

Board Update August 2026

Tēnā Koe

We would like to share a few exciting updates and progress points from our recent Board meeting. For those new to our community, or just to put a face to the name, here is our current Board team.

Richard May (Presiding Member)
Andrea Peetz (Principal)
Ross Lucas
Katie Clemens-Seely
Jane Clunies-Ross
Helena De Kok
Emma Chapman (Staff Representative)

Tiger Turf Renewal Project

We are pleased to share that the Northland School Board has endorsed the replacement of our existing Tiger Turf court as a project to pursue. Following a detailed review, the Board agreed that replacing the ageing surface will provide a safer, more enjoyable, and more durable facility for our students while also supporting the many community groups who use the court outside school hours. The existing turf is approximately 18 years old and has reached the end of its useful life, with wear, ponding and surface deterioration now becoming increasingly apparent.

The next step is to seek external funding support from community and sporting trusts. The Board has authorised project representatives to obtain and evaluate supplier quotations and submit funding applications. The estimated project will cost up to \$72,000.

Can you help?

To accompany our application for funding grants we would welcome letters of support from the community that utilise the turf after-hours, during weekends or holiday periods. Delivery timing of the project will be subject to funding. If funding is secured, we will look to progress the replacement at the earliest practical opportunity. We look forward to keeping the school community updated as the project develops and would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support of this important investment in our school facilities.

Student Achievement Update

The Board recently received the school's mid-year achievement report, which provides a baseline under the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum introduced in 2025. The results show that the majority of Northland students are on track to meet end-of-year expectations, with particularly strong achievement in Reading and Mathematics. Currently, 89% of students are on track in Reading, 80% in Mathematics, and 76% in Writing. Writing has been identified as the school's main area for continued improvement.

The report highlights the positive impact of school-wide teaching approaches, including Structured Literacy, The Code spelling programme, and a strong focus on mathematics basics. Students continue to make steady progress across year levels, with improvements evident in writing accuracy, spelling knowledge, and mathematical fluency.

Teachers have carefully analysed the mid-year data and have identified targeted support and next steps for learners who need additional assistance. This includes additional literacy and mathematics interventions, structured review routines, and ongoing monitoring of progress throughout the second half of the year.

The Board would like to acknowledge the dedication of our staff, students and whānau as we navigate the transition to the updated curriculum. It is encouraging to see strong achievement being maintained across the school and that clear plans in place to support continued growth, particularly in writing.

Learning Support Update

Supporting the diverse learning, wellbeing and enrichment needs of our students remains a key priority for Northland School. During the first half of 2026, our SENCO and learning support teams worked closely with teachers, whānau and external specialists to ensure students receive the support they need to thrive.

Northland uses a tiered support approach, with around 20% of students receiving additional classroom support, 20% receiving targeted learning support, 22% participating in enrichment programmes, and 6% receiving more intensive individual or externally-supported interventions.

A wide range of programmes continue to make a positive difference for students, including Structured Literacy support, maths intervention and enrichment programmes, including the LEAP programme, ESOL support, counselling services, and occupational therapy partnerships. The Board is particularly pleased to see continued investment in literacy support and the extension of the successful LEAP programme.

The school continues to see increasing numbers of students with diverse learning needs and values the dedication of teachers, teacher aides, specialists and whānau who work together to support these learners. The Board thanks everyone involved in helping ensure all students can participate, progress and succeed. We are grateful that through your donations we have been able to secure these interventions and programmes to support the growing needs within our community.

Student Attendance Update

The Board continues to monitor student attendance as an important indicator of wellbeing and learning engagement.

Northland School recorded 79% regular attendance in Term 2, an increase from 73% in Term 2 2025 and just below the Government's target of 80% regular attendance. This means that 174 students attended school more than 90% of the time during the term. The proportion of

students with irregular and moderate absence also improved compared with the same term last year.

Encouragingly, 94% of students arrived at school on time regularly, supporting positive learning routines and classroom engagement. The most common reason for absence was illness or medical leave (61% of absences), followed by family holidays taken during term time (26%).

The Board would like to thank staff, students and whānau for their continued support throughout the year. Every day at school helps strengthen learning, friendships and wellbeing, and the positive outcomes we are seeing across the school are a reflection of the strong partnership between home and school. We encourage families to continue prioritising attendance, celebrating learning and staying connected with the school as we work together to help every child flourish.

Katie, Helena, and Andrea on behalf of the Board