Education Report: Redesignating Māthetithe School (1046) as a designated character school

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

Date: 6 November 2019  Priority: High

Security Level: In Confidence  METIS No: 1210129

Drakter: Mark Scott  DDI: 59(2)(a)

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

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

Purpose of Report

This paper seeks your approval to redesignate Māthetithe School (1046) as a designated character school kura-ā-iwi, under section 154A(1)(a) of the Education Act 1989 (the Act).

Summary

1. Māthetithe School is a state co-educational Decile 1 Year 1 – 8 primary school in a remote coastal rural area north of Hokitika Harbour.

2. The school’s roll has remained between 20 and 42 since 2008, and was 31 as at 1 March 2019. The Kura moved to level 2 Māori immersion status in 2018. Between 90% and 100% of students have historically been of Māori descent. All students, and most staff, are associated with Te Rarawa and Te Aupōuri iwi.

3. Ngā Kura a Iwi o Aotearoa has accepted Māthetithe School’s application for membership, and would actively support a kura-ā-iwi designated character school, should this be approved.

4. The Māthetithe School Board of Trustees seeks to be redesignated as a designated character school kura-ā-iwi under section 154A of the Act, from 1 January 2020. You approved consultation on this on 31 July 2019 [METIS 1195285 refers].

5. The Board had already consulted locally and received support for the proposal.

6. You approved consultation on this proposal on 31 July 2019 [METIS 1195285 refers]. We consulted with the Board of Matihetihe School, and Te Kura Taumata o Panguru, which is the only school whose roll might be affected by the redesignation, if approved. We also consulted with the Kāhui Ako lead principals. No further comment has been received.

7. The 2018 Education Review Office (ERO) report confirms the school is well governed and provides quality education. The school is on a 3 year ERO review cycle.
Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

a. note that Mātihetihe School is a state school that has been accepted for membership of Ngā Kura a Iwi o Aotearoa and has applied to be redesignated as a designated character school (kura-a-iwi);

   Noted

b. note that we have completed consultation about the possible redesignation of Mātihetihe School as a designated character school, and no objection has been raised;

   Noted

c. agree that Mātihetihe School be redesignated under section 154A(1)(a) of the Education Act 1989 as a designated character school (kura-a-iwi);

   Agree/Disagree

d. note that the Secretary for Education proposes to approve a maximum roll of 50 students;

   Noted

e. note that the change of designation will be achieved via notice in the New Zealand Gazette;

   Noted

f. sign the attached Gazette notice and letter to the Mātihetihe School Board of Trustees and local Members of Parliament advising them of your decision;

   Agree/Disagree

g. agree that this report be proactively released in line with your expectations. 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
6/11/2019

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

1. Mātīhitihe School is a state co-educational Decile 1 Year 1 – 8 primary school in a remote coastal rural area north of Hokianga Harbour. It has been operating for over 120 years.

2. The School’s roll has remained between 20 and 42 since 2008, and was 31 as at 1 March 2019. Between 90% and 100% of students have historically been of Māori descent. All students, and most staff, whakapapa to Te Rarawa and Te Aupōuri iwi.

3. In 2018 the school moved to a level two te reo Māori immersion status. Significant professional learning has supported the teaching team and staff to implement increased te reo Māori teaching and learning, and to design a bilingual curriculum reflecting Te Marautanga o Aotearoa. Children in Years 7 and 8 travel to Te Kura Taumata o Panguru each week for technology learning.

4. Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa (NKAI) has accepted Mātīhitihe School’s application for membership, and would actively support a kura-ā-īwi designated character school, should this be approved.

5. The proprietor of Te Kura o Hata Maria (Pawarenga), a nearby state integrated school, is seeking to terminate the integration agreement and proposes a designated character kura-ā-īwi be established on the same site. The proposed kura-ā-īwi has been pre-approved for membership of NKAI, should you agree to establish such a school. Should you approve both applications the two schools are likely to support each other because their respective designated characters would represent sub-parts of the identical Hokianga and Tai Tokerau tribe, Te Rarawa.

6. The Board has consulted locally and received support for the proposal to redesignate the school (see Annex 1).

7. On 31 July 2019 you approved consultation on this proposal [METIS 1195285 refers]. That consultation has been completed.

Process for the proposed change

8. Under section 154A(1)(a) a state school that is not a designated character school can be redesignated as a designated character school by notice in the New Zealand Gazette, following consultation with the school’s Board of Trustees. Under section 157(3)(fa) you must first consult with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might, in your opinion, be affected if you take this action. The Ministry has undertaken the required consultation on your behalf.

9. If you agree to redesignation of the school the Secretary for Education must set a maximum roll for the school. This is required by section 156(8) of the Act. We expect to set a maximum roll of 50 students, as the school has two teaching spaces.

