

10 February 2017

Education Report: Update on the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua opening in February 2017

Executive Summary

1. This report provides you with an update on the round three Partnership Schools - Te Kōpuku High and the Te Aratika Academy – which opened on 7 February 2017.
2. The Education Review Office (ERO) has submitted a readiness review progress letter for each of the two round three PSKH to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry).
3. ERO reported that both schools were progressing well, and expressed confidence in their readiness to open in Term 1 of 2017.
4. Both schools have experienced challenges in terms of securing appropriate premises:
 - Te Kōpuku High experienced a lengthy process to obtain resource consent for their school from the Hamilton City Council, and the consent specifies safety conditions and limits their roll to 110.
 - Te Aratika Academy requested that they be permitted to co-locate with Mangateretere School. There was a significant amount of work required to complete the lease and property sharing arrangement. The delay in being able to confirm their premises has impacted negatively on their enrolment numbers.
5. Sponsors of both PSKH have submitted policies as their operative documents, which have been reviewed and endorsed by the Ministry and ERO.
6. Both PSKH opened successfully on 7 February.
7. ERO will carry out its final readiness checks in March and April and provide final readiness reviews in May 2017.

Recommendations

We recommend that the Associate Minister of Education:

- a. **Note** that two new Partnership Schools| Kura Hourua opened on Monday 7 February 2017;
- b. **Note** that the Education Review Office provided the Ministry of Education with a readiness review progress letter for each of the new Partnership Schools| Kura Hourua;
- c. **Note** that each of the new Partnership Schools| Kura Hourua submitted the required policies as their operative documents;
- d. **Approve** the attached operative documents; and
- e. **Agree** to release this briefing and attachments as part of the next information release on Partnership Schools| Kura Hourua.

AGREE / DISAGREE

Karl le Quesne
Deputy Secretary
Early Learning and Student Achievement

Encls

Hon Nikki Kaye
Associate Minister of Education

___/___/___

David Seymour
**Under-Secretary to the
Minister of Education**

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Purpose of Report

1. This report provides you with an update on progress made by the two new Partnership Schools| Kura Hourua (PSKH) that opened on 7 February 2017, and recommends that you approve the policies each school has submitted as