Education Report: Initiating consultation over a proposed change of class for Ngataki School (1055)

To: Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
cc Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education

Date: 4 November 2019 Priority: High

Security Level: In Confidence METIS No: 1208312

Drafter: Pat Conrad DDI: 5 9(2)(a)

Key Contact: Hira Gage, Director of Education for Tai Tokerau DDI:

Messaging seen by Communications team: N/A Round Robin: No

Purpose of Report

This report asks you to agree to initiate consultation, under section 157 of the Education Act 1989 (the Act), over a proposal by the Ngataki School commissioner to change the class of the school from a primary school (Year 1 – 8) to a composite school (Year 1 – 10), under section 153 of the Act. This would be a phased implementation.

We recommend you agree to initiate consultation, which we would undertake on your behalf.

Summary

1. Ngataki School (the school) is a decile 1, co-educational Year 1 – 8 school, situated in the settlement of Ngataki, Tai Tokerau - a rural community on the Aupouri Peninsula, 53 km (45 minutes) from Kaitaia.

2. The school's Māori community is very active with a long-established marae. Ngataki School and Te Hapua School both draw students from Ngati Kuri, and have a shared principal and a shared commissioner.

3. In 2017 both schools began working collaboratively in shared spaces using a localised place-based curriculum. Teachers collaborate with annual and term planning, shared teaching opportunities, shared and individual inquiry documents, and a shared vision and strategic plan. Both schools participate in joint EOTC events including camps.

4. There is increased whānau consultation between the two schools.

5. The closest secondary school is Kaitaia College. Kaitaia is a two hour return commute by bus from Ngataki and a four hour return commute from Te Hapua (excluding any stops).
6. Since her appointment, the current principal, a former pedagogical leader of the schools, has proactively strengthened the relationship between the schools, the local marae, their whānau, kaumātua, and hapū.

7. The principal consulted internally on this proposal, then engaged with parents, whānau, hapū and marae.

8. The change would result in approximately eight to twelve Year 9 students from both Ngataki and Te Hapua Schools remaining at Ngataki School each year, progressing through to the subsequent Year 10 level. They would then choose a secondary school for the remainder of their secondary schooling.

9. The commissioner has requested a phased implementation and only Year 9 students are proposed to be enrolled for 2020.

10. Across both schools there is currently a 4.62 Full Time Teacher Equivalent Staffing entitlement (FTTE). The additional operational cost to the Crown is estimated at approximately $245,000 (excl GST) per annum.

11. There would be no property implications as the school has sufficient teaching spaces for the projected roll.

12. Tai Tokerau kura-ā-iwi, Te Kura o Te Kao, situated between the two schools, has also submitted a change of class application, requesting to become a composite (Year 1 – 10) kura. The schools and Te Kura o Te Kao have been supporting each other through their discussions, consultation and applications.

13. The kura seeks to change class for Term 1, 2020. The timeframe at this point is constrained, and it might not be possible to complete consultation and prepare a final report for your decision by this date.

14. As there are few schools whose rolls are likely to be affected if the change is approved, and there has been no objection raised during the board’s initial engagement, we expect consultation would be able to be completed quickly. If necessary, we would proposed the change of class take effect from Term 2, 2020, and work with the kura and students regarding their available choices for Term 1.

15. If the change is approved, no new teachers would need to be engaged, and the classroom space is available. In this regard there are no practical issues with a Term 2 date.
Recommended actions

We recommend that you:

a. agree to the Ministry initiating consultation, under section 157 of the Education Act 1989 (the Act), over a proposal to change the class of Ngataki School, from a primary school (Year 1 – 8), to a composite school (Year 1 – 10);

b. sign the attached letter to the commissioner informing him of your decision;

c. agree that this Education Report be proactively released once a final decision is made. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Katrina Casey  
Deputy Secretary  
Sector Enablement and Support  
5/11/2019

Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education  
20/11/19
Background

1. Ngataki School (the school) is a decile 1, co-educational Year 1 – 8 school, situated in Ngataki, Tai Tokerau. This a rural community on the Aupouri Peninsula, 53 km (45 minutes) from Kaitaia.

2. Te Hapua School is a decile 1, co-educational Year 1 – 8 school, in Te Hapua, Tai Tokerau. It is the northern-most school in New Zealand. This is a remote rural community on the Aupouri Peninsula, 102 km (90 minutes) from Kaitaia. Both schools share a commissioner and a principal.

3. The closest secondary school is Kaitaia College. Kaitaia is a two hour return commute by bus from Ngataki and a four hour return commute from Te Hapua (excluding any stops).