Consultation

10. We have consulted with the Board of Mātīhitihe School, and the Board of Te Kura Taumata o Panguru, which is the only school whose roll might be affected by the redesignation, if approved. We also consulted with the Kāhui Ako lead principals.
11. No further comment has been received beyond the initial support provided in response to the Board's consultation.

The proposed designated character

12. The school would become a kura-ā-iwi designated character school. This model has already been recognised as meeting the requirements of section 156 of the Act.

13. Specifically, the school would integrate Māori medium education into all aspects of the school in the local dialect and ensure that, alongside Te Marautanga o Aotearoa, this is consistent with the cultural practices of local hapū Te Hokokeha and Te Tao Maui as well as the Rarawa iwi. Its curriculum would specifically reflect the mātauranga and tikanga of the tangata whenua of Mitimiti and iwi o Te Rarawa. This fits within the Ka Hikitia education strategy for Māori to achieve education success as Māori.

14. The described character meets the legislative criteria of being different from that of an ordinary state school, it being desirable for students whose parents want them to do so to get such an education and delivering an education of a kind that differs significantly from the education students would get at an ordinary state school. This will better deliver on the language, culture and identity demand becoming increasingly common across Māori communities of the Tai Tokerau, and that is sought by the local community.

Education at the Kura

15. ERO last reviewed the kura in August 2018. Its report states:

"The kura has high expectations for children and whānau to contribute to and experience success as Māori. The strong connection between the kura and marae helps to embed children’s sense of belonging and security in their place, and naturally promotes partnerships with whānau. Highly skilled in Māori teaching and learning practices, kaiko e enhance children’s mana and promote their enjoyment of learning."

"The acting principal and teaching team are in the process of reviewing and redesigning the kura curriculum so that it better reflects Māthithiheetanga and is driven by Te Marautanga o Aotearoa. Professional learning is already underway to support this process."

"The large majority of children achieve at or above expected levels in English reading, writing and mathematics."

Comparative data collected at the start and middle of 2018 show that the majority of students are consistently achieving at expected levels across all literacy and numeracy strands in both Māori and English."

16. The few students who are below expected levels are well supported and receive guidance from external specialists. The School is on a three year ERO review cycle.
Education in the local area

17. Māihetihe School is part of the Hokianga Kāhui Ako, which includes four other full primary schools and two area schools.

18. The closest school is Te Kura Taumata o Panguru (not a member of the Kāhui Ako), which is 18 km away. It is a co-educational Year 1 - 13 school with a 2019 roll of 92 students, all of whom identify as Māori. Māori immersion provision is available at levels one to four. It is on a three year ERO review cycle. A small number of students from Māihetihe currently go to Panguru School.

19. Te Kura o Hata Maria (Pawarenga) is also a member of the Hokianga Kāhui Ako. It is a state integrated school with a Roman Catholic special character, and its students relate to Te Rarawa. It is 34 km away, across a mountain range, with a 2019 roll of 23 students. There is no reason to expect the roll would be affected by the proposal due to the distance between the schools and the Pawarenga community’s commitment to the designated character school they propose to replace the existing state integrated school (on the same site).

20. Kohukohu School is a Year 1 – 8 primary school, 43 km away with a 2019 roll of 42 students. There is no reason to expect that its roll would be affected by the proposal because of the distance and that there is no historical interchange between the school communities.

Property

21. There would be no change in property requirements.

Financial Implications

22. As there is no proposed change to the roll as a result of the proposed redesignation there are no financial implications.

Transport

23. The change in status would not result in any changes to school transport entitlements.

Staffing implications

24. The redesignation would not have any staffing impact.

Risks

25. We have not identified any risks associated with this proposal.
Conclusion

26. The Ministry's view is that you should approve the redesignation because:
   - the Board of Trustees has already consulted locally, and has received support for the proposal
   - there is strong community support for the proposal
   - our consultation has not resulted in any objection to the proposal
   - the school has already gained level two Māori immersion status
   - the tumuaki and teaching team have proactively driven a review to design a localised curriculum to reflect its pending designated character
   - alongside Te Marautanga o Aotearoa, it is intended a localised curriculum aligned to its community and Te Rarawa sub-tribes, Te Tao Maui and Te Hokokeha, will better deliver on the language, culture and identity demand becoming increasingly common across Māori communities of the Tai Tokerau
   - as a kura-ā-īwi the school would also have the support of Nga Kura Ā Iwi o Aotearoa and the Kāhui Ako.

Next Steps

27. If you agree to redesignation, please sign the notice for the New Zealand Gazette (Annex 2), and the letters to the Board of Trustees and local MPs (Annex 3). Please return the signed letters to the Board to the Ministry.

