

Te Kura o Ngā Puna Waiora

Newtown School

Board of Trustees Hui Minutes

Rātū / Monday - 20 Hūrae / July 2026, 6:30pm / Staffroom

Board members: Naomi Taylor, Fatima Amin Sheikh, Nadia Abu-Shahab, Amro Gamal, Sian Smith (Online - Ngāti Kotahitanga rep), Nicki Read (Tumuaki)

Also present: Danielle Te Waiti (Deputy Principal), Debbie Purves, Ash Holwell (minute taker)

Apologies: Jahnelle Wright (Ngāti Kotahitanga rep), Trey Tanuvasa, Rhys Muir (kaiako rep)

Waiata me Karakia timatanga

Meeting opened 6:37pm

Conflicts of Interest None

Previous minutes

Motion: The board accepts previous minutes as true and accurate.

Moved: Nicki

Seconded: Amro

All: Approve

1. Whanaungatanga - Hina i te marama - Reflections of actions and learning

Ko Hina i te marama, me kore au e ngaro i te hinapōuri

I will never be lost as Hina will provide me with clarity and guidance

- Amro acknowledged the Matariki events at school and appreciated the power and spirituality of it, particularly for his children. Understanding and connecting to the culture of this land and our rich lives within it, made wonderful by the community of

this school. With family and as part of the community the events were really special – thank you to all that put this on.

- Nicki spoke of conversations with her family of the meanings of Matariki and the sharings, reflections and looking forward together – with the weavings together of whanau in these times
 - Danielle loves the hau tapu that happened in Ngāti Whatua Ōrākei – where I have connections, and it was a particularly emotional time. The names of many of the people in the ceremony were recognisable for Danielle and this brought those connections to the fore for her. Remembering the depth of that land in protest and it was a reminder of the joy and power that can come from those movements.
 - Naomi attended the hautapu here in Pōneke, getting gumboots the night before in preparation. It was so beautiful and warm, there was karakia, karanga and waiata. The clouds parted and Puanga emerged, just in the small parted area of clouds. It was a cool special moment, and we are excited for the year ahead.
 - Sian feels she really missed Matariki and Puanga, due to māuiuitanga in her whānau. Appreciated all the stories of the amazing things happening that people are making happen. Mihi to the kaupapa and the people working to enable us all to remember and reflect.
-

2. Mōteatea + Tohu

Noho Ake Au by Pererika Timutimu

The board was presented the journey of the creation of the tohu and the story behind it

Acknowledgements for the mahi and care that has gone into this work:

- Amro: Appreciate the story behind the story – thank you.
- Naomi: The official change of name to Ngā Puna Waiora Newtown School could be happening soon, along with Te Wiki o Te Rea Māori – as part of the pathway towards Pōneke vision of being bilingual by 2040 – this could also be a time to share the story of the new logo.. The tohu also reflects and acknowledges our Pasifika connection to the kura and this community.

- Nadia: It's beautiful, and the story behind it is incredible. If you involve the tamariki then the parents and the whānau hear the stories through them, and this is how the rise of Matariki has happened, and this is powerful for all.
- Danielle: The tamariki tell the stories to their whānau in ways that they can hear.
- Naomi: There may also be whānau who want to hear all of it, so there could be an opportunity for more story telling and interactivity for them
- Sian: What a beautiful story, thank you so much – I am speechless. It's been such a journey to get here and it's wonderful to see the tohu in its place. The story of the evolution of the kura over many years is powerful, and the way the korero is told is mana enhancing across all of the versions of the kura.
- Nadia: Toutoko that this part, the telling of this history was really incredible
- Sian: Sometimes old institutions can tell their histories in harmful ways and this doesn't do this at all, it tells the story with manaaki.
- Amro: Suggestions of an introduction to the story telling of the tohu, acknowledging the cultural significance of the story and the culture of this school and the story, in order to also uplift and honour all of the different cultures represented in this community and signaling that culture is valuable.

Discussion around the next steps for sharing with the tamariki, whānau and community, along with the celebration and decommissioning of the current school logo. There needs to be a significant process of care and transition around this.

3. Achievement Reporting

Debbie and Danielle presented the mid year achievement report – celebrating the diverse range of success, activity and adventure held by the school.

"Excellence and equity go hand in hand. Achieving excellence is the goal that every education system should strive for – educational success supports personal, social and cultural wellbeing, and national prosperity. While excellence will not be the same for everyone, every learner deserves to be supported to achieve their very best."

A highlight is the ways in which communities celebrate with us, in their way- we are unique in our efforts to include others in ways that honour their cultures.

Discussion around the changing curriculum and reporting requirements, highlighting issues with the new MoE SMART Tool and multiple standard changes within the last two years. The SMART tool was not used in the data shown as the data was not provided in time by SMART. Discussion about the proportion of students being between emerging and consolidating ranges, and interventions to give those who need it greater learning support.

Discussion further addressed that the current reporting method does not consider where the various tauira start from. BOT reassured by SLT that the school reporting and whakamōhio gives parents a more thorough understanding of where their tamariki are at. The kaiako are using all of their diverse expertise and deep understandings of where our tamariki are at.

Discussion around the regular conversations and work happening within the school to prioritise the learning progress of tamariki and work with all of the resources we have in order to be the most effective.

Nicki: In our kura we are doing so many things to provide an environment that provides a place of curiosity, purpose, challenge and meaning, in order to provide powerful and diverse opportunities for all of our tamaki to learn.

4. Leadership Report

Thank you to:

- Danielle for the wonderful production – the messaging of peace was powerful and I had lots of parents coming to say it was profound.
- Thank you to Fatima for the Somalian celebrations – it was incredibly well organised and an excellent celebration.
- Thanks to those who brought our Matariki celebrations together.

Finance:

- Nicki presents the updated mid year budget.
- At the mid year roll return we opted to remain in the donations scheme.

Motion: The board accepts the updated mid year budget.

Moved: Amro

Seconded: Nadia

All: Approve

Property:

- We have been notified that our zone has been extended..
- Proposal from Natural Leaders NZ to collaborate with the school to create a food and pollinator corridor. The proposal was presented in relation to our whakamana strategy as a framework for assessing it. Discussion around the proposal in relation to project and capacity. Decision for a subgroup to investigate the possibility of collaboration further.
- Proposal for a food truck event to happen within the school grounds. Discussion around how the proposal could benefit the school, and contribute to the community. Decision to approve a trial period for four months, one per month, with a set of success criteria outlined by the board.

Motion: The board accepts the amended zoning scheme from the Ministry of Education.

Moved: Naomi

Seconded: Nicki

All: Approve

Motion: Approve Carus as suppliers for the updated cyclical maintenance programme.

Moved: Amro

Seconded: Naomi

All: Approve

Motion: The Board of Newtown School to approve the submission of a grant to Grassroots Trust Central for the amount of \$3,836.50 for a Newtown School-branded gazebo , with new tohu, to support student participation in sports events and outdoor activities. We commit to using the stated funds for the intended purpose.

Moved: Nicki

Seconded: Nadia

All: In favour

5. Portfolios

- Community
 - Community-led Emergency Preparedness Hub Event in the hall this weekend.
 - Internal Emergency Preparedness hui this week in preparation for our own event on August 7th.
-

Date for next meetings

Monday 17th August

Monday 14th September

Monday 12th October

Monday 9th November

Tuesday 8th December

Karakia Whakamutunga

Actions

#	Action	Assigned	Status
26.01	Ensure the various portfolios are covered.	Collective	Completed
	Invite Josephine to board hui	Noami, Sian	Completed
26.03	Investigate ways to report categories relating to ethnicity and/or origin that are better represented - aim to approve and align with kura values	Naomi + Danielle	Completed

26.04	Submit on Education and Training Bill (System Reform) Amendment Bill - 14 January 2025	Noami + Collective	Completed
26.05	Review co option regulations and respond to those who are interested in being on the Board.	Collective	Completed
26.05	Continue to find parents interested in fundraising.	Collective	In progress
26.06	Add actions to the Strategic Plan especially for the Hapori - June Meeting	Danielle + Collective	In progress
26.07	Implement four recommendations from Community Survey	Nicki	In progress
26.08	Co-option recommendations from each caucus	Collective	Completed
26.09	Te Tiriti portfolio will bring recommendations back to the board for constitution development	Te Tiriti portfolio	In progress
26.10	Review and approve audited financial reports + updated Asset Register	Nicki	Completed
26.11	Find a time for the board to experience the story of the new tohu/logo	Nicki	Completed
26.12	Tangata Whenua caucus will report back in regards co-option timelines	Naomi + Sian	In progress
26.13	Policy Wānanga within board hui at the first hui of next term - July	Sian + Trey	In progress
26.14	All board members will provide bio and photo to the school by 15 May	All	In progress
26.15	Nicki to approach Ed Services in regards improvement of the asset register system.	Nicki	Completed

26.16	Subgroup will meet in relation the food corridor proposal	Amro + Naomi + Fatima	In progress
-------	---	-----------------------	-------------



Signed:
Naomi Taylor, Co-Presiding Member