

Education Report: Update on the readiness of the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua to open in February 2015

Executive Summary

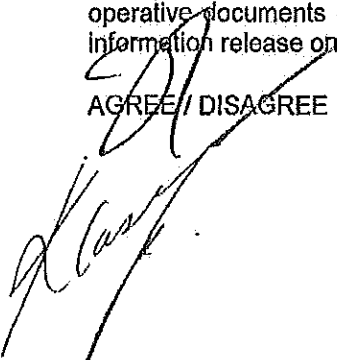
1. This report updates on the readiness of the round two Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua to open in February 2015.
2. The Education Review Office (ERO) has submitted to the Ministry of Education a readiness review progress letter for each of the four Partnership Schools. The ERO has reported good progress has been made by all four Sponsors in setting up the Partnership Schools and that each Sponsor is well placed to be able to provide for students at the beginning of 2015.
3. Two of the four Sponsors have experienced significant challenges in securing either appropriate facilities, or the required building and resource consents to enable them to cater for their guaranteed minimum roll.
4. He Puna Marama Charitable Trust has advised that it may be difficult for it to meet its agreed guaranteed minimum roll as set out in the Agreement when the school opens. Additionally, we anticipate that Villa Education Trust may not have the appropriate facilities confirmed to accommodate its guaranteed minimum roll.
5. Both Sponsors are on track to open their schools on time and have proposed plans that allows them to open, albeit with reduced rolls. Both Sponsors are confident that the property challenges will be resolved and confirm they will meet their establishment rolls through the course of the year.
6. The remaining two Sponsors (Pacific Peoples Advancement Trust and the Manukau Urban Māori Authority) are confident they will meet, or be very close to their guaranteed minimum roll set for 2015.
7. All four Sponsors are well positioned to open their schools for the start of Term 1, 2015, but the opening enrolments may be lower than the agreed guaranteed minimum roll. It is not unusual for schools, particularly primary schools, to continue to receive enrolment through the first weeks of the new school year. We will continue to monitor enrolment numbers at these schools.
8. The Ministry continues to actively work with all Sponsors to ensure that they are ready to open the schools on their scheduled dates.
9. The Deputy Secretary Sector Enablement and Support, appointed to administer the Partnership Schools Agreements on your behalf, has approved the Parent, Family, Whānau, Iwi and Community Engagement policies and the policies for ensuring a safe physical and emotional environment. These policies now form part of the Agreement and each Sponsor is required to act in accordance with them.

Recommendations

We recommend that the Minister of Education:

- a. **note** that the Education Review Office (ERO) has submitted to the Ministry of Education a readiness review progress letter for each of the four Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua scheduled to open in February 2015;
- b. **note** that the ERO has reported good progress has been made by all four Sponsors in setting up the Partnership Schools and that they are well placed to be able to provide for students at the beginning of 2015;
- c. **note** overall all Sponsors are committed and well placed to open their schools on their scheduled opening dates;
- d. **note** the opening rolls for the schools may be lower than the agreed guaranteed minimum rolls, but this will not prevent the schools from opening on time;
- e. **note** the Deputy Secretary Sector Enablement and Support, appointed to administer the Partnership Schools Agreements on your behalf, has approved the whānau engagement policies and the policies for ensuring a safe physical and emotional environment; and
- f. **agree** to release this briefing, the ERO progress letters and the approved operative documents on the Ministry of Education website as part of the next information release on Partnership Schools scheduled for March 2015.

AGREE / DISAGREE


Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

Encls


Hon Hekia Parata
Minister of Education

David Seymour
Under-Secretary to the
Minister of Education

16/2/15

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Education Report: Update on the readiness of the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua to open in February 2015

Purpose of Report

1. This report:
 - attaches the progress letters received from the Education Review Office (ERO);
 - updates you on the readiness of the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua to open at the start of Term 1, 2015; and
 - confirms the approval of the Parent, Family, Whānau, Iwi and Community Engagement policies and the policies to provide a safe physical and emotional environment for students.

Background

2. You approved and signed Agreements with four Sponsors to open a Partnership School on 11 September 2014 [METIS 883895 refers]. An overview on each school has previously been provided [METIS 883895 refers]. All schools are scheduled to open at the start of Term 1, 2015 on a date nominated by each sponsor.

