

14 September 2016

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Tena ra koe Philippa

Possible cancellation of integration agreement and closure of Hato Petera College

Kia tū tika ai te whare tapu o Ngāpuhi

May the sacred house of Ngāpuhi stand firm, strong and healthy

This vision statement for Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi o Ngāpuhi (Rūnanga hereafter) on behalf of all Ngāpuhi descendants is one that our organisation continues to pursue and celebrate. As the Mandated Iwi Authority we are responsible for leading the spiritual, cultural, environmental and economic growth for over 125,000 Ngāpuhi descendants (Census, 2013). In doing so we support policies, initiatives and relationships that enhance the wellbeing of our beneficiaries, wherever they may be situated.

I write in response to your letter dated 12 August 2016 regarding the possible closure of Hato Petera College. This College has a long history with Ngāpuhi students and whānau and as such its future is of interest to us.

Māori Education in Tāmaki Makaurau

Hato Petera College is the only Māori boarding school located in a city in New Zealand. The College provides a unique opportunity for students and whānau who want to engage in a learning and living environment that encompasses the essence of being Māori. It is the closest Māori boarding school to Ngāpuhi, and has provided many of our tai tamariki with a strong education base.

The College provides an opportunity for Tai Tamariki of Ngāpuhi (and other) descent to grow in a learning environment that mirrors their world view. Further to this, the College is situated in New Zealand's largest city, with world class tertiary providers and employers within close proximity of students.

We fear the closure of yet another Māori boarding college reduces the opportunities for our tai tamarik to succeed in environments that have been purpose built with them in mind. We would also question, should the College close, where associated funds would be placed to support Māori education further?

Progressive Action

It is our understanding that the Hato Petera College Board has developed an initial action plan in response to the concerns raised by the Diocese and the Ministry of Education. We are happy to learn the College Board believes it is now compliant with all areas relating to the special character of the College. We have been made aware that a five year rolling lease was signed by the Diocese, ensuring the lifetime of a Year 9 student enrolled in 2016 will have the ability to complete their education through to 2020 at the College. It is our belief this lease should be honoured. If this is the case, it will also provide the Board additional time to increase the school roll, and make further enhancements to the school and its systems.

Further to this, we are aware the Board has put in place an enrolment strategy, including visiting and meeting with iwi around the country to emphasise the qualities and character Hato Petera College has to offer to their tai tamariki Māori. Indeed, Te Kahu O Taonui (the Tai Tokerau Iwi Chairs Group) was one such group provided this opportunity. We are also of the knowledge that at least 58 new enrolments have been received at the time this letter was sent.

We are keen to see the hostel continue to operate, albeit, this maybe under a new management structure. The hostel provides an opportunity for the 'living and learning' environment so many of our Māori tamariki thrive from. To close the hostel may have a detrimental effect on current boarding students preparing effectively for their end of year examinations.

Enabling a Modern and Thriving Environment

We understand through conversations with a number of people that the College has developed plans to make some considered changes to the delivery of education, and to enable a modern and thriving environment. These include learning pathways for Year 7-13 students, and providing modern and innovative learning and living environments.

Our main concern is the ability to provide education facilities that meet the needs of our Māori, and more specifically, Ngāpuhi tai tamariki. These facilities need to operate from a world view that is reflective of the cultural background of our tai tamariki. Most importantly, these institutions need to ensure our tai tamariki are achieving educational success at every level.

While the College has many issues to contend with, we are of the view that the Board is actively working to negate these in a manner that will only enhance the growth and development of the College, its current and future students, and associated whānau.

At the recent Te Kahu O Taonui meeting, the Chairs discussed the need to create an iwi led education strategy that encompasses Hato Petera College as the only Māori boarding school within our iwi boundaries.

It must also be noted, that of the nine iwi entities in the Te Kahu O Taonui collective, Ngāpuhi was the only one to receive a formal letter from the Ministry of Education informing us of the closing date for submissions. This is not satisfactory, and in fact, we believe the remaining eight iwi in Tai Tokerau should a) be notified formally of the submission process and b) allowed the time to provide submissions on their own merit.

In conclusion, we **do not** support the cancellation of the integration agreement or the closure of Hato Petera College. We support the College to remain open to enable the operationalisation of the plans the Board have developed in relation to student enrolment, to monitor its progress, and the achievement rates of students enrolled.

Nga mihi nui



PK Carol Dodd

Acting Chair

Te Runanga-A-Iwi-O Ngāpuhi

Cc: Iwi Chairs for

Te Runanga o Ngati Whatua

Te Runanga o Te Rarawa

Te Runanga o Ngai Takoto

Te Runanga o Ngati Kuri

Ngati Wai Trust Board

Te Runanga o Whaingaroa

Te Runanga o Ngati Kahu

Te Runanganui o Te Aupouri Trust