28. We will set a maximum roll for the school as required by section 156(8) of the Act.

Proactive Release of this Report

29. We recommend that this report be proactively released, in line with your expectations. 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: Support letters
Annex 2: Notice for the New Zealand Gazette
Annex 3: Letters to the Board of Trustees and local MPs
02nd May 2019

Ms Linda Rudolph
Turuaki
Te Kura o Matihetihe

Tena koe e Whaea Linda,

‘mō mātou, mā mātou, e ai ki o mātou’

Nei rā te mihi kia koutou i runga anō i ngā tini ahuatanga o te wā.

Ko te kaupapa o tēnei reta e hiahia ana mātou Te Kura o Hata Maria ki te tautoko i te tono a Te Kura o Matihetihe, Mitimiti mō tō koutou hononga ki Ngā Kura a Iwi o Aotearoa.

Tino hari mātou mō tō koutou tono nā te mea ka piritahi mātou ki te whakakaha te kaupapa o Nga Kura a Iwi i Te Taitokerau.

We, at Te Kura o Hata Maria are on the same journey which we know will also be enlightening for our tamariki and for our whānau as well.

Again, we support your request to change the legal designation of your kura under section 156 of the Education Act to become a special character school, and it is our desire to continue working closely with you in the future, as we are doing right now.

Nga mihi nui

[Signature]

Tunney McFadyen
Commissioner
Mathetihe School
3835 West Coast Road,
RD 2 Kohukohu

29 o Mei 2019

"Kia hura te marino, kia whakapapa pounamu te moana, kia tere te Kārohirohi i mua i tōu huarahi"

Tēnei mātou te whānau o Pā Arapeta e tautoko ana i tō koutou hoenga ki Te Tihi o Angitu, ā tō koutou huringa mai i tētahi kura rec rua, hei Kura-ā-Iwi.

Ko koutou tērā e whakatinana ana i ngā moemoea o a tātou nei mātua tūpuna. Nā mātou te marenga nui te kite i tēnei huarahi hei whakawhanake, hei poipoa i wā tātou nei mokopuna kia tū rangatira i roto i te āpōpōtanga.

Ko mātou, Te Kohanga Reo o Pā Arapeta e kawe tonu ana i Te Reo Māori me ōna Tikanga kia whāngai tonu ki ngā uri whakaheke, kia matomato tupu ai ngā uri o te kāinga. "Ko te reo te mauri, o te mana Māori"

Nga manaakitanga,

[Signature]

Pa Arapeta te Kohanga Reo
Kereama Brown
Chairperson
20 May 2019

Ko Te Rarawa te iwi
Ko Tapokapoka-a-Tawhaki te Moana
Ko Moetangi te Awa
Ko Te Rarawa te iwi
Ko Matihetihe te Marae

Tarakeha is the mountain
The Tasman Sea is the ocean
Moetangi is the river
Te Rarawa is the iwi
Matihetihe is the Marae

On behalf of the Matihetihe Marae Trustees, it is my privilege to endorse Te Kura o Matihetihe’s application to become a special character school.

Matihetihe Marae is located within a small rural Northland community, generally reliant on the goodwill and support of our extended whānau. Te Kura o Matihetihe is an integral part of our community, and actively contributes to our overall desire in developing a sustainable framework that will enhance and uplift the aspirations of our Hapū and wider communities.

Te Kura o Matihetihe have strategically planned to revitalise te reo and tikanga Māori as part of their succession planning, forward thinking and future proofing of our Marae, community and Hapū representation. Staff and whānau work tirelessly to ensure that students are provided with exceptional teaching and learning experiences, which in turn create strong educational pathways for all students at Te Kura o Matihetihe.

Nāku noa, nā

Victor Kendall
Matihetihe Marae Trust
Chairman
Wenerei te 29 o Pipiri, 2019

Tena koutou e oku rangatira

Re: The re-designation status of Matihetihe School - Te Kura o Matihetihe

Nei rā te mihi ki a koutou i runga anō i ngā tini ahuatanga o te wā.

Please accept this letter as confirmation that Te Kura o Matihetihe became a formal member of Nga Kura a Iwi o Aotearoa on November 24th, 2018 at our Annual General Meeting in Rotorua. The purpose, values and strategic direction of Te Kura o Matihetihe and Nga Kura a Iwi o Aotearoa are in very clear alignment. Since becoming official members of Nga Kura a Iwi o Aotearoa, Te Kura o Matihetihe has fully participated in the Nga Kura a Iwi kaupapa.

Nga Kura a Iwi fully supports the priorities identified by the Iwi, hapu and wider community of Te Kura o Matihetihe. The aspirations of the kura fully align to the direction, priorities and values of Nga Kura a Iwi o Aotearoa. Therefore, as the CEO of Nga Kura a Iwi o Aotearoa please receive this letter as confirmation of our support for the re-designation status that Te Kura o Matihetihe is applying for to become a special character school under section 156 of the Education Act.

