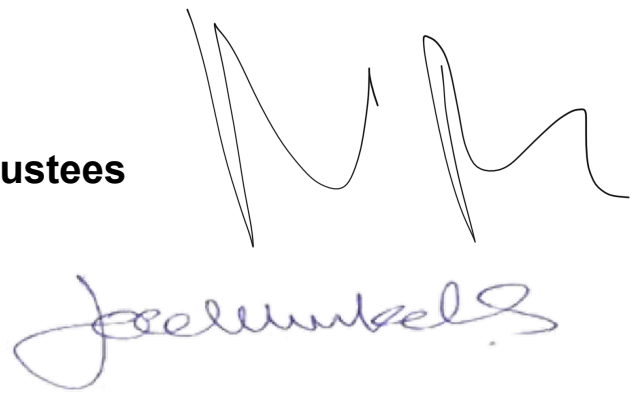


# Draft Newtown School Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Monday 5 May 2025, 6.40pm  
Library



Board members: Joe Winkels (co-chair), Nick Booth (co-chair), Nicki Read (tumuaki), Naomi Taylor, Fatima Osman Amin, Jess Gorman (online from 7.20pm), Trey Tanuvasa, Rhys Muir (kaiako rep), Sian Smith (Ngāti Kotahitanga rep).

Also present:

Steve Kerr (minutes), Nadia Abu-Shanab (NZEI), Sam Huggard (NZEI), Chantel Berg (kaiako), Danielle Te Waiti (Deputy Principal).

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## 1. Karakia timatanga

Joe welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves. There were no conflicts of interest.

## 2. Te Tiriti in action

All board members shared examples of honouring Te Tiriti in their lives. These included: noho marae at Te Oreore Marae, attending the pōwhiri of the Māoriland Film Festival, thinking about a pātaka kai at school, writing to Minister of Education to get funding for resource teacher, sharing te reo and pepeha with whānau members.

## 3. New teacher

Chantel introduced herself. She said she had recently arrived in Aotearoa from Canada with her husband on a working holiday visa. She said she felt very fortunate to be at this kura and have the opportunity to learn some reo Māori. She is teaching in Piwakawaka, first time teaching outside Canada. For lunch on the run she really likes the Good Boy sandwiches. She has enjoyed learning to use the coffee machine in the teacher break room.

## 4. New members

Nick formally welcomed Sian Smith and Rhys Muir to the board, as new Ngāti Kotahitanga rep and staff rep respectively.

- **MOTION - that Sian Smith is coopted to the Board of Trustees of Newtown School / Te Kura o Ngā Puna Waiora as a representative of Ngāti Kotahitanga**

Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

#### **4. Facilitated Discussion: how boards and whānau can support education**

Nadia Abu-Shanab introduced herself. She said she had worked for the teacher's union NZEI Te Riu Roa for the last six years. She said this year teachers will be in negotiation with the government. This time it's not just about pay and conditions. Teachers have been expressing concern about the removal of teo reo Maori and Te Tiriti. They are particularly concerned this year about learning support. NZEI Te Riu Roa had recently released a report on this topic, *Kia Mahi Kotahi: Working together Learning Support Workforce Programme 2025-2029*.

Nadia asked for feedback from attendees on their experience and thoughts of learning support.

Attendees said it was disheartening to have to scramble for money and support for tamariki who need support. They said the system should be encouraging us to provide support. Funding drops off as tamariki get older, but who they are does not change. Current funding and systems do not deliver equity. Relationships are key, for example with teacher aides. It's almost impossible to get learning support in Māori medium from someone who is fluent in te reo. Many tamariki on the autism spectrum don't get funding. Newtown School has amazing support people who have passion to get the job done, but there's never enough funding. It is a really tough job to make decisions about who gets the support - that's one of the greatest challenges for leaders.

Attendees said the lack of resourcing compared to need is disgraceful. The sector is funded by the passion of the workers. Working as a kaiawhina in a specialist ORS school, the reality was that some support staff were on precarious contracts and low wages.

Nadia then asked attendees to think about what it would look like for our community and the country if there was sufficient resourcing for a teacher aide in every class for learning support, and extra specialist resourcing.

Attendees said it would make a huge difference if kaiawhina were treated as professionals with salaries. They would have time to develop resources. They'd be in school more often because it would be a full time job. If tamariki get the support they need, they'll see better health and justice outcomes. It would give those tamariki a sense of belonging. Everyone deserves the right to have consistency, a sense to have a place where they belong.

Nadia said it was clear there is a benefit to properly funding learning support, and a social cost to not doing this. She said NZEI Te Riu Roa has been demanding this form of government for years. Nadia said she might come back to whānau on boards seeking an endorsement of that demand.

## 5. Tumuaki report

Kapa haka - Danielle said she'd opened up kapa haka to mātāwaka tamariki and to younger tamariki. There were lots of performances coming up.

He Ranga Tipu - Danielle said this is the classroom release strategy that brings reo into the classroom every fortnight while the regular teachers are going out. She said it's going brilliantly. The kaiako get to go on release together so they can really get into planning and sorting things out together. While they're out, He Ranga Tipu go in. She said the school has noticed that whakatau Māori happens in every area of the school every morning. She said it's happening more often that you hear reo in the playground, Normalising the language is really good.

He Tohu Maungārongo - is the artwork at the front of the kura, which was unveiled at the end of term 1. It looks lovely. Danielle said we had Te Atiawa representatives there at the blessing. Staff feel chuffed about it now too. She said that now the school has something to hang things on when Venise does mahi on Parihaka.

