

## Education Report: Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua Second and Third Quarter Reports 2014

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### Recommendations

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We recommend that the Minister of Education:

- a. **note** you approved the first quarter reports for the period 1 January – 31 March 2014 on 10 September 2014 and the reports were publically released on the Ministry of Education website on 20 November 2014;
- b. **note** for the second quarter reporting period [1 April – 30 June 2014] and the third quarter reporting period [1 July – 30 September 2014], all sponsors confirmed they were meeting the minimum requirements as set out in the Partnership Schools Agreement;
- c. **note** all sponsors were operationally compliant with the Partnership Schools Agreement for the second and third quarter reporting periods;
- d. **note** the Deputy Secretary, Sector Enablement and Support, appointed to administer the Partnership Schools Agreements on your behalf, has approved the second and third quarter reports; and
- e. **agree** to release the second and third quarter reports on the Ministry of Education website as part of the next information release on Partnership Schools.

AGREE / DISAGREE

  
Katrina Casey  
Deputy Secretary  
Sector Enablement and Support

Ends

NOTED



Hon Hekia Parata  
Minister of Education

David Seymour  
Under-Secretary to the  
Minister of Education

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9.3.15

## **Education Report: Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua Second and Third Quarter Reports 2014**

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### **Purpose of Report**

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1. The purpose of this report is to:
  - i. confirm the approval of the second and third quarter reports from the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua (Partnership Schools) that opened in 2014; and
  - ii. seek your approval to publicly release the second and third quarter reports.

### **Background**

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2. Clause 18.2(b)(i) of the Partnership Schools Agreement requires the Sponsors to complete and submit to the Minister quarterly reports by 30 April, 31 July and 31 October of each school year in relation to the previous three months of that school year.
3. You approved the first quarter reports for the period 1 January – 31 March 2014 on 10 September 2014 [METIS 868887 refers], and the reports were publicly released on the Ministry of Education website on 20 November 2014 [METIS 885303 refers].
4. 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 Agreements on your behalf [METIS 894825 refers]. This appointment allows the nominated person to receive and approve the quarterly reports on your behalf.

### **Second and Third Quarter Reports**

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5. All Sponsors submitted to the Ministry their second and third quarter reports by the required date of 31 July and 31 October 2014 using a revised template developed by the Ministry.
6. All Sponsors received and considered feedback from the Ministry and resubmitted their quarterly reports for approval.
7. All sponsors were operationally compliant with the Agreement for the second quarter reporting period [1 April – 30 June 2014] and the third quarter reporting period [1 July – 30 September 2014]. For both reporting quarters, all Sponsors confirmed they were meeting the minimum requirements as set out in the Agreement.
8. Clause 18.3(a) requires Sponsors to report to the Ministry at least twice each year on student achievement results for their students. This information was requested with the second quarter reports. In the third quarter reports, Sponsors were asked to provide qualitative information on their progress towards achieving the applicable performance standard.

9. The financial performance standards set out in the Agreement are not particularly meaningful when considered at a quarterly timeframe, nor while schools are working towards reaching their maximum roll. The financial performance standard will be assessed as part of the Annual Report.
10. The Deputy Secretary, Sector Enablement and Support, appointed to administer the Partnership Schools Agreements on your behalf, approved the second and third quarter reports on 18<sup>1</sup>, 23 December 2014<sup>2</sup> and 26 January 2015<sup>3</sup>.
11. As previously advised, in making any decisions under this appointment, there will be a practice of 'no surprises'. The second and third quarter reports are attached as Appendix 1 and 2.

## Summary of the Reports

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### **South Auckland Middle School (Villa Education Trust)**

12. Over the two reporting quarters the Sponsor reported that:
  - i. it has established a whānau advisory group to provide parents with an opportunity to have input and discuss issues (Quarter 2)
  - ii. focus had been on the development of school culture, academic excellence and student progress (Quarter 2)
  - iii. the New School Assurance Review undertaken by the Education Review Office (ERO) was very positive and noted the Sponsor had made a good start to delivering the 'vision of providing pathways to opportunity.' (Quarter 3).
13. The Sponsor confirmed that it met the minimum requirements as set out in the Agreement for both reporting quarters. The Sponsor was operationally compliant with the Agreement and reported that it had exceeded all of the applicable performance standards for the second and third quarters.

### **Te Kura Hourua o Whangarei Terenga Paraoa (He Puna Marama Charitable Trust)**

14. Over the two reporting quarters the Sponsor reported that:
  - i. its senior students all had a number of NCEA standards assessed across the range of its curriculum and reported good progress had been made for each student at their specific level (Quarter 2)
  - ii. minor improvements had been made to the property and plans for further development to the site are required to cater for the proposed maximum roll of 300 students (Quarter 2)
  - iii. the partnership it has with NorthTec and Te Wananga o Aotearoa were progressing well and allows the school to supplement the curriculum to suit the individual needs of its students, particularly in the provision of Māori Art (Quarter 3).

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<sup>1</sup> Second Quarter Reports approved on 18 December 2014 (excluding Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru)

<sup>2</sup> Third Quarter Reports approved on 23 December 2014 (excluding Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru)

<sup>3</sup> Following confirmation of the content in the second and third quarter reports for Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru, these were approved on 26 January 2015.

15. The Sponsor confirmed it met the minimum requirements as set out in the Agreement for both reporting periods. The Sponsor was operationally compliant with the Agreement and reported that it had exceeded all of the applicable performance standards for the second and third quarters.

**Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru (now named Te Pumanawa o te Wairua) (Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust)**

16. Over the two reporting quarters the Sponsor reported that:
- i. due to the school's rural location, access to the site can be limited during severe rainfalls and other extreme weather conditions. It has identified this as a risk to student attendance, particularly during the winter months. It is developing a civil defence procedure which will include the school community and the District Council (Quarter 2)
  - ii. the appointment of a General Manager and an Office Manager to the management structure has brought stability, operational improvements and a clearer line of communication/reporting between the school and the Sponsor. An additional Trustee with considerable business and research expertise had been appointed (Quarter 3)
  - iii. it had addressed issues highlighted by the ERO and engaged Professional Learning Development to enable quality leadership and assessment within the School (Quarter 3)
  - iv. it had endeavoured to improve its engagement with parents, family, whānau, iwi and the community through whānau workshops, engaging the social worker employed by the school and responding to feedback and suggestions from parents and family members (Quarter 3).
17. The Sponsor confirmed that it had met the minimum requirements as set out in the Agreement for both reporting periods. The Sponsor was operationally compliant with the Agreement in both quarters.
18. For quarters two and three, the Sponsor achieved the applicable performance standards except for the following two [METIS 898526 and 907699 refers]:

**i. Enrolment Variance:**

Performance Standard	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
71	54	46

The Sponsor attributed the low roll numbers to the on-going negative media attention the school continues to receive and intends to use social media and issue positive media releases as part of its recruitment strategy for 2015.

**ii. Unjustified Absence Standard:**

Performance Standard	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
2.8%	17.2%	13.3%

The Sponsor is aware that it continues to record high non-attendance and reports it has implemented a number of measures in an attempt to reduce the number of unjustified absences.

19. For the student achievement standard, the Sponsor provided a 'snap shot' of its progress towards achieving the standard. The Sponsor did not identify any issues. Sponsors were not required to report against the student achievement standard in the third quarter.
20. You received separate advice about the performance issues faced by Te Pumanawa o Te Wairua (formally Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru) and the options available to you under the Partnership Schools Agreement to manage the Sponsor's performance [METIS 907699 refers].
21. On 5 January 2015 you agreed to issue the Sponsor with a Performance Notice that specifies the Sponsor's failure(s) and the actions expected to address the failure(s) [METIS 907699 refers].

#### **The Rise UP Academy**

22. Over the two reporting quarters the Sponsor reported that:
  - i. good progress has been made on student achievement in the mid-year assessments and is on track to meet the Performance Standards in the Agreement (Quarter 2)
  - ii. the overall culture at the school is developing and staff are embedding inquiry learning and the teacher inquiry process effectively (Quarter 2)
  - iii. good progress has been made on student achievement and many students are on track to achieve National Standards in reading and maths. Professional Learning and Development has been accessed to support the accelerated learning in writing (Quarter 3).
23. The Sponsor has confirmed that it is meeting the minimum requirements as set out in the Agreement. We note the Sponsor was operationally compliant with the Agreement and has reported that it had exceeded all of the applicable performance standards for the second and third quarters.

#### **Vanguard Military School**

24. Over the two reporting quarters the Sponsor reported that:
  - i. several of its first students have now embarked on careers with the New Zealand Defence Force, after gaining their NCEA Level 2 qualifications through its school (Quarter 2)
  - ii. the New School Assurance Review undertaken by the ERO was very positive (Quarter 3)
  - iii. significant progress had been made by all students towards their NCEA qualifications. The Sponsor was confident it would meet the performance standards for NCEA Level 1 and 2 for 2014 (Quarters 2 and 3).
25. The Sponsor confirmed that it had met the minimum requirements as set out in the Agreement. We note the Sponsor was operationally compliant with the Agreement and has reported that all performance standards in the Agreement had been met with the exception of the number of allowed days for stand downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions.

26. The Sponsor reported a number of stand down and suspension days due to the school's policy of zero tolerance to certain activities and behaviours. The Ministry has, in each instance worked with the Sponsor to support their understanding of the performance measure and the legal obligations set out in the Education Act.

## Next Steps

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### Annual Reports

27. Clause 18.2(b)(ii) of the Partnership Schools Agreement requires the Sponsors to complete and submit to the Minister an Annual Report by 31 January of each year in respect of the previous school year.
28. The Annual Report will include information on the Objectives, Minimum Requirements and Performance Standards to allow our assessment of the Sponsor under the Partnership Schools Agreement.
29. The Annual Report is designed to elicit a comprehensive picture of a Partnership School's recently completed academic year as it relates to the school's performance in those areas detailed in the Agreement [Schedule 6]: student achievement, student engagement, financial performance and targeting priority learners. It should also provide discussion of progress toward the achievement of the performance measures set out in the Agreement.
30. The Ministry has received Annual Reports from all five Sponsors and we are in the process of reviewing these and will provide feedback to each Sponsor.
31. Each sponsor will then be given the opportunity to consider the feedback provided and to resubmit the final report. Once this process is complete, the Annual Reports will be forwarded to the Deputy Secretary, Sector Enablement and Support for approval in her capacity as the nominated person to administer the Agreements on your behalf [METIS 894825 refers]. The final approved Annual Reports will be forwarded to you once the process is complete and we will seek your approval for the public release of those reports.

### Release of Reports

32. We intend to proactively release the second and third quarter reports on the Ministry of Education website. This release will address a number of requests the Ministry has already received for these reports. We have previously released the first quarter reports as part of the last information release of information [METIS 885303 refers].
33. If you agree, we will consult with your office about a potential release date, likely to coincide with the next scheduled information release proposed for March 2015 [METIS 904457 refers].

## Appendix 1

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### **Second Quarter Reports: 1 April – 30 June 2014**

1. South Auckland Middle School
2. Te Kura Hourua o Whangerei Terenga Paraoa
3. Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru
4. The Rise UP Academy
5. Vanguard Military School

## Appendix 2

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### **Third Quarter Reports: 1 July – 30 September 2014**

1. South Auckland Middle School
2. Te Kura Hourua o Whangerei Terenga Paraoa
3. Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru
4. The Rise UP Academy
5. Vanguard Military School