The most recent example of one of our schools undertaking the re-designation process is Te Kura o Te Whānau a Apanui with the name change from Te Kaha Community School under section 146 of the Education Act to Te Kura o Te Whānau a Apanui as a special character school under section 156 of the Education Act.

Please ring me if you have any further questions.

Ka nui te mihi

Watson Ohia

POU KOKIRI - Chief Executive Officer

Nga Kura a Iwi o Aotearoa Incorporated

s 9(2)(a)
Linda Rudolph (Tumuaki)
3835 West Coast Road
RD 2 Kohukohu
MITIMITI 0492

Te Puna Topu o Hokianga Trust
Wairoa Stream Road
Mitimiti
0492

19th May 2019

Tena Koe Linda

Thank you for your letter dated 10 May 2019, regarding a request for a letter of support to change the school, Kura o Matihetihe, Redesignation to a Kura a iwi as required by section 156 of the education Act.

Te Puna Topu o Hokianga Trust are pleased to Tautoko the Redesignation of Matihetihe Schools' legal status, to a Kura a iwi. We wish you all the best.

Nga Mihi

[Signature]

Andrew Kendall

Te Puna Topu Trust Chair
Hon Kelvin Davis
MP for Te Tai Tokerau
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Kelvin,

I am writing to let you know that I have agreed to redesignate Māthetihetihe School, Mitimiti, as a designated character school (kura-ā-īwi). This will take effect from 1 January 2020.

The designated character will be as follows:

- Māthetihetihe School will integrate Māori medium education into all aspects of the School in the local dialect and ensure that, alongside Te Marautanga o Aotearoa, this is consistent with the cultural practices of local hapū Te Hokokeha and Te Tāo Mauī as well as the Rarawa īwi.
- Its curriculum will specifically reflect the mātauranga and tikanga of the tangata whenua of Mitimiti and Īwi o Te Rarawa.
- It will operate as a kura-a-īwi.

I consider this school will support Māori achieving educational success as Māori.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
New Zealand Gazette Notice

Redesignation of Mātihetihe School (1046)

Pursuant to section 154A(1)(a) of the Education Act 1989 (the Act), I hereby designate Mātihetihe School (1046), in Mitimiti, as a designated character school under section 158 of the Act. This designation will take effect from 1 January 2020.

Mātihetihe School will operate the following aims, purposes and objectives, which will together constitute its designated character:

- Mātihetihe School will integrate Māori medium education into all aspects of the School in the local dialect and ensure that, alongside Te Marautanga o Aotearoa, this is consistent with the cultural practices of local hapū Te Hokokeha and Te Tao Mauī as well as the Rarawa iwi.
- Its curriculum will specifically reflect the mātauranga and tikanga of the tangata whenua of Mitimiti and iwi o Te Rarawa.
- It will operate as a kura-ā-īwi.

The Mātihetihe School Board of Trustees will be constituted under section 94 of the Act.

Dated at Wellington this 20th day of November 2019.

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
Dear Nore,

Thank you for your Board’s application to redesignate Māthetihe School as a designated character kura-ā-iwi.

The Ministry of Education has consulted on this proposal on my behalf. After considering all the information presented to me I have decided to redesignate Māthetihe School as a designated character school (kura-ā-iwi). This will take effect from 1 January 2020.

The Secretary for Education has indicated she is likely to approve a maximum roll of 50 students. If, in the future, the school wishes to increase this figure then it will need to follow a process with the Ministry of Education.

I wish to acknowledge the work your Board has done to date to enable the school to operate as a kura-ā-iwi, and look forward to hearing of your future success under this designation.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mark Scott, Senior Advisor Māori Medium, in the Ministry of Education’s Whangarei office. Mark can be contacted on 09 436 8910 or at Mark.Scott@education.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
Matt King  
MP for Northland  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON

Dear Matt,

I am writing to let you know that I have agreed to redesignate Māthetihe School, Mitimiti, as a designated character school (kura-ā-iwi). This will take effect from 1 January 2020.

The designated character will be as follows:

- Māthetihe School will integrate Māori medium education into all aspects of the School in the local dialect and ensure that, alongside Te Marautanga o Aotearoa, this is consistent with the cultural practices of local hapū Te Hokokeha and Te Tao Mauī as well as the Rarawa iwi.
- Its curriculum will specifically reflect the mātauranga and tikanga of the tangata whenua of Mitimiti and iwi o Te Rarawa.
- It will operate as a kura-ā-iwi.

I consider this school will support Māori achieving educational success as Māori.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education