ERO Readiness Review Progress Update

3. We have contracted the ERO to conduct a review of the planning, processes, systems and procedures so far developed by the Sponsors of each Partnership School to open in 2015.
4. The ERO has been working with each Partnership School since the end of September 2014 and its final report is due to the Ministry at the end of Term 1, 2015. The ERO has provided a progress letter on each Partnership School (Appendix 1).
5. The ERO reports that each of the four Sponsors are making good progress towards operating and managing a Partnership School to provide for students at the start of Term 1, 2015.
6. The ERO will also undertake an assurance review of each Partnership School approximately six months after the completion of the readiness review to provide public assurance as to whether the school has effective processes and planning to provide quality education for its community.

Readiness to Open

7. Overall, all sponsors are committed and well placed to open their schools on their scheduled opening dates.

8. Two of the four Sponsors have experienced significant challenges in securing either appropriate facilities or the required building and resource consents to enable them to cater for their proposed establishment rolls.
9. He Puna Marama Charitable Trust has advised that it may be difficult for it to meet its agreed guaranteed minimum roll as set out in the Agreement when the school opens. Additionally, we anticipate that Villa Education Trust may not have the appropriate facilities confirmed to accommodate its guaranteed minimum roll.
10. Both Sponsors are on track to open their schools on time and have proposed plans that allows them to open, albeit with reduced rolls. Both Sponsors are confident that the property challenges will be resolved and will meet their establishment rolls through the course of the year.
11. The remaining two Sponsors are confident they will meet, or be very close to their guaranteed minimum roll set for 2015.
12. All four Sponsors are well positioned to open their schools for the start of Term 1, 2015, but the opening enrolments may be lower than the agreed guaranteed minimum roll. It is not unusual for schools, particularly primary schools, to continue to receive enrolment through the first weeks of the new school year. We will continue to monitor enrolment numbers at these schools.

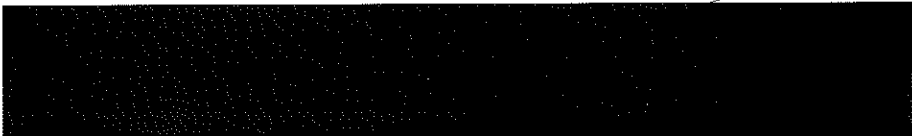
Progress to date

13. Below is a summary of the progress to date for each Partnership School in preparation to open in Term 1, 2015.

Middle School West Auckland – Villa Education Trust

Opening ceremony	31 January 2015
First day of school	3 February 2015
Enrolments	112 of 160 places of the guaranteed minimum roll are filled.
Property	The current school premise does not provide enough space for the projected whole school. Two villas will be on this site with another being developed during 2015. <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">s 9(2)(f)(iv) OIA</div>
Teaching Staff	All staff have been appointed to operate the school.
NZQA consent to assess	N/A but intend to work with NZQA during 2015 to gain Consent to Assess across their two Partnership Schools and their private school.

14. The ERO reports that Middle School West Auckland is making good progress towards operating and managing a Partnership School to provide for students at the beginning of 2015. The ERO notes the following strengths:
 - The vision and direction for the school is articulated and reflected in documentation

- there will be some economy of scale across the three schools operated by the Villa Education Trust¹
 - efficient and effective management practices are evident
 - carefully planned enrolment and induction process for students and their parents and whānau
 - ongoing commitment to engage with the community to best meet the needs of students and to inform people of the purpose of the school.
15. The main challenges identified by the ERO include:
- the comparative difficulty of accessing community organisations in West Auckland
 - develop teachers' understanding of the school curriculum and model of teaching
 - report on student progress and achievement using National Standards, and devising a valid and reliable way to report on students' progress and achievement in Years 9 and 10
 - building positive relationships with the West Auckland principals may take time.
16. Overall Middle School West Auckland is on track to be ready to open in time. Enrolments currently stand at 112 of the guaranteed minimum roll of 160. The school will be ready to open with two fully operational villas that can accommodate 60 students per villa at their current school premise. Confirmation of the property for the fourth villa is still pending and work is yet to commence in developing a third villa on their existing site. s 9(2)(f)(iv) OIA
17. 

Pacific Advance Senior School – Pacific Peoples Advancement Trust

Opening ceremony	27 February 2015 ²
First day of school	5 February 2015
Enrolments	35 of 100 places of the guaranteed minimum roll are filled
Property	The school's facilities are on track to be ready and will be complete for the opening date.
Teaching Staff	All teaching staff have been appointed to operate the school and are all New Zealand registered teachers. Staff induction is underway.
NZQA consent to assess	The Sponsor has not yet secured the NZQA consent to assess, but continues to work with NZQA to finalise, with a view of consent being granted by the beginning of March 2015 ³ .

