



12 SEP 2017

Hayden Read
fyi-request-6230-c1b6d4a6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Hayden

Thank you for your email of 18 July 2017, in which you request the following information:

1. *any information and details on the reasons around Onerahi Primary School's request for recapitation being declined;*
2. *any communications from other parties that may have contributed to the request being declined; and*
3. *what the concerns were that were raised by other schools, as noted in the letter sent to the Board of Trustees on 22 August 2016 which stated that 'some of the schools within your local network have expressed concern about the change'.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982.

In respect of part 1 of your request, I can advise that the recapitation request by the Onerahi Primary School Board of Trustees was declined primarily because of the projected negative impact on the rolls, and therefore the resourcing and educational outcomes, of other schools in the area (this would apply particularly to both Raurimu Avenue School and Whangarei Intermediate). We also looked at population projection analysis to determine likely demographic movements within the region. These showed that up until 2022, the number of Year 1 to 6 students is projected to decline.

In respect of parts 2 and 3 of your request, I can advise that we are required under section 157 of the Education Act 1989 to consult with those schools that are likely to be affected by a school's recapitation. In all, we sought feedback from five schools. We received letters from the Boards of Trustees of both Raurimu Avenue School and Whangarei Intermediate (these are attached as **Appendices A** and **B** respectively).

If you have any questions about this response, feel free to contact the Director of Education for Tai Tokerau, Hira Gage, at hira.gage@education.govt.nz or by phone on 09 436 8914.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

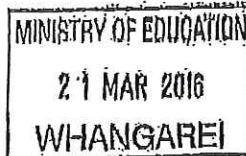


Katrina Casey
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EO Raurimu Avenue School
Raurimu Avenue
Onerahi
Whangarei D110
436 0620

18 March 2016

Ministry of Education
10 Awaroa River Rd
Whangarei

Dear Hira and Tanya,

RE: ONERAHI PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATION TO RECAPITATE

Raurimu Avenue School means many things to Onerahi community especially the whānau and families that reside within it. It represents a connection to the past that has its focal point at the sentinel Pa on Pa Road, that provides shade, shelter and learning for our taniariki, and for all who have lived here and all who continue to choose Raurimu, Onerahira as their home.

We provide this written response as a record of our discussion to ensure that our objection to the application to recapitate is received and understood. We believe that it will have a negative impact on a well governed, managed and operated school that already provides a quality Year 7 & 8 learning opportunity and environment for Onerahira.

We invite the Ministry of Education, Onerahi Primary School and any other stakeholders to join us in growing the numbers of students who stay in Onerahi for Year 7 and 8 – at Raurimu Avenue School.

We have current capacity to deliver quality Year 7 and 8 education to each and any student whose family chooses our school. We have

- extremely capable and enthusiastic staff;
- available classroom space for at least 2 Year 7 and 8 classes, several other learning spaces including to be easily adapted for a fully equipped Technology Unit, and our large hall;
- resources from library and devices/ computers to pool and cycle track;
- spacious and beautiful grounds;
- natural learning environments within walking distance, for example Whangarei Harbour, Waimahanga Track;
- Continual community involvement supporting sports, education outside the classroom and such like.

Raurimu Avenue School particularly offers high quality enhancement of each and every student's achievement. We are known for strengths that are both key to accelerating students' learning and key in te ao Māori, such as whanaungatanga including tuakana-aina approaches, manaakitanga, whaiwāhitanga. We are also known for our strengths enhancing learning achievement for students with special education needs.

Raurimu Avenue School is continually developing and embracing review and improvement, examples being too numerous to mention here. In addition we are on the cusp of new growth and development with the arrival of our new Principal next month, Riripeti Totoro. Riripeti is ready to hear the voices and meet the needs of the wider community of Onerahi.

Working together to grow the year 7 and 8 already provided in Onerahi could include elements such as providing positive and accurate information to each family, and a seamless and positive transition from year 6 to year 7. Working together, proactively and deliberately would be crucial to establish "choosing Raurimu Avenue School for year 7 and 8" as a new and positive norm for a significant proportion of Onerahi families.

Raurimu Avenue School are currently fundraising for an inter-challenge compact confidence course to enhance genuine physical challenges for our senior students. Growing our Year 7 and 8 would create an ongoing virtuous cycle - people choosing our Year 7 and 8, increasing resourcing and support, further enhancements for their benefit, more people choosing our Year 7 and 8...

In contrast to this growth and development, we consider recapitulation of Onerahi Primary School would have negative impact on Raurimu Avenue School. We consider such recapitulation would undermine this plan, our reputation, and reinforce or worsen the current small proportion of Onerahi families who choose us, not only for Year 7 and 8 but across the Primary Years also.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on these and other matters.

Ngā mihi ki ā kōrua,

Vicki Fowke
Board of Trustees Chair
Raurimu Avenue School



Whangarei Intermediate School

32 Rust Avenue
Whangarei 0110

Ph: 09 438 8659, Fax: 09 438 2487
email: admin@wis.ac.nz

Ministry of Education
P.O. Box 911
Whangarei 0140

21/03/16

Kia ora Hira Gage,

Thank you for your letter re: Onerahi Primary School recapitulating Year 7 students. As a board we believe this decision will have the following effects on Whangarei Intermediate School:

- A negative impact on the Whangarei Intermediate School roll. Potentially, WIS could lose approximately 100 students from this area of Whangarei.
- A reduction in staffing numbers. With less students WIS could potentially lose 3x general classroom teacher positions and 1x specialist teacher.
- Bus transport issues for the current Year 7s becoming Year 8s in 2016. The current bus service is a joint initiative between WIS/Bus Company. If Onerahi Primary School were to recapitate, the bus company would in all likelihood shut down the bus service on this route. If the bus service was removed, all remaining students would have to travel on the town bus which is currently more expensive than the existing school service.
- Removal of surplus classrooms. A loss of students would result in the school having surplus classroom spaces. At a significant cost to the Ministry of Education, these classrooms would need to be 'removed' from the school site.
- Current enrolment scheme of WIS would be no longer needed. We would choose to remove the enrolment scheme which would mean, as a school, we could advertise for students across Whangarei. This situation could potentially have a disastrous flow-on effect to other schools who offer Year 7 and Year 8 education and would put us in direct competition with Onerahi Primary School for students.

As a board, we do not support Onerahi School's application to recapitate. We believe it will have a negative impact on the entire Whangarei educational community.

Naku noa ha

Hayley Read
Principal on behalf of Whangarei Intermediate School Board of Trustees