby

## Background Information of the meeting

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- 1 The invitation for the meeting has come from the office of Helen White MP. This group of four principals is not a formalised specific group that operates as a collaborative cluster of schools but rather a few principals of schools based in central Auckland, including Waiheke Island.
- 2 This meeting is an opportunity for the principals of the four schools to meet with the Minister. No key issues have been signalled as the agenda for the meeting.

## Impact of COVID-19 on central Auckland schools

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3. Auckland schools were in level 4 lockdown for 36 school days from the start of the pandemic in 2020, during which all schools were formally closed for onsite learning. Auckland schools were in level 3 lockdown for an additional 75 school days. While schools were technically open for onsite learning for children of essential workers during this time, most of the learning was offsite.
4. Many schools in central Auckland had international students prior to COVID and have had to adjust to the drop in income from foreign fee-paying students. Some are coping better with the change than others as international students start to return. School Finance Advisers have been visiting schools to support them, when requested.

## Background information on the four Auckland central schools

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| St Mary's College | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- state-integrated school. All aspects of property management are the responsibility of the proprietor. We are not aware of any significant property projects.</li><li>- opted into the Lost Learning Funding. The College will receive \$7, 5041.71.</li><li>- a maximum roll of 1,000; as of July 2022, the roll was 986</li></ul>  |
| St Paul's College | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- state-integrated school. All aspects of property management are the responsibility of the proprietor. We are not aware of any significant property projects.</li><li>- opted in to receive the Lost Learning Funding. The College will receive \$20, 024. 67.</li><li>- maximum roll of 400; as of July 2022, the roll was 387.</li><li>- currently experiencing school transport issues because of cancelled bus services.</li></ul> |

Richmond Road School

- Principal Jacqui Tutavake is a First Time Principal.
- delivers 3 language programmes in addition to English medium; these are Māori, Samoan and French. Each language programme has a maximum roll of 80 students; the Network Planning team have increased these maximums to 120 student places for Māori and Samoan students, and 100 for French students, which will generate four additional roll growth classrooms in future. This has been added to the long-term plan for prioritisation against other projects and funding approval.
- The school is highly engaged with the Ministry regarding six relocatable classrooms on the school field, delivered after a fire occurred on site in 2015. These classrooms have a limited life left in them. The school feels let down by the Ministry as they consider that they were promised a new classroom block, and this has not progressed.
- Complaints have been received and Te Mahua staff are meeting fortnightly with the Principal, Board, and parent representatives to progress future planning for the school. The Ministry is in the process of appointing an architect to refresh the 2015 masterplan and establish a future investment programme to meet the long-term roll growth needs of the school.
- At present the school has a 5YA project underway to refresh relocatable classrooms for continued use until we can deliver permanent accommodation.
- The school received \$50,000 in maintenance funding in their 2022 operations grant.
- Currently, there are three school led projects in the design phase using 5YA and AMS funding.
- The school is wanting a review of their funding due to what they consider is the unique character of the school, which hosts bilingual units in te reo Māori, Samoan, and French languages in addition to the English language provision.

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| Waiheke School | Primary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Principal Nick Shaw is a First Time Principal.</li> <li>- The school buildings are in a good condition with 10 teaching spaces - they are entitled to 9 teaching spaces with a roll of 265 students, 58 of whom are out of zone. The school has a 5YA project to refurbish classrooms.</li> <li>- The school received \$34,000 for maintenance in 2022.</li> <li>- The Board believes they should be receiving additional funding as they are a remote school and are facing challenges with cost escalations and paying for contractors to come from Auckland; currently they receive a 2.4% increase on their Property Maintenance Grant payments to cover the isolation factor.</li> </ul> |
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#### Other known risks or issues in central Auckland schools

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- 6 Schools in the wider central Auckland region have raised concerns about staffing levels for 2023 because some have been significantly impacted due to a drop in projected rolls. The local office, education advisers and school finance advisers, have offered to meet with schools to support them.
- 7 Some central Auckland schools have raised concerns about the lack of support for about 50 students who have been placed in Emergency housing in the central city. The Ministry has an Attendance and Engagement project in place to support students in emergency housing and schools. There was a meeting at Newmarket Primary school last week to discuss what support may be required. Some schools felt well informed and supported by the range of agencies involved.
- 8 Afghan refugees were accommodated mainly in central Auckland. The English as Second Original Language team in the Auckland regional office provided support and worked proactively with schools who enrolled these students.
- 9 No schools in central Auckland were allocated Learning Support Coordinators, the central Auckland schools have stated they felt under-served.
- 10 Concerns have been raised about the lack of Learning Support staff in general to respond promptly to behaviours of concern. Increasing numbers of students are displaying extreme behaviours and there is insufficient Interim Response Funding available to meet the needs identified and fill in the gap until longer term support can be put in place.
- 11 Central Auckland schools have contacted the Ministry requesting access to Counselling in Schools. Auckland received funding to support three schools, which excluded those schools falling under Counties Manukau DHB who will have access to the Mana Ake counselling resources. There is an underspend of this initiative in the current financial year across the country and schools are aware of this. For Auckland, the estimated underspend is \$85,000 through until June 2023. We will look to see if we can reallocate this as a one off.

12 Schools on Waiheke Island:

- There are three First time Principals on Waiheke Island, including Nick Shaw, who is attending the meeting. Te Mahau Tāmaki Makaurau staff have visited more frequently to ensure appropriate supports are in place for the First Time Principals.
- Nick Shaw is also the Lead for the Waiheke Kahui ako. They are at the refreshment stage of their Achievement Challenge and have decided to refine their focus to two key challenges: 'attendance and engagement'. There is heightened concern about attendance, as a result, all their targets, actions plans and strategic direction will be focused on helping whānau, ākonga, hapu and Iwi to partner with the schools and Early Learning Services to enable greater attendance and engagement. The Kāhui Ako wishes to work with Auckland Central Attendance Services, to employ someone on the island to support the schools with attendance.
- The three schools have received funding through the Regional Response fund for an Attendance & Engagement project.
- The three schools are facing roll reduction challenges, losing students to central Auckland schools.
- A review of school transport bus routes has shown that there is evidence to support a new additional bus route.
- Waiheke Primary School is concerned about cost of maintenance for their relatively large school property.

#### Proactive Release

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

#### Annex 1: Run sheet



Isabel Evans  
Hautū | Deputy Secretary  
Te Mahau | Te Tai Raro

25 / 11 / 2022



Hon Jan Tinetti  
Associate Minister of Education  
**(School Operations)**

25/11/ 2022