

3 August 2020



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau

Welcome Back to Term 3.

During the course of the last year the BOT has been reviewing the school name, in light of the eventual move to the new school. This is a very important discussion to have with our school community and we believe it is important to take all the time necessary to get as much input as possible, before a decision is made.

Over the course of the Master Planning process for the new school we met with Tamara Rochford-Kerr from Ngāi Tahu to consult with them. It was a great experience and as a board we commend Tamara for the excellent way that she worked together with us. Out of that process, the school was gifted with the name “Pareawa” (Adorn the Banks), for us to use on the new school site. Tamara also presented the school with a cultural narrative, which includes history of the land, planting schedule and names for each of the buildings, which has been incorporated into the new school design. A summary of our [Cultural Narrative](#) is available on the school website and is a really interesting read.

We then sought to get feedback from our school community about the newly gifted name and how we might incorporate it into the future site. The board had a discussion around 4 options and that resulted in 3 options to be presented to the community. They are:

1. BANKS AVENUE SCHOOL – Remain as we are. This option was rejected for the following reasons:
 1. The board has an obligation to create a bicultural environment in the school under our obligation to the Treaty of Waitangi.
 2. Current community expectations to not include a Māori name for the school would send a message that is inconsistent with our obligations.
 3. Not using the school name gifted by Ngāi Tahu would be disrespectful to the positive engagement process with Ngāi Tahu in the design stage of the new build.
2. BANKS AVENUE PAREAWA SCHOOL – Presented to the community for feedback.
3. PAREAWA BANKS AVENUE SCHOOL – Presented to the community for feedback.
4. PAREAWA SCHOOL – Presented to the community for feedback.

These 3 options were presented in a survey to the school community. The results can be summarised as follows:

- The preferred option was
 - BANKS AVENUE PAREAWA SCHOOL at 43.9%,
 - PAREAWA SCHOOL was the second option at 36.2%,
 - PAREAWA BANKS AVENUE SCHOOL was the 3rd option at 20%.

- When people were asked their second choice the order was
 - PAREAWA BANKS AVENUE SCHOOL At 38%,
 - BANKS AVENUE PAREAWA SCHOOL At 21.3% and
 - PAREAWA SCHOOL at 19%.
- A bi-cultural name of some sort was the preferred option with 63.9% of the first choice and 59% of second choice names.

Clearly there were differing views from both the community and the board, so these results were then discussed at our next board meeting and we agreed on a decision making process. The decision making process was:

1. Discuss survey results looking for the pros/cons of each name option.
2. Vote on a board's preferred option – Agreed it would be passed by majority decision not unanimous.
3. Share the board's preferred option and seek final feedback by Friday 14 August 2020.
4. Board makes the final decision.

We are currently at step 3 of the decision making process. We understand that not everyone will be happy about the final decision but the board has followed a very thorough process and is in a position to make an informed decision, in conjunction with all stakeholders.

In our last meeting we discussed each name option and the boards decision was made based on the following points:

- **BANKS AVENUE PAREAWA SCHOOL**
 - Preferred option in first survey at 43.9%, 2nd in second choice 21.3%.
 - Bi-cultural name preferred by 63.9% of the community as first choice.
 - Shows a recognition of the past and a view to the future.
 - Honours the gift of the new name.
 - Places the past first and the future second.
 - Vote – 7 against and 0 in favour.

- **PAREAWA BANKS AVENUE SCHOOL**
 - 3rd in first choice at 20%, 1st option in second choice 38%.
 - Bi-cultural name preferred by 63.9% of the community as first choice.
 - Shows a recognition of the past and a view to the future.
 - Honours the gift of the new name.
 - Places the future first and the past second.
 - Commonly accepted phrasing is now to place the Māori name first and English second. Aotearoa/NZ, Aoraki/Mt Cook, Whakaari/White Island.
 - We felt that those who voted for Pareawa School would probably prefer to have Pareawa positioned first.
 - Vote – 1 against and 6 in favour.

- **PAREAWA SCHOOL**
 - 2nd in first choice at 36.2% 3rd option in second choice 19%.

- While not the 1st choice of the community a significant portion want to adopt a Māori name for the school.
- Places the future first and no recognition of the past.
- Honours the gift of the new name.
- Nice and simple name. Easy for branding.
- New site = New Name. Fresh start.
- Vote – 1 against, 3 in favour and 3 abstain.

After robust debate the board voted that the preferred name was PAREAWA BANKS AVENUE SCHOOL. The vote was 7 in favour and 1 opposed and therefore carried by a majority decision.

We now present you with the following question: Do you agree or disagree with the board's preferred new name of PAREAWA BANKS AVENUE SCHOOL?

As a board we have tried to be as transparent as possible to how we have come to our decision. The final decision is not a foregone conclusion, If a significant majority opposes the proposed name and the board has completely misread the community feeling then we will revisit our position..

Please complete the survey and give it serious consideration as this will be THE FINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION before the board makes its final decision.

THIS IS YOUR MOMENT TO HAVE YOUR SAY!

Please complete and return the attached survey form or alternatively complete the [online survey](#).

Closing day for responses is Friday 14 August.

Kirk McKay
Chair
Banks Avenue School Board of Trustees