



Briefing Note: Visit to Kawerau Pūtauaki School

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	19 October 2022	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1297815
Drafter:	Jon Dimock	DDI:	9(2)(a)
Key Contact:	Dawid de Villiers	DDI:	9(2)(a)
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Briefing Note

- The purpose of this paper is to support your visit to Kawerau Pūtauaki School, to discuss equity issues and Te Rito in action on Friday 21 October 2022. You have also indicated your desire to view attendance strategies and discuss the attendance service.
- A run sheet for the visit is attached. Annex 1 refers.

Core Kawerau Pūtauaki School Information

Kawerau Pūtauaki School #655

Contact Name: Rachel Chater, Principal
Kawerau Pūtauaki School 9(2)(a)

Address: 87-89 Fenton Mill Road
Kawerau

Key People

Principal: Rachel Chater
9(2)(a)

Ministry Officials: Dr Dawid de Villiers, Director of Education
9(2)(a)

Profile Information

Authority	State
School Type	Contributing (Yr 1 – 6)
School Gender	Co-educational
Education Medium	English, some students in Māori Medium
Equity Index Rating	520
Electorate	East Coast
Te Mahau Region	Te Tai Whenua Bay of Plenty - Waairiki

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

July 2022 Roll	Number	Percentage (%)
Māori	201	88.2
Pacific	1	0.4
Asian	3	1.3
Other ethnicity	0	0
European/Pākehā	23	10.1
International	0	0
Total	228	100%

Kawerau Pūtauaki School

Governance

1. The school is under statutory intervention (78M) with the Limited Statutory Manager (LSM) vested with the property and finance powers of the School Board. The intervention is due for review in December 2022. The recently appointed Te Mahau School Finance Advisor will be meeting with the LSM on Friday 21 October to gain a better understanding of the current financial position of the school.

Attendance

2. Term 1 2022 regular attendance rate was 41.1%. This compares with 50.4% in Term 1 2021.
3. The Pūtauaki ki Rangitāiki attendance service has a catchment of 11 schools and was one of the trial areas for the school-based attendance service approach. A local housing crisis and the impact of COVID-19 are key factors in non-attendance. A growing number of students are engaging in alternative courses or returning to mainstream schooling. The service is encouraging primary schools to make early referrals to break potential non-attendance habits before they become embedded.

4. The service is active within the communities that it works in and has developed good relationships with the various agencies involved. The two advisors are well-connected, and this enables the community and schools to have confidence in the service.

Learning Support Equity

5. After the In-Class Support (ICS) moderation was completed for the Eastern Bay of Plenty, the Principal voiced her concern around some her students receiving this teacher aide funding over others, including the process and number of secondary aged students receiving ICS compared to primary aged students.
6. The Resource Teacher: Learning Behaviour (RTLB) service Cluster Manager, Te Mahau Service Manager and Manager Learning Support discussed these concerns and reviewed the process of moderation and were satisfied that a proper process had been followed. There were over 200 applications for 81 spaces of which 59 places were allocated to students in Years 1-8 and 22 of those in secondary schooling. Kawerau Pūtauaki School was allocated 5 spaces which is a significant number for one school.
7. The RTLB service is likely to be able to support two students who did not qualify for ICS with Learning Support Funding in Term 1 2023.
8. Te Mahau staff have been in discussion with the Principal about her concerns and the outcomes of the review of the moderation process.

Visit and event information

9. You will be meeting with Rachel Chater, Principal of Kawerau Pūtauaki School. Dawid de Villiers, Director of Education from the regional office will also be attending.
10. As part of an early roll-out project in March 2020, Pūtauaki ki Rangatāiki Kāhui Ako received access to Te Rito with the standardised Learning Support Register (sLSR). This access to Te Rito provided dashboards showing student demographics, transitions and learning support information.
11. Use of Te Rito and the sLSR commenced through June and July 2020 when schools were returning from lockdown. We are now working with the Learning Support cluster to enhance the data that has already been added to the sLSR. The next phase would be to get the Learning Support panel together to act on the data.
12. Rachel will show you how Te Rito is being used in the school and the Kāhui Ako. She will explain how Te Rito is assisting in identifying the quantum and nature of learning support needs and how her school and the Kāhui Ako is responding to learners' needs, together with what further functionality would be useful. She will be able to address the impact using Te Rito may have on teacher workload.
13. Rachel may discuss how she is collaborating with Ōtumoetai, the second cluster to receive Te Rito with the sLSR. These clusters are identifying operational practice that should be addressed because of using Te Rito and the sLSR. For example, they have identified that standardisation is required in how learning support needs are rated. More specifically, one cluster may view an attention span of five minutes as a significant need, whilst another cluster may see this as significant improvement.
14. A run sheet for the visit is attached. Annex 1 refers.

Education Review Office

15. The school was last visited by the Education Review Office (ERO) in June 2018. ERO found that the school has made very good progress in addressing the areas for development in the 2016 ERO report. School leaders, trustees and teachers work well together to improve student outcomes.

Kāhui Ako | Communities of Learning

16. The school belongs to the Pūtauaki ki Rangitāiki Kāhui Ako. Rachel Chater, Principal, Kawerau Pūtauaki, is the co-lead of the Kāhui Ako alongside Mike Jackson, Principal Edgecumbe College.
17. The Pūtauaki ki Rangitāiki Kāhui Ako has 11 school members and nine ECE members:
- Edgecumbe College
 - Edgecumbe School
 - Kawerau Pūtauaki School
 - Kawerau South School
 - Matata School
 - Murupara Area School
 - Otakiri School
 - St Joseph's Catholic School (Matata)
 - Tarawera High School (including the Kawerau Teen Parent Unit)
 - Te Kura o Te Teko
 - Te Mahoe School
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- Central Kids Kindergartens - Edgecumbe
 - Central Kids Kindergartens - Pūtauaki
 - Central Kids Kindergartens - Te Akoranga
 - Karamuramu Kindergarten
 - Kawerau Early Learning Centre
 - Matata Early Learning Centre
 - Ngā Ririki Early Learning Centre
 - Seedlings Preschool
 - Te Manaaki Preschool
18. The Kāhui Ako (as at 1 July 2021) is made up of 2,103 school age children, of which 81% identify as Māori.

Learning Support

19. Kawerau Pūtauaki is part of the Pūtauaki ki Rangitāiki Kāhui Ako cluster, which has been allocated four Learning Support Coordinators (LSC).
20. The LSCs are based at Tarawera High School (1), Edgecumbe Primary (2) and Kawerau Pūtauaki School (1).

Participation in government programmes

School Donations Scheme

21. Kawerau Pūtauaki School opted into the School Donations Scheme for 2020, 2021 and for 2022.

22. The school received \$33,450 in lieu of donations in 2021 and \$35,550 in 2022 based on the July roll return.

Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunch Programme

23. Kawerau Pūtauaki School joined the Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunch programme and started receiving lunches from the beginning of Term 1 2020.
24. The lunches are supplied by Libelle who prepare the lunches on the school site using the school kitchen facilities.
25. The school has indicated improvement with student engagement, behaviour and attendance.
26. The school has actively worked with the supplier, particularly around high levels of waste. 9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED].

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

27. Kawerau Pūtauaki School has opted into the initiative. The initiative is available for any state and state-integrated primary, intermediate or secondary school or kura who wishes to opt in.

Creatives in Schools

28. Kawerau Pūtauaki School did not apply for Round 1, 2 or 3 of the Creatives in Schools programme.

Impact of COVID-19

29. Quote from the Urgent Response Fund (URF) application processed February 2021:
- “Our school community has been hit hard by COVID. We have had 9 children uplifted by OT, and have also experienced a high level of transience, with 30 students who have had to leave the area because of a lack of housing. We have also had a large increase (37 students) in our roll with students moving back to live with grandparents or other family members because of loss of employment due to COVID. 8 of these students are not adapting well to the change and are needing additional support as well as relationship building with the whanau as they are new to us, and we do not have the connection to draw on.”*
30. Two URF applications were approved; one for \$43,600 in March 2020 and another for \$7,000 in May 2021.
31. A cluster application for \$40,000 was also approved in term 3 2020 for the three English medium schools in Kawerau (Tarawera High School, Kawerau Pūtauaki School and Kawerau South School). This application focussed on supporting ten Year 6 and 7 students not enrolled in school to transition to a meaningful education programme in one of the three schools. These students are now enrolled in school.

Property

32. The school property is currently a mix of eight new modular classrooms, older classrooms, an administration building, hall and temporary classrooms (in use while a Te Mahau led capital project is undertaken).
33. A budget of around \$7m replaced 11 classrooms with eight new modular classrooms, completed in June 2022. The upgrade of the Administration Block, including an extension for a non-teaching resource area, a high dependency bathroom, a staff room, and a courtyard will be completed in mid-2023. The reinstatement of the existing irrigation system and the mechanical water bore system, along with site repairs (due to the installation of the modular classrooms) will close off the project.
34. Temporary transportable classrooms are being used until the project has been completed. By 2024, a decision as to whether to rationalise the temporary classrooms will be made. In addition, further works are planned for flood protection for the carpark, and the demolition of the boiler house along with blocks P and Q.
35. The library is being used as the staffroom. The library has experienced some roof leaks and the Ministry is investigating the right response to these issues.
36. The school is using part of their School Investment Package (\$140,000) on fencing, the remainder will be used to construct an outdoor learning/play area once the schools 10YPP has been agreed. The schools 10YPP will be completed following the conclusion of the current capital project.
37. The school does not have a specialist learning support building however does use an existing space as a breakout for learning support. In August network and asset management visited Kawerau area schools to discuss learning support however Kawerau Pūtauaki did not respond to the meeting request therefore, was not visited.
38. The Principal is passionate about the school and is generally happy with the current projects but has been frustrated in the past by delays and budgeting issues.

Other known risks or issues

Finance

39. The Principal has stated that the school has insufficient funds to meet the needs of all the children enrolled at the school. She believes this is especially true for the number of high needs students across the school.
40. The Ministry is currently considering a Special Funding Request. The request covers support for non-teaching staff in respect to students with additional learning needs.
41. Informal School Support Assistance was approved in July 2019 for the school as it was performing below its benchmarks group and considered a priority school in regard to finances during the school's redevelopment phase. Working capital had also reduced from 9(2)(f)(iv) in 2018. As a result, Education Services was engaged to write a five-year financial plan to bring the school back into a positive financial position.
42. The financial plan highlighted the high cost of support staff (teacher aides) and identified that cuts in staffing would be necessary for the school to be able to meet the plan. Staffing levels were higher than schools of a similar size.

43. Financial progress since 2019 has been slight. The financial audits of 2020 and 2021 have not been completed yet, draft accounts as at 31 December 2021 show working capital was 9(2)(f) . The approved 2022 budget shows a deficit of 9(2)(f) , and the financial performance is being monitored closely by regional staff.

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

19/10/2022



Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education
(School Operations)

21/10/2022