

11 February 2025

Announcement from the Awapuni School Board

Tēnā koutou parents/caregivers and community of Awapuni School,

The Awapuni School Board has accepted the resignation of our principal, Stephen Soutar, after 19 years of dedicated service to our kura. His last day with us will be on **Friday, 14th February 2025**. Stephen has been successfully appointed as principal at James Street School in Whakatāne and will begin his new role next Monday, 17th February 2025.

Since joining us in 2006, Stephen has been a passionate and committed leader, leaving a lasting legacy within our school and wider community. We thank him for his many contributions and wish him all the best in the next chapter of his leadership journey.

As we begin the process of finding our next principal, the Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Scotti Russell as Acting Principal for Term 1. This interim leadership arrangement will ensure the school continues to operate smoothly, with minimal disruption to teaching and learning. Scotti's experience and enthusiasm offer a level of continuity for both staff and students, and we are grateful for her stepping into this role.

The appointment of a principal is one of the most significant tasks a school board undertakes, and we are committed to finding the right leader to guide Awapuni School into the future. An important part of the recruitment process is seeking feedback from our staff, students, and parents/caregivers about the key skills, qualities, and attributes you feel are important for the principal role at our kura.

Having Your Say!

We will be sending out a survey to our school community, where you will have the opportunity to let us know what's important to you and your whānau. Your feedback will assist us in the process of forming an application package, advertising, shaping interview questions, meeting prospective candidates, and making our final decision. Please keep an eye out for this email on **Monday, 17th February**.

We invite your support as we work through this transition and will keep you updated with our progress. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office or email the Board directly at renee@awapuni-primary.school.nz. Thank you for your continued support of our school during this time.

Ngā mihi,

Renee Tawhiti
Presiding Member
Awapuni School Board