Creating two schools with one combined Board of Trustees

What does this mean?

A new school would be established, but once operational, would be governed in conjunction with another school, under a combined Board of Trustees.

We would need to appoint an Establishment Board of Trustees to oversee the establishment of a new school. Once operational, there are legislative processes to complete, before the Minister of Education could approve the formation of a combined Board.

How would it work?

The two schools would continue to be staffed and resourced separately. Each school would have a principal and senior leadership team. Both schools would have separate enrolment schemes. Usual property policy would apply to each school individually.

Representatives from both school communities would form a combined Board, to govern both schools. The combined Board would include parent-elected trustees from both schools, the principal of each school and a staff-elected trustee. Other options could also be explored through alternative constitution arrangements, depending on the situation.

Often a combined Board model is considered to strengthen governance across a community. Here it could be considered to ensure a community retains a sense of common identity across two schools and maximizes opportunities for collaboration.

Opportunities / Advantages

This is not an exhaustive list but intends to highlight potential opportunities or advantages.

- Joint vision and joint purpose
- Overarching strategic direction, to support cohesive ‘one community’ approach
- Efficiencies of scale in operation of property, finances, school resources, or partnerships with other organisations (health, social or community)
- Potential for enhanced professional development and sharing of expertise across two schools under a single employer

This document has been developed for discussion purposes only, based on current policy and legislation that is subject to change. The views do not represent Government policy or preferences.

Creating two schools with one combined Board of Trustees – November 2016
http://www.education.govt.nz/future-education-provision-for-the-wakatipu-basin-area
### Potential Challenges

These are perceived disadvantages based on the current Ministry systems and policies. These may be subject to future change.

- Establishing effective representation to enable input into decision-making from each school
- Potential investment trade-offs, if the vision cannot be achieved through the resources available at both schools.

### Questions for consideration

- What are the options for how Boards could govern two schools? What are the opportunities to maximize resources?
- How could this enhance outcomes for all students?
- How could this model support enhanced professional development and leadership opportunities?
- How will this affect the community? Is this likely to enhance a sense of ‘one community’?