¹ South Auckland Middle School, Mt Hobson Middle School and Middle School West Auckland.

² The opening ceremony is scheduled for after the opening to allow the school to open and the students be part of the opening ceremony.

18. The ERO reports that the Pacific Advance Senior School is making steady progress towards operating and managing a Partnership School to provide for students at the beginning of 2015. The ERO notes the following strengths:
- the sponsor and the appointed staff share their commitment to implement the vision of the school successfully
 - students' views have been included in decisions made about the development of the new school, working within and beside existing organisational structures
 - support from community organisations and schools are evident. Have been able to draw on professional networks to support the development of the school.
19. The main challenges identified by the ERO include:
- ensure all staff understand the importance of culture and identity as the platform for personal growth and subsequent achievement
 - develop a shared understanding of what is meant by a Pasifika world view and values and how this will operate in the culture of the school
 - design a curriculum that is consistent with the sponsor's vision and support the teachers capability to deliver it
 - ensure appropriate assessment regimes are in place to enable teachers to provide valid and reliable reporting on student progress and achievement in relation to NCEA
 - manage the ongoing development of the school after the appointed Project Manager finishes at the end of January 2015.
20. Overall the Pacific Advance Senior School is on track to be ready to open on time. Enrolments stand at approximately 35 of the 100 set as the guaranteed minimum roll. Information evenings have been scheduled throughout January and the Sponsor is using its networks to engage with prospective parents and fanau. The Sponsor remains confident that it will reach its establishment roll by its opening date.

Te Kāpehu Whetū – Teina – He Puna Marama Charitable Trust

Opening ceremony	15 February 2015 ⁴ A powhiri for whānau and students. A formal opening ceremony will held once the permanent building is complete.
First day of school	16 February 2015
Enrolments	30 of 65 places of the guaranteed minimum roll are filled
Property	Due to a delay in receiving written Consent to Build by the Council, the Tarewa Road site will not be ready to open until at least Term 2, 2015. The Council has approved the use of two temporary relocatable buildings on the Tarewa road site in the interim.

³ Not having the Consent to Assess approved prior to the opening of the school will not preclude the opening of the school on the scheduled date.

⁴ The Sponsor has advised that the rationale for a later opening date for their school is due to their commitment to open their other Partnership School, Te Kura Hourua o Whangarei Terenga Paraoa the week before.

	These buildings can only accommodate up to 40 students rather than the agreed 65 guaranteed minimum roll. The Trust is preparing a plan that will address when it would be in a position to accommodate the guaranteed minimum roll.
Teaching Staff	All staff have been appointed to operate the school. All teachers are registered.
NZQA consent to assess	N/A

21. The ERO reports that Te Kāpehu Whetū - Teina is making good progress towards operating and managing a Partnership School to provide for students at the beginning of 2015. The ERO notes the following strengths:

- the ongoing commitment to engage with the community to best meet the needs of the students and to inform people of the purpose of the school.
- the carefully planned induction process for students and their parents/whānau that reflects already established process from the Trust's other Partnership School.
- the school will use the same effective and efficient management system in place the Te Kura Hourua o Whangarei Terenga Paraoa.
- key teaching staff have been appointed. The staff have relevant experience in reporting student progress and achievement using Ngā Whanaketanga and National Standards.
- good systems are in place to prevent the over commitment of key management personnel.

22. The main challenges identified by the ERO include:

- build a constructive relationship with the governance facilitator once appointed so the school leaders can benefit from the support⁵
- develop the school curriculum, and build a shared understanding of teaching and learning practices to support the school direction
- ensure all documentation is specific to the school, clearly defines the school curriculum and supporting pedagogy, and focuses on the provision of a safe physical and emotional environment
- clarify assessment and ensure appropriate assessment tools are used to monitor student progress and demonstrate success
- ensure a suitable student management system is in place by the start of the school year⁶
- manage the temporary facilities at the start of the school year until the proposed final premises are built and fit for purpose
- continue to build the number of enrolments.

⁵ We are continuing to work with the Sponsor to source an appropriate Governance Facilitator to support the establishment of the school. The Sponsor has a preference for a Governance Facilitator with primary school governance experience and establishing modern learning environments. As the Sponsor already operates a Partnership School, a Governance Facilitator to support the establishment of the new school is not considered critical.

⁶ The Sponsor has confirmed that this is in hand and that a student management system will be in place by the start of the school year.