4. The school roll at Ngataki has fluctuated over the last five years ranging from 26 to 32. While there is movement of enrolments and leavers over a year, there is a trend of whānau moving back to both communities.

5. The majority of students, staff and whānau are of Māori heritage from the Ngati Kuri iwi. The Ngati Kuri Trust Board’s strategic goal: “Ngati Kuri language, identity and culture is strong and thriving wherever we are”, is an important community aspiration that impacts on student learning, and has led to community-initiated language programmes held at the local marae. Currently, most students do not come from Māori-speaking homes.

6. The community is very active with a long-established marae and a recently re-established Kōhanga Reo in Te Hapua.

7. The principal, a former pedagogical leader of the schools, has from the outset proactively strengthened the relationship between the schools, the local marae, their whānau, kaumatua and hapū.

8. The commissioner has applied for a change of class to a Year 1 – 10 composite school (see Annex 1).

9. Te Kura o Te Kao, situated between Ngataki School and Te Hapua School, has also submitted a change of class application requesting to become a composite (Year 1 – 10) kura. Both schools have shared thinking and have been supporting each other through their discussions, consultation and now, applications.

Application

10. From 2016 Ngataki and Te Hapua Schools have operated as ‘Mahi Tahi - two schools working as one’. Teachers collaborate with annual and term planning, shared teaching opportunities, shared and individual inquiry documents, and a shared vision and strategic plan. Both schools participate in joint EOTC events including camps. In 2019 the schools have been working collaboratively with Te Kura O Te Kao as part of a Teacher Led Innovation Funding initiative.

11. In December 2018 the principal delivered a presentation to the commissioner outlining the need to continue the pedagogical approach that the students of Ngataki and Te Hapua Schools have succeeded with.
12. The presentation concluded that Ngataki School should extend its pathway from Year 1-8 to Year 1-10 to better support the whānau and children of the Te Hapua and Ngataki communities. The commissioner resolved to support the presentation and conclusion.

13. An internal consultation process was then initiated and advanced on behalf of the commissioner by the principal and staff.

14. In March 2019 the principal presented to the commissioner and the Ngati Kuri Trust Board a draft application for a change of class from Year 1-8 to Year 1-10. The commissioner and the Trust Board supported the application (see Annexes 2 and 3).

15. The change would result in approximately eight to twelve Year 9 students from both Ngataki and Te Hapua Schools remaining at Ngataki School each year, progressing through to Year 10 the following year. Students would move on to a secondary school for the remainder of their schooling. The commissioner has requested a phased implementation, where only Year 9 students are proposed to be enrolled for 2020:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Years 1 – 9 (only Year 9 students are proposed to be enrolled.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Years 1 – 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022+</td>
<td>Years 1 – 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. The proposed combined rolls to 2022 are set out in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17. The proposal aims to provide wharekura or secondary-level education to give students better options upon leaving secondary schooling than they currently experience. It is further hoped that at least some of those gaining higher qualifications will return to Ngataki and Te Hapua as stewards within their own and neighbouring communities. The proposal also seeks "to promote the survival of te reo Māori me ōna tikanga o Ngati Kuri".

Board consultation

18. The commissioner's consultation hui were led by the principal with parents of current students. The community consultation hui were held on 3 and 4 December 2018, and again on 14 February 2019. Whānau were largely supportive. 100% (17/17 whānau) from Ngataki and 83% (15/18 whānau) from Te Hapua were in favour of the proposal for Ngataki School to become a Year 1-10 school.

19. The commissioner has consulted with the boards of schools or groups that might be affected by the proposal. No objections were raised.

20. All students would likely attend Kaitaia College from Year 9 if the proposal were declined.
21. The following comments have been taken from the most recent Education Review Office review (03/08/2018):

* A well-managed change approach, including open and honest communication, is building trust and mutual respect between teachers and staff, and with the community. The school’s meaningful consultation is deepening learning partnerships with Ngāti Kuri whānau and is promoting an engaged and productive learning community.

* In partnership with the Ngāti Kuri Trust Board, teachers and whānau, the principal has created a strategic vision and goals for both schools that are connected to The New Zealand Curriculum and to Ngāti Kuri expectations. Strategic goals are well aligned to teachers’ professional learning and to their inquiry-based appraisal. Internal evaluation is used purposefully to sustain and further improve outcomes for learners.

