



Te Whao Urutaki – Māori Governance Partner, Newton Central School

Te Whao Urutaki: Me he whao te āhua o nga mahi ka mahia, ka uru atu te rōpū ki rō i ngā take o te whakahaere wero (taki) haere ai. (*Na Huata Kingi te ingoa me te whakamarama*)

Introduction

Newton central school is governed by a Treaty co-governance partnership between The Board of Trustees and Te Whao Urutaki. Te Whao Urutaki is the Māori governance partner and is comprised of Māori whānau representation from across the school. Both governance partners are responsible for governing the school as a whole. School governance occurs through a consensus decision-making process between the two partners.

Representation on Te Whao Urutaki

Māori representation in governance at Newton Central School is via Te Whao Urutaki. Te Whao Urutaki is a collective of Māori whānau who act as the governance partner with the Board of Trustees for Newton Central School.

The Treaty governance partnership has been achieved via the Schools Treaty of Waitangi Policy.

Representation to Te Whao Urutaki is encouraged from all parts of the school community including Te Whānau Rumaki o Te Uru Karaka, The Tuakana class, Te Awahou, Māori whānau in the wider school and Ngāti Whātua.

Each group can determine their own processes of selection and mandate to Te Whao Urutaki which may include members volunteering or being nominated.

For Te Whānau Rumaki, the Tuakana class and Te Awahou the process of selection should include whānau agreement at a whānau hui.

Representation in Te Whao Urutaki of Māori whānau from the wider school will be achieved through the principal and Te Whao Urutaki calling a meeting of Māori parents as needed.

Members of Te Whao Urutaki need not also attend Governance meetings with the Board. However an ideal number of Te Whao Urutaki representatives at a governance level is between 4-6.

In order for Te Whao Urutaki members to have access to all governance matters pertaining to the school, members are formally co-opted onto the Board of Trustees. The Ratio of co-opted to elected members is one less co-opted member than elected. Board members other than Te Whao Urutaki may be co-opted depending

on the strategic needs of the school. The number of co-opted Te Whao Urutaki members to Board members does not affect decision-making as the model is consensus.

The governance partnership at Newton Central School is co-chaired by a member of Te Whao Urutaki and the chair of the Board of Trustees.

The principal and senior management members attend Te Whao Urutaki meetings by invitation.

Te Whao Urutaki Job Description

It is understood that all governance issues concerning the school will concern Māori. Therefore Te Whao Urutaki has responsibility for overall school governance.

However Te Whao Urutaki also has a role in representing the views, concerns, interests and decisions of respective whānau and whānau groups at governance level. These two roles are balanced.

Should issues arise at a governance level that will directly affect Māori in the school Te Whao Urutaki members will actively engage with whānau groups and return their views, concerns, interests and decisions via the appropriate channels. Resolution of issues and ratification of decisions with and by whānau will at all times be sought.

Formal input of Te Whao Urutaki includes: all governance work and specifically policy; strategic planning; planning/review work; Māori educational initiatives and developments; and representation on appointments of/for senior management and principal.

Te Whao Urutaki meetings are always open to Māori school members.

Te Whao Urutaki make (provisional) decisions through dialogue and consensus

Minutes and Feedback

Te Whao Urutaki will ensure minutes are taken and disseminated following hui.

Members commit to providing a report to monthly whānau hui. Minutes will held in the office for viewing.