

## An open letter to the Ao Tawhiti Unlimited School

We are writing this to seek certainty for our school community for the next two years and beyond. As a group of parents, we believe the community needs to be prepared for the meeting on Wednesday and to have some clear and concise questions for the Ministry of Education with the expectation that they will give us the answers and that the outcome will be that they find a solution to this very big problem.

If the Ministry of Education can't purchase land in the next year and build a new school as promised then the Ministry of Education needs to provide an interim site where the merged school can be situated on one site as a merged school should be. We have some suggestions as to where this interim school can be located. (Phillipstown School site, Hammersley Park School site??)

It is the Ministry of Education's responsibility to provide an appropriate environment for our children and we believe it is time the MOE step up and provide what is our children's right.

We have put some ideas down here for questions that need to be asked. If anyone has any more please feel free to add them.

Questions:

Why has the promise of a new school to open in September 2016 not happened?

Can you guarantee current leases in place for the school will remain until we have a new school completed?

What are the long term implications for the school of the following – uncertainty of not being on a new site the school has not been able to grow the roll to ensure sustainability of the special character?

Is it satisfactory that class sizes of 50+ are occurring due to slow roll growth resulting in a lack of staff?

Lastly is the situation that has developed for the school a series of mistakes and ineptitude or is it the result of a concerted agenda to get rid of the school?

Can all the documentation relating to this situation be released by the Ministry of Education under the Official Information Act?

How does what is happening to the children of the school reconcile with all of the other schools that have been merged and opened? Why is our children's education still being compromised after five years, while children in other schools have had their educational future settled?

How does the Ministry of Education justify the fact that heart of the matter is that our children's education is being compromised by the previously mentioned MOE ineptitude or concerted agenda?

Yours sincerely

John Schiska, Kerry McCarthy, Jan Fensom, Owen Fensom, Veronica Kidd, Evan Kidd, Astrid Harris, Kim Harris