Manuhiri - Nicki said the school had picked up student teachers again after a break. We have two masters students and we also have four other Grad Dips. She said that was a lot of young people but it's part of our responsibility to grow the profession.

Pilot programme - Danielle said the Land Information Freehold Education Trust is running courses to help whānau fill out the Māori Land Court forms to find out if they have whenua. It connects tamariki to their whakapapa and teaches about land trusts.

Leave request - Nicki said that two teachers have requested leave, Kath Foale and Doreen Blask.

- **MOTION - to approve leave requests for Kath and Doreen**

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Staff only day - Nicki asked the board to agree to the change of staff only day to Tuesday 28 October.

- **MOTION - to change the staff only day to Tuesday 28 October 2025**

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Artwork - Nicki said that Paul has offered to donate his artwork to put on the container. Naomi said she thought it was very generous and we should run it through our Whakamana strategy to make sure it is done appropriately.

- **ACTION - Naomi and Nicki to take the decision re: Paul's offer to donate container artwork through the Whakamana strategy and checklist**

Website rebuild proposal - Nicki said she'd had an initial conversation with one firm and received a proposal and quote from them. She said she was going to meet with another potential provider to compare costs.

- **ACTION - Sian and Nicki to consider quotes on website development**
- **ACTION - Steve to investigate possibility of grant funding website development costs**

Brand proposal - Nicki shared two options for brands that have been developed. She asked board members what a logo means to them. Attendees said, a logo can express the wairua of the kura without words. Something that tamariki are excited to wear. Something that we are excited about. The process by which it is developed is really important.

Trey asked whether this was the right time to prioritise a rebrand, when there are a lot of other things going on. Joe said it's important that the board all agree why we are doing this now. Sian said that 'Te Kura o Ngā Puna Waiora' needs to be the same size as 'Newtown School'. Board members agreed and said the design should reflect partnership. Naomi said the design process should start from the pūrākau, then the school could potentially develop a unit to teach each class about the logo each year. Sian said we need to frame the kōrero from a te ao Māori perspective that includes people from all over the world.

Nicki asked the other board members what they wanted to see in the logo. She said she wanted the logo to reflect where the school is now and where it's been. Board members said that it would be a good idea to wānanga widely to capture all perspectives.

- **ACTION - Sian and Nicki to set up ohu/subgroup to work on rebrand**

## **6. Community engagement**

Fatima posed three questions to the board: what is the most important factor in building a strong connection between your board and its community? How can your board maintain strong, positive relationships with your community? How can your board help overcome barriers that prevent families from getting involved?

She said that one aspect of community engagement that we do well is celebrating events like Eid Al Fitr and Easter. She said it was a good idea to celebrate these two events together at the end of term. Tamariki showed curiosity about how Eid and Easter change dates. There was lots of good food.

She asked what additional considerations should our board prioritise this year to enhance cultural responsiveness? Fatima said she hoped the school could celebrate other communities like Diwali. She said her vision was for anyone to feel welcome and feel comfortable. She said that celebrating small things helps welcome and acknowledge everyone.

Trey said it was important to have someone on staff so that parents always know who to talk to about certain things. It's really key to define roles and responsibilities. Fatima said it's also really important to have clear communication so that families in all communities know what the board is for.

Trey said that next she wanted to take time to develop a policy and to talk more with Nicki. She shared the link to the doc and encouraged board members to share their thoughts on a draft survey form. Naomi asked if we could translate the survey questions into different languages.

- **ACTION - all board members to respond to the questions in the community engagement doc**

## **7. Future agenda items and meeting dates**

Nicki said she was keen to have a June meeting, and if possible a July meeting. The board agreed to meet again on:

- Monday 9 June
- Monday 28 July

## **8. Portfolio updates, Delegations, playground**

Ngāti Kotahitanga - Sian gave an update. She said there are three Ngāti Kotahitanga ohu (committees). Every term there is a hui-ā-whānau to update whānau. School leadership are also invited to the hui-ā-whānau. Sian said that Ngāti Kotahitanga parents are heavily involved and committed to helping their whānau thrive.

Ngāti Kotahitanga had received a grant from the Methodist Church for travel, and had planned a Hautapu event for Matariki.

Te Tiriti - Naomi asked some questions about the attendance report. She asked whether there are barriers to attendance that the board can do something about? Nicki said that

each week SLT analyses the absences and thinks about reasons, and whether there are needs like groceries packs or breakfast. She said she would talk about this more at the next board hui.

## 9. Previous minutes and action items

The minutes of the previous meetings were approved as true and correct.

#	Action	Assigned to	Status
210	Appoint a new staff representative for board	Nicki	Closed - complete
209	Send email community to consult on policies	Nick	Closed - complete
208	Follow up with parents to train as lifeguards so the pool can be used on the weekend.	Jess	Closed - complete
206	Share an update on cultural competency at the next board meeting	Trey and Fatima	Closed - complete
200	Add playground mahi to their work programmes	Portfolio leads	Closed - complete
178	Look into what can be done to support Palestinian whānau	Naomi and Fatima	Ongoing
175	Prepare a calendar of community events, language weeks, etc	Rhys	Ongoing - re-assigned to Rhys
173	Write up notes of how they see their portfolio responsibilities **UPDATE: DUE 5 MAY 2025**	All	Carry forward

## 8. Closing karakia

Meeting closed at 9.50pm