



Board Newsletter



Foreword

Welcome to our board newsletter, we started the school year with a new chairperson. Jo Pohatu has taken over the role from Barbara Dean who has stepped down as chair but will remain a Board member until the next elections. You will find more information about the board election in this issue.

Board meeting highlights

It is only Term 1 and we had a busy Board agenda. This term, the Board considered the next steps on the future of years 7&8 that resulted in a decision to appoint an independent advisor. We looked at the summary of achievement and discussed how the community can get further involved through Whānau hui group and upcoming elections.

Please note that the minutes are approved in the following meeting. You can access all the Board meetings in this [link](#).

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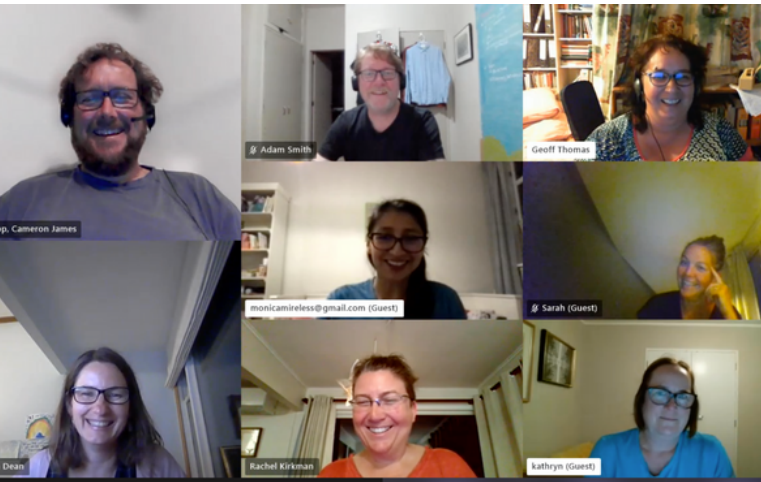
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Meet the Board

There have been a few changes in the Board so we thought we should give you an update on who we are. The Board is responsible for the governance of the school. The Board is composed of parent representatives, a staff representative and the school principal. The Board is chaired by Jo Pohatu. Monica and Adam joined last year and Sarah took over from Raelene this year as staff representative. We thank all our former members for their contribution. You can read more about us [here](#).



Next steps on future of years 7&8

In December, the Board voted in favour of proceeding with an application to the Ministry of Education to become a contributing primary school. Having reviewed the application process and discussed the matter with the New Zealand School Trustees Association (NZSTA) the Board has decided that there is insufficient information to go forward with the application at this time. There is still a lack of clarity around the future SWIS enrolment zone and the impact of that on our consultation with the community. The application requires a unanimous position from the board which was not reached during the December decision.

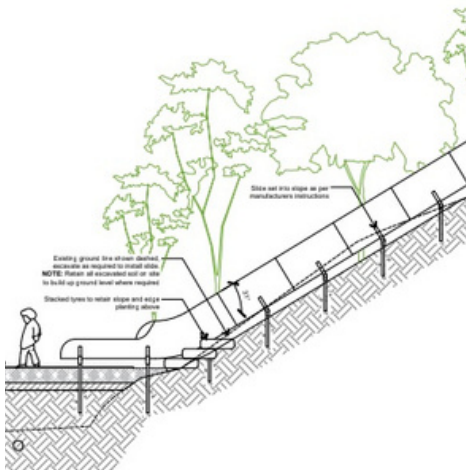
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Next steps:

1. The Board is going to appoint an independent advisor to support with the development and implementation of a second community engagement process. We expect to have this person appointed in Term 2. We will provide more details on process and timeline by the end of Term 2.
2. The Board will hui with the SWIS Board to discuss the SWIS enrolment zone and the future of Ridgway Year 7&8 together and provide feedback to the community on that.

Given the upcoming move to the new building and the Board elections in September, it is unlikely that the Board will complete the second community consultation on the future of Year 7&8s before Term 4 2022. The Board recognises that this prolongs the period of uncertainty for our community however it does provide for a more robust application in the future.

School improvements



Progress on the new building has slowed due to the current Omicron outbreak impacting the availability of building staff and materials. While we are disappointed by this, it is understandable as we are all feeling impacts in aspects of our lives right now. Read the [building diary](#) to keep up to date with the project.

Over the Easter break work will start on Stage One of our Treetop Walkway and Adventure Play area. Stage One will see 2 long slides on the bank next to the zig zag path.

This will involve the construction of a retaining wall beside the bike path, an elevated platform behind this and supports for the slide. The slides are on order, but the date when these arrive is yet to be confirmed.

The Easter break will also see the solar panels being installed on the new school roof. This will include the 16 panels which have been removed from the old school roof, and 56 new panels that the board has purchased.

Board elections

The Ministry has moved the school Board elections from May to September this year. Please consider standing for election to our Board! Being a Board member can be incredibly rewarding as you help shape the future of our school. The Board's role is governance and this includes leadership, accountability, representation and being an employer. You can find out further information on what School Board's do at [NZSTA](#) or talk to a Board member to find out what we really do!



Whānau hui group

The Board recognise the importance of whānau involvement in the work and life of the school and the Whānau Hui Group is a way that parents can get involved. The Whānau Hui Group have played an important role in supporting the growth of tikanga Māori and te reo Māori across the school and the Board are keen to see this group continue its valuable mahi. We'd like to encourage new, and existing, whānau to Ridgway to come along and be part of this rōpū. Read more about the Whānau Hui Group on the school website and look out for details of the next hui in school newsletters.

Summary of school achievements

The National Administration Guidelines require schools to prioritise learning in literacy and maths and report on achievement. The Board's role is to ensure that our tamariki are well served by the school and to this end receive regular reports from the principal.

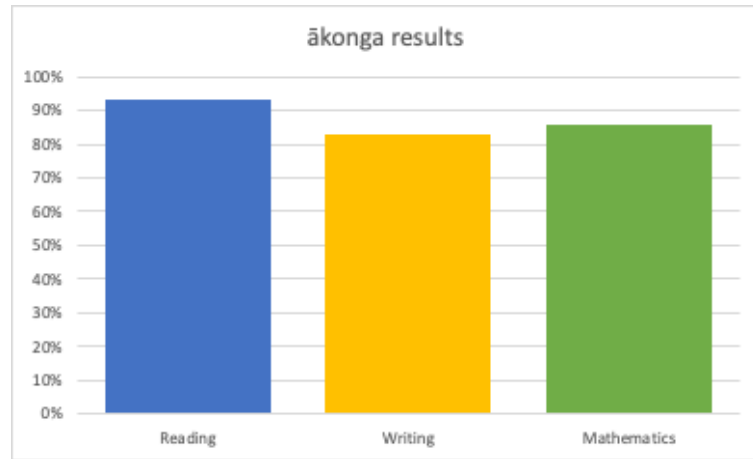
Analysis of achievement of groups shows that:
Year Level: Our Year 5 cohort has the greatest number of tamariki not meeting end of year expectations in literacy while our Year 4 cohort has the greatest number not meeting expectations in maths. The Year 2 cohort is notable as having the second largest group of tamariki not yet meeting expectations across all three core learning areas.

The school is taking a range of actions to support individuals and groups of learners to achieve greater success.

Gender: There is only a small difference between achievement of boys and girls except in writing where girls are doing significantly better than boys. Teachers will investigate how they teach writing to better support those boys not yet achieving their best.

Ethnicity: Our Māori ākonga are not doing as well as we expect them to, particularly in writing. The school is undertaking a review of how we work so that we can ensure greater success and engagement in school for our Māori tamariki.

The Principal's report shows that many of our tamariki are doing well in reading, writing and maths



Rongohia te Hau survey

Thank you to those whanau who contributed to this recent survey. Work is underway to analyse this information as well as that from staff and children. We'll use this information to identify priorities for the school and how these might be achieved. We are committed to ensuring that our school is an inclusive place where all our learners can be successful. This work will give us insight into how we can ensure that all of our Māori children in particular

School policies

The school policies and procedures can be accessed from our [website](#):

Please have a look at these (especially the "Parents and whanau" section). The board reviews these policies from time to time - if you think a policy should be reviewed please get in touch with the board

Get in touch

Jo Pohatu, Board Chairperson

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