* Learning programmes immerse children in te ao Māori, including scientific inquiry within the Ngāti Kuri rohe. These localised experiences support children, teachers and whānau to learn within and about their own environment. Importantly, they promote children’s pride in their language, culture and identity. Learning programmes enhance children’s critical thinking and problem solving skills. Field trips and using digital devices provide significant learning opportunities for children, staff and whānau beyond the local area.

22. Both schools are on a three year review cycle.

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**Education in the local area**

23. There is one state English medium secondary school in the area, Kaitaia College, catering for students from Year 9 – 13, with a roll of around 730 students. Other schools that cater for secondary-level students are Te Rangi Aniwaniva, a composite (Year 1-13) Māori immersion kura, Kaitaia Abundant Life School, a state integrated Year 1-13 with a roll of 195 students, and Te Kura O Te Kao, currently a Year 1-8 Kura A Iwi of 32 students. As stated, Te Kura O Te Kao is also in the process of requesting a change of class to become a composite (Year 1-10) kura.

24. All primary schools in the area are Years 1 – 8 full primary schools. They are set out in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>March 2019 Roll</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pukenui School</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>12 km (9 min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiharara School</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>30 km (23 min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paparoa School</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>36 km (31 min)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

25. All schools are on a three year ERO review cycle.
Financial implications

26. If this application is approved the additional operational cost to the Crown is estimated at approximately $245,000 (excl GST) per annum.

Staffing

27. The schools have a combined staffing of 4.62 FTTE.

28. Primary teachers are able to teach to Year level 10 without further training.

Property and transport implications

29. There is currently sufficient property at the school to accommodate additional students if approval were to be given to the proposal.

30. No changes to existing transport arrangements are necessary. Transport entitlements for students at other schools in the area will not be affected. The school intends to provide its own transport for students.

Next steps

31. If you agree, please sign the attached letter to the commissioner of Ngataki and Te Hapua schools (Annex 4).

32. The Ministry of Education will then conduct consultation in Term 4, 2019 with the boards of schools whose rolls might be affected by the proposal. This consultation is required under section 157(3)(e) of the Act.

33. We will also consult, on your behalf, with the commissioner of Ngataki School and Te Hapua School as required by section 157(2)(g) of the Act.

Contingency

34. The kura seeks to change class for Term 1, 2020. The timeframe at this point is constrained, and it might not be possible to complete consultation and prepare a final report for your decision by this date.

35. As there are few schools whose rolls are likely to be affected if the change is approved, and there has been no objection raised during the board's initial engagement, we expect consultation would be able to be completed quickly. If necessary, we would propose the change of class take effect from Term 2, 2020, and work with the kura and students regarding their available choices for Term 1.

36. If the change is approved, no new teachers would need to be engaged, and the classroom space is available. In this regard there are no practical issues with a Term 2 date.

Proactive release

37. It is intended that this Education Report be proactively released once you have made a final decision on the proposed change of class. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.
Annexes

Annex 1: Application
Annex 2: Letter from commissioner
Annex 3: Letter of support from Ngati Kuri Trust Board
Annex 4: Letter to commissioner
Annex 1: Application
APPLICATION FOR CHANGING THE RANGE OF CLASS LEVELS
(to be used for intra class changes only)

To: Ministry of Education Regional/local office

School: Ngatangiia School  Institution No: 1055
Address: 5265 Far North Road, Ngatangiia

Name of Board Chairperson:  Harry Burnheart

Current range of class levels: Year 1-8 (eg Year 1-10)

The Board of Trustees is applying to change the range of class levels to
Year 1-10  (eg Year 1-13)

State whether the board wishes the change to be phased in, and if so, in what way:

No.

Attached is the following documentation to support this application:

A. An Education Review Office education review report that has been carried out within the past twenty-four months showing that the school's educational performance is effective.