23. Aside from the issue with securing the necessary property consents in time, Te Kāpehu Whetū – Teina is on track to open on time. The Sponsor now intends to open on their proposed site operating out of the two temporary relocatable buildings it has secured. The temporary buildings can only accommodate 40 students. Therefore, the Sponsor will not be in a position to meet its guaranteed minimum roll when the school opens.
24. The Sponsor is preparing a plan to address when it would be in a position to accommodate 65 students as agreed as the guaranteed minimum roll.

Te Kura Māori o Waatea – Manukau Urban Māori Authority (MUMA)

Opening ceremony	2 February 2015
First day of school	2 February 2015
Enrolments	42 of 60 places of the guaranteed minimum roll are filled
Property	Refurbishments of the existing buildings are complete and are ready for the schools initial intake when it opens. The Council granted Consent to Build for new buildings on the site in early January 2015. The new buildings are expected to be completed mid-2015.
Teaching Staff	All staff have been appointed to operate the school.
NZQA consent to assess	N/A

25. The ERO reports that Te Kura Māori o Waatea is making steady progress towards operating and managing a Partnership School to provide for students at the beginning of 2015. The ERO notes the following strengths:
- the Sponsor's vision is clearly focussed on an innovative model based in raising achievement of learners at high risk of poor outcomes. Staff share the commitment to implement the vision successfully
 - engagement of the wider community in the enterprise means there will be a number of adults with useful expertise committed to support the school develop in the first months of operation
 - the kura is governed by a highly experienced board, the sponsor, with demonstrated strengths in management, education and business
 - school leaders are planning appropriately to seek professional support in developing the curriculum to provide teacher induction.
26. The main challenges identified by the ERO include:
- define the relative roles and responsibilities of the school and the early childhood facility in relation to students and the applicable licensing requirements and contractual obligations
 - design a curriculum that is consistent with the sponsor's vision and supporting teachers' capability to deliver it
 - ensure the appropriate assessment regimes are in place to enable teacher to provide valid and reliable reporting on student progress and achievement against the National Standards or Ngā Whanaketanga

- consider what place digital learning has in the school's curriculum as they prepare learners for the 21st century
 - implement an enrolment policy that is open to all including learners with special education needs.
27. Overall the Te Kura Māori o Waatea is on track to be ready to open on time. Enrolments stand at approximately 42 of the 60 set as the guaranteed minimum roll. The Sponsor is confident of reaching their establishment roll of 60 students by their opening date. All staff have been appointed and a general manager will be responsible for the decision making across the primary school and the adjacent early childhood facility.

Next Steps

28. The Ministry will continue to work with and support each Sponsor to ensure their planning and preparation for opening remains on track and that the challenges raised by the ERO are addressed.

Contract Milestone One and Two

29. The Agreement commits the Sponsors to provide to you:
- a. no later than 1 November 2014, a policy setting out how it will engage with parents, family, whānau, iwi and communities of the students (clause 10.6); and
 - b. no later than 1 December 2014, the school's policies for ensuring a safe physical and emotional environment for students (clause 7.5).
30. Once approved these policies are regarded as Operative Documents that form part of the Agreement.
31. On 26 November 2014 you agreed to appoint the Deputy Secretary, Sector Enablement and Support, under clause 34.1(a) of the Partnership Schools Agreement to administer the four new Agreements on your behalf [METIS 894825 refers].
32. This appointment allows the nominated person to receive and approve the policies required under clause 7.5 and 10.6 of the Agreement.
33. All sponsors submitted their policies by the required date. Each policy was reviewed by the Ministry and feedback provided. All Sponsors have considered the feedback and have resubmitted their policies for approval.
34. Katrina Casey, Deputy Secretary Sector Enablement and Support approved the whānau engagement policies on 17 December 2014 and the policies for ensuring a safe physical and emotional environment on 26 January 2015. As these policies are now approved they form part of the Agreement and each Sponsor is required to act in accordance with it. Any failure to comply with an operative document will constitute a breach of the Agreement.
35. As previously advised, in making any decisions under this appointment, there will be a practice of 'no surprises'. The approved operative documents are attached as Appendix 2 and 3.

Release of Information

36. We have previously provided advice on how the Ministry will support the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, David Seymour to lead the process for regular releases of information on Partnership Schools. We included in that briefing a high-level timetable for proactive releases in 2015 [METIS 904457 refers].
37. We recommend this briefing paper, the ERO progress letters and the approved operative documents form part of the next scheduled information release in March 2015. We seek your approval for the inclusion of these documents in the next release. If you approve we will consult with your Office ahead of the release.