

HUAPAI

DISTRICT SCHOOL



**Frequently asked questions
regarding**

**Huapai District School
Property Plan**

*“A safe and inspiring
learning environment that
engages and empowers
all our learners”*

Introduction

This document contains answers to some of the questions Kevin and the Board of Trustees (BOT) have been asked, or have asked themselves, with respect to the Master Property Plan and discussions with the Ministry for Education regarding population growth around Huapai.

These questions form part of an ongoing discussion as we navigate the necessary changes to make our school a safe and inspiring learning environment that engages and empowers all our learners.

We look forward to your feedback, further questions and contribution to this ongoing work.

Why was the plan needed?

Huapai District School is about to go through a period of extremely rapid roll growth. In order to accommodate this influx the school's infrastructure needs to be completely reviewed. The plan represents the Board of Trustees vision for a physical school property that reflects the values and purpose of the school as well as the needs of the growing community.

It is expected that this plan will form the basis for in depth discussion with the Ministry of Education on both the vision and the funding for Huapai District School funding.

The plan will also be used to share the BOT's vision for Huapai District School with the other stakeholders – parents, teachers, wider community, local body representatives etc...

Through this plan, the focus is to make the school an even better place for children to learn and enjoy school life.

What did the investigation and subsequent plan find?

Within three to four years Huapai District School will have a roll of more than 800 pupils. This means there is an imminent need to accommodate between 300 and 500 additional pupils. The significance of this change should not be underestimated.

Given the age and design of our existing single level class room stock, not one room standing today can be incorporated into a higher density school plan. Thus a complete rebuild is necessary and the requirement for 18 additional classrooms effectively means that all 40 classes need to be built.

The Huapai community has been based on a significant rural identity. The school character reflects this and is going to go through a significant change process to respond to the housing growth in the area. It is incumbent on the school to become a significant anchor point for its growing community of learners (parents, children and teachers).

Achieving these property objectives without hindering the learning outcomes in our current community is seen as logistically challenging, but an absolute necessity. We created the plan based on a staged development approach to minimise disruptions.

Why a two storey school?

Without going to two stories classrooms would need to be located on our fields. Protecting the fields and making best use of the land we've got is a bottom line for the BOT.

Why not purchase additional land next door?

Land purchase was explored by the BOT and subsequently rejected by the Ministry. The Ministry have made it clear that there are many schools around the country with more pupils and less land than Huapai District School. From visiting other schools, the BOT is confident we can create a great learning environment on ~~the-our~~ current ~~footprint~~land.

Doesn't the number of houses being talked about mean we'll never fit all the children?

A second and possibly third school will be needed in the area eventually. This is solely the responsibility of the Ministry and they are now beginning to consider plans. No other school will be in place before Huapai sees more pupils move into the area. The school will need to accept all pupils from within our zone who wish to attend Huapai.

Will my kids have to go to school on a building site?

Maintaining a safe environment that fosters learning is the main priority of the BOT. We've created a three phase construction plan that will allow some flexibility in how the process is managed. As ~~best~~much as possible, we'll be making sure that any disruptions will be minimised.

There is also the possibility that having such an exciting project occurring around us will in itself create some learning opportunities for the children – young builders, planners and designers alike.

How can the school roll double and we still retain the character of the school? How can we keep the rural feel of the school?

It's the belief of the BOT and teaching staff that it's not the changes that will define the character of the school, but the manner in which we as a community respond to those changes.

We're not questioning the need for housing growth in Auckland, or the potential suitability of this area for such growth. Our sole intent is to make sure we create a safe and inspiring learning environment that engages and empowers all our learners – now and in the future. Our character will continue to come through in how we achieve that outcome.

The property will change for sure. We're confident that, with the right attitude and support, the character of the school can thrive during this change.

What's going to happen first? What can we expect next year?

We've submitted the plan to the Ministry for consideration, and the first response seems mostly positive. If the staged plan is fully accepted then the Ministry will appoint project managers and construction will start at the back of the school near Trigg Road. It is expected relocatable buildings from that part of the school will be moved to adjacent land and the bulk of the school will be more focussed towards Station Road. The Hall, Music ~~R~~Room and playing fields should be unaffected.

| This work is unlikely to start before the end of Term 1 next year.

School community (parents / teachers)

Risk	Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents and teachers may be concerned by the plan's finding that the roll will reach 800—1,000 pupils by 2017 / 2018. ● Why not build a second school? ● How can the school roll double and we still retain the character of the school? ● How can we keep the rural feel of the school? ● What's going to happen first? What can we expect next year? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The plan's release will be accompanied by a statement emphasising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That the school must accept all pupils from within our zone who wish to attend Huapai. ○ Proposed use of neighbouring land for relocatables. [raised with neighbour prior to release? Ministry is responsible] ○ Three phase construction plan ○ Disruptions will be minimised ○ Focus is to make the school an even better place for children to learn and enjoy school life.

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Spokespeople

The following people will be responsible for implementing this strategy.

Organisation	Individuals
Board of Trustees	<p>Mike Casey mike.casey@gen-i.co.nz m 027 512 7900 t 09 355 3770 ext. 93770</p> <p>Rob Mihaljevich strand@outlook.co.nz m 0274 877045</p>
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