

Papakura Courier

Board in place for new school

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Daniel Newman has been elected the inaugural board of trustees chairman of a new primary school which is set to be built in Takanini.

Key measures are in place and a new school is all set to be built.

The inaugural board of trustees has been appointed for a new primary school at 181-191 Walters Rd in Takanini.

Former Manukau City councillor and Manurewa Local Board member Daniel Newman has been appointed the chairman.

He says work is underway to build, resource and staff the school, which is set to open in term one, 2017.

"We are working to develop a vision and establishing key relationships within our school community and with mana whenua. We want to create a school that inspires children to go as far as their talent and potential allows."

Newman says the board aims to ensure the educational, commercial and governance aspects of the new school are dealt with transparently and "informed by the input of the wider community".

Other board members include Auckland University education facilitator Tania Linley-Richardson, Manurewa Intermediate School principal Iain Taylor and project manager Steve Waters.

The Ministry of Education has set aside \$20 million for the new primary school, which is one of three proposed primary schools for the area.

It will cater to up to 700 students from years 1 to 8.

Former Takanini School principal Linda Kelly says the new school will bring much needed relief now that huge growth in the area is putting existing classrooms under pressure.

Takanini School has grown from 250 students to 450 over 10 years and 12 new classrooms have been built since 2011.

"Hopefully we can hold the fort until the new school opens," she says.

Education Minister Hekia Parata says planing of the new schools was driven by projections showing that the school-aged population in Takanini is expected to grow by 4000 by 2020.

"The new school will be a fantastic addition to Takanini and will ease the pressure that current schools in the area would otherwise face," she says.

Enrolments for the new school will open in the second half of 2016.

- Stuff