B. The school's strategic plan should be attached. It must have clear, measurable, achievable objectives, that outline what is being proposed, how it will be achieved and what the educational outcomes will be for the students. The plan shows that the school would be able to offer, from the resources available, effective programmes to ensure:
   i. any Year 1–10 students undertake study in all seven essential learning areas according to the gazetted curriculum statements
   ii. any Year 11 and above students receive a balanced curriculum recognising the diverse educational and training needs of students at these levels.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Parental Choice</th>
<th>Ministry Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. The Board has consulted with parents of children at the school, providing them with information on options to enable them to make a well informed choice. Evidence is attached.</td>
<td>YES/NO Attached?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. What proportion of parents of students in the school support the proposal? Evidence is attached.</td>
<td>YES/NO Attached?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. Staff Consultation</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. The Board has consulted with the principal and staff of the school. Evidence is attached.</td>
<td>YES/NO Attached?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. Implications for Education Provision in the Wider Community</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. The Board has informed and invited comment from other Boards of schools or groups who may be affected by this proposal allowing a reasonable time for them to respond (ie at least 4 weeks).</td>
<td>YES/NO Attached?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. List the schools or groups and attach a statement outlining your estimation of the likely impact of the proposal on them.</td>
<td>Attached?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. Transport</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Are present transport arrangements adequate to cope with the proposed change of class levels?</td>
<td>YES/NO NOT APPLICABLE Attached?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. If changes to existing transport services are necessary, full details of the changes are attached.</td>
<td>YES/NO NOT APPLICABLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Will any students in other schools lose their transport entitlement as a result of the change of class levels?</td>
<td>YES/NO NOT APPLICABLE Attached?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. If so, do their parents/caregivers know the transport implications of this change?</td>
<td>YES/NO NOT APPLICABLE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Implications for School Organisation

#### a. The present composition of the school roll is as follows on (date):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### b. Roll predictions as at (date) for the next 3 years (if the application is approved):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### c. To enable the Ministry to work out staffing and operations grant costs of the proposal, list the schools that the students you are planning to retain would be likely to go to if the proposal is declined. Next to each school, state the number of students that would likely to that school over the next three years for each of the year levels that you propose to add. The number should tally with the number you propose to retain at each year level.

### Property/Resource Implications

#### a. Is there sufficient property to accommodate any increase in numbers resulting from the change?

- YES
- NO

#### b. If changes to property are necessary, full details of the changes are attached.

- Attached?
- YES
- NO
## 7. Conclusion

| Attached is a copy of the board minute authorising the making of this application for change of class levels. |
| Attached? |
| NO |

[Signature]

Chairperson (or board nominee)

28 March 2019

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

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Proactively Released

Document Set ID: 884676
Version: 1, Version Date: 05/11/2019
Annex 2: Letter from Ngataki School
Ngataki School does not have a Board of Trustees. The Commissioner, Harry Iurihardt, was appointed in 2013. The attached letter acts as a Board of Trustees resolution.

Ngā mihi

Tracey Ashby
Principal – Ngataki School
29th March 2019

Ministry of Education
Kaitaia Centre
2-12 Commerce Street
Kaitaia 0410

Tēnā koe,

In alignment with the Ngati Kuri Education and Te Reo Strategy, there has been a consultation process with our communities around repositioning Te Hapua and Ngatuki Schools to Composite Schools.

I have fully supported this as it provides for a continuum for our taurira that better aligns to those values and principles of our taitamāriki, whānau and community.

It is encouraging to note that Te Kao Kura wishes to proceed down a similar pathway.

Naku noa na,

[Signature]

Harry Burkhard
Commissioner Te Hapua | Ngatuki School
Annex 3: Letter of support from Ngati Kuri Trust Board
25th March 2019

Ministry of Education
Kaitaia Centre
2-12 Commerce Street
Kaitaia 0410

Tēnā koe,

The Board is fully supportive of Te Hapua and Ngataki Schools pivoting to a composite school. Our communities have been an integral part of the conversation.

Repositioning the schools aligns with the Ngati Kuri Te Reo and Education Strategy that was consulted on and fully adopted in 2015. This initiative alongside a number of others that are being executed in the schools speaks to the imperatives that are important to building the future human capital of Ngati Kuri. It is critical that our tataurekita:

- know who they are
- are digital citizens

We are encouraged that Te Kau Kura wish to implement a similar pathway. This bodes well for a collaborative approach for the schools in Te Hiku o te Ika.

Naku noa nā

Harry Burkhardt
Chairman Ngati Kuri Trust Board | Te Manawa o Ngati Kuri
Harry Burkhardt  
Commissioner  
Ngataki School  
5265 Far North Rd  
R D 4  
KAITAIA 0484

Dear Harry

Thank you for your board resolution of 25 March 2019 to apply to change the class of Ngataki School from Year 1-8 primary school to a Year 1-10 composite school.

I note from your application that you have already engaged with students’ parents, staff, and principals of nearby schools, with positive responses.

Under section 157 of the Education Act 1989 I must consult with the boards of schools whose rolls might be affected, and consider that feedback before I make a decision about your school becoming a composite school. I have asked the Ministry of Education to conduct this consultation on my behalf. I understand this will be done in Term 4, 2019.

The Ministry of Education Senior Education Advisor for Ngataki School, Pat Conrad, will be in contact with you regarding the process from here. The Ministry will then prepare further advice for my final decision.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education