

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Board of Trustees Meeting: Thursday 6 August 2026

Report prepared by Phil McIntosh

From the Tūmuaki,

We have had a fantastic start to Term 3, kicking off with our Matariki celebration. It was wonderful to see such a large turnout from our community, and I am particularly grateful to the parent volunteers who worked behind the scenes to make the event such a success. This warm start builds on the momentum from the end of last term, where we held our three-way conferences. These were well-attended, and our kaiako were excited to sit down with whānau to share student learning and celebrate progress across the school.



This term, our overarching curriculum focus is the “I am an Artist” learning theme, which is full of opportunities for our tamariki. Students will be engaging in a range of activities, including a visit from the Royal New Zealand Ballet, an Art Attack day, our annual Book Fair and dress-up day, the EPro8 science and technology challenge, and a special visit to Childspace for a small group of children. To top off a busy term, Ngaio School is proud to be organising this year’s annual St Brigid’s Kapa Haka Festival at the end of Term 3.

Alongside these learning experiences, our mid-year reports have now been completed and sent home to parents. The format, structure, and preparation for these reports represented a significant learning curve for our kaiako. Our teachers had seven weeks or less to digest the new format, expectations, and descriptors while writing the reports. I want to acknowledge their immense effort during this tight turnaround, and note that we will be conducting a review of the process to ensure our reporting remains accurate, clear, and transparent for our school community.

Finally, consultation for our next Strategic Plan is now officially underway, with a range of accessible, low-pressure channels available so every voice in our community can be heard. As

we have gathered feedback over recent years, we are not starting from scratch, but rather using those insights to dive deeper into particular areas. Our students are sharing their perspectives through the "Me and My School" survey, while our teachers are feeding in through staff meetings, surveys, and potential 'stay' interviews with the Board. We look forward to gathering parent perspectives across the term as we shape our collective path forward.

Strategic Plan Progress

The consultation process for our 2027–2030 strategic plan is now officially underway across all levels of our community. With our staff, we have begun a series of rich conversations reflecting on our current practices, values, and future direction. Staff have also completed a workplace survey designed by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER), the findings of which will help inform our ongoing internal planning.

For our parent community, the Matariki event provided a wonderful initial opportunity to gather feedback, supplemented by several valuable in-person discussions with interested parents. We will soon be distributing an online survey framed around our graduate profile to capture broader whānau perspectives. Meanwhile, our Year 4–6 students have completed the "Me and My School" survey, giving us insightful feedback on school-wide attitudes towards learning and culture.

The August updates have reported against Goal 3 and 4 specifically [here](#).

Sarah Simpson has analysed our academic achievement data and will present this, along with the story behind the data and our next steps in a separate document.

Legislation and Policy

Education & Training Act Reform: Key Updates (2026)

The following summary outlines key statutory updates under the Education and Training (System Reform) Amendment Act 2026, which came into force on 6 July 2026. Further information can be found [here](#).

- Establishes regular rolling reviews of curriculum areas. Schools are now required to provide parents with clearer health curriculum information, replacing the previous requirement for formal consultation on health curriculum delivery.
- Clarifies the specific roles and escalation frameworks for the Ministry of Education and ERO when responding to a school identified as being of 'serious concern'.
- Enables the Secretary for Education to create new rules governing attendance exemptions, taking effect on 1 January 2027.
- Mandates school participation in national and international system monitoring studies when selected (e.g., OECD's PISA).
- Updates the charter school model to enable multi-school contracts and provides converted charter schools greater certainty regarding state school establishment if a contract ends.

Another important addition to note is the establishment of the School Property Board, which will be responsible for planning, building, maintaining, and administering the school property portfolio nationwide. This could have major implications for the school, both in terms of how we manage our property portfolio and financially.

Personnel

Staffing Updates

We have welcomed back Karen Doogan as our new entrant teacher for Room 25 (Kea). Karen brings a wealth of experience and energy to this space, and we are excited to have her back with us.

Health, Safety, and Compliance

Emergency Response Plan

The leadership team has reviewed and strengthened our emergency response plan. We have made a number of changes to ensure our response is timely, effective, and keeps our tamariki safe and parents informed.

Cohort Entry

The consultation on moving Ngaio School to a cohort entry model received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the school community, staff and our local ECE providers.

Key benefits highlighted include smoother social transitions for tamariki starting alongside peers, reductions in classroom disruption, and a stronger induction process for new entrant teachers. Whānau and ECE partners also noted that starting in groups helps new parents connect with one another and allows for more coordinated transition visits.

To ensure a successful rollout, the leadership team will need to manage a few practical considerations. Clear, advance communication about entry cut-off dates will be essential so parents can plan for any potential childcare or ECE fee impacts. Additionally, learning support resourcing must be planned proactively for cohorts where multiple high-needs students enter at once, and the transition framework should preserve opportunities for warm, 1-on-1 kōrero between new whānau, kaiako, and school leadership alongside the group visits.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board approve the adoption of the Cohort Entry Model for all New Entrants beginning in Term 1, 2027.

Property

The first stage of the heating project has almost been completed. We now have heat pumps in most junior rooms, including the hallways and bookrooms. Metal 'cages' to protect the pipes and outdoor units still need to be installed.

A leak and water damage were discovered after a recent storm. We believe that this has occurred from a faulty installation of the roof. Insulation, resources, and repairing the interior and exterior roof will need to take place. We have made an application to the Ministry for this.

We still do not have confirmation of when the buildings will be removed from the field. After we have received a plan, I recommend that the board consider pushing for this work to be completed over the summer holiday break. There might be considerable disruption.

The automatic gate has been fixed. A different method was used and should not have the same risk of failing.

There is a fencing project to upgrade certain parts of the school grounds that are still not safety compliant. We are awaiting funding confirmation.

As a part of our 10YPP, we have the following replacement work to be priced:

- Hall: Replace all sanitary fixtures including pans, cisterns, and hand wash basins with new.
- Cleaners Cupboard: Replace HWC with new and reconnect into existing pipework. Replace cleaners sink with new.
- Upstairs Bathrooms: Replace all sanitary fixtures including pans, cisterns, and hand wash basins with new.
- Downstairs Bathrooms: Replace pans and cisterns with new.
- Pool: Replace all sanitary fixtures including pans, cisterns, and hand wash basins with new.

Financial Overview

June Reports

We have received the June Financial Reports from Edpay. Halfway through the financial year, we are running a surplus. However, this surplus has been largely driven by early grant distributions and family donations. We've received 65% of our expected annual funding, and our operational spending is tracking on target at 52%. Our core cash reserves and working capital remain at \$272,657.

We are still awaiting further funding from the PTA to help offset the playground matting payments, which should help boost our reserves.

Other fundraising activities, such as the annual 'athon ', have yet to be completed. Fundraising Commitments: Devices

We have calculated that this year, we need a smaller amount to replenish our digital devices. For 2026, we have calculated this number to be under \$5000. This is due to a

smaller number of children on our school roll and the transition to Chromebooks from Macbooks. Chromebooks offer the same functionality but at a lower price point.