

OPAHEKE SCHOOL MAORI HUI – FIRST FOLLOW-UP MEETING

FRIDAY 12TH JUNE 2015 1.30-2.30PM

OPAHEKE SCHOOL STAFFROOM

Present: Kay, Kellie, Michelle, Eileen, Chassy, Elizabeth O’Halloran, Bex, Keri, Marama, Louise Gavin, Liza MacFarlane (Teacher and parent), Jenn Jury (BOT and parent & scribe for this meeting)

Hui started with introductions.

Notes from previous Hui consultation were handed out and browsed over. Jenn suggested at this hui we look at one or two things from this list to achieve/set in place.

First thing mentioned was homework – last year some very colonial-styled homework went home. It asked questions like “when was NZ discovered?” (meaning by James Cook) and “what is the oldest building in NZ?” (meaning stone house in Russell). Maori and marae are older than this, it was taken to be inaccurate and offensive. Opaheke School needs to move away from this type of mind set.

Next mentioned was that there seems to be an increase in advanced notice given to our families of upcoming events and that is greatly appreciated. Parents like to have lots of notice so they can get time off work or organise childcare so they can attend school events – they see these school events as very important. For example, we already know when Grandparents Day is this year, which is great!

The first thing that this group would like to see actioned from the hui consultation is to start the school day with a karakia and waiata. It was discussed that perhaps teachers may not feel comfortable with this in their classrooms at this stage (as some of our maori parents also felt that this would be beyond their level of comfort to do also), but could we bring it in at assemblies so staff can see and understand it’s meaning to then take back to the classroom when they feel comfortable. It was mentioned that there may be a throw-back from some parents, especially with regards to karakia. It was mentioned that there are many karakia that are not religious per say. Staff need to be educated on how to deal with parents with regards to this matter should it arise. There was also mention that the throwback is not something we should worry about, it should be taken back to the governing body for them to address as managers of the school and its practises.

From here, there was discussion around the need for establishing our own identity as a group within the school. A kaumatua and kuia are needed for guidance in our journey on developing more Maori practises within the school. We also need our whare to be established, brief discussion around the Papakura Marae and the Papakura High School marae. Chassy suggested Matua Willie Brown as our kaumatua (she will ask him) and there

was mention of a kuia from the hui consultation, however, no one at the meeting could remember her name. Te Aroha Rountree could perhaps help to guide us through this process also? This will require more discussion, perhaps at the next hui.

A question was raised – do we get funding for maori students from the Ministry of Education? Jenn said she would find out.

Having a Maori representative on the Opaheke School BOT was brought up. Some people had shown their interest in this role at the hui consultation. Fabian (with Louise) had shown interest. Keri said this is something he could do if no one else was interested.

We all agreed we need to stay in contact and keep this process moving to make progress. It was asked if there could be a liason person within the school, as admin/secretary role perhaps. Liza MacFarlane offered to take on this role.

Jenn, on behalf of Opaheke School, asked the attendees of the meeting about a koha for Te Aroha who will be leaving Opaheke School as Te Reo tutor and kapa haka tutor due to other commitments. A kete from the Papakura markets, and a taonga (that will need to be blessed) were highly recommended koha. Michelle will get in touch with Jenn with regards to a taonga as she is organising some at present for whanau. A waiata from the tamariki was also recommended, the waiata “Te Aroha” was suggested – Liza to organise this. The attendees of the meeting would like to be advised of when the poroporoaki will be happening for Te Aroha, as they would like to be a part of it if possible.

Kapa haka was then discussed. Chassy, Kellie, Marama and Kay are all interested and available to help with bringing this back into our school. The attendees of the meeting were happy to hear they would like to open this up to all age groups also (including junior students).

The last thing discussed was that it would be great if our school could teach the tamariki the Maori vowels (such as Opaheke being pronounced correctly). “A ha ka ma na” was mentioned as a good first choice.

The date for the next meeting was set as Thursday 2nd of July at 6.30pm in the staffroom (during the school disco).