

# PIRONGIA SCHOOL



## Community Consultation 30/8/2017 - Summary

### Cohort Entry

- Changes to the Education Act gives schools the choice to allow cohort entry.
- Cohort Entry allows four and five year old children to start at school at the beginning of the term closest to their fifth birthday, rather than on their fifth birthday.
- Caregivers still have the right to choose to start their child at school up until six years of age, but once they turn six they must be enrolled.
- Advantages: include: a child can start when they are ready, not pressured to start when they are five; the concept matches Playcentre's play-based culture philosophy; Impressions believe moving children as a group is beneficial and they can better prepare children to transition if they move as a group; Impressions can manage their intakes better with blocks of spaces being available all at once.
- Disadvantage: there will be a big group of children requiring a one year at school test all at once.
- The outcome from this discussion is that the community agreed cohort entry would be beneficial.

### Digital Technologies

- Is about teaching children how technology works, and how they can use that knowledge to solve problems.
- This is not an additional curriculum, rather building on what is already happening in math and logical thinking and will be integrated into the existing curriculum.
- It is not about more devices, being used more often.

### Yr 7/8 Programme

- Benefits to our Year 7/8 children occur in the areas of academic leadership, learning, culture, sport and EOTC.
- TA College recognise the quality of our students and that is reflected in TA College's achievement statistics.

### Enrolment Zone changes

- In zone roll growth will continue to rise.
- The MOE asked the school to consider excluding new subdivisions planned for the edge of Te Awamutu that were just inside the school's enrolment zone. The school agreed.
- The MOE asked the school to consider moving the zoning boundary in from Te Awamutu to approx. Hawthorne Road. The school disagreed and the MOE agreed with our reasons and have not moved this boundary.
- Waiari Road is now included in the enrolment zone.

### Property - new classrooms

- The BOT have done everything the MOE have asked of them so far in the process to get the three new classrooms that have been allocated.
- A 10 year property plan was developed to accommodate the school's growing roll without losing the school fields to classrooms. This plan relies on roll growth classrooms being allocated in the future as well as replacement of our old buildings. For the plan to work, the new classrooms need to be designed specifically for the land we have.
- The MOE have modular classrooms. Their initial comment to us was that they believed we had a strong case to apply for an exemption to receive modular classrooms.
- The BOT have viewed two school with modular classrooms. They are not fit for purpose (noisy, small, not well laid out, footprint isn't conducive to having blocks of four classrooms).
- The BOT don't believe modular classrooms are the best option for generating good learning outcomes of current and future children at this school. If necessary, the BOT would like to contest the MOE if they force modular classrooms on this school.
- The community were asked for a show of hands as to the appropriateness of design and build, and whether they would back the BOT if they need to take further action against the MOE. The show of hands was overwhelmingly in favour.

Full minutes and more detail of this meeting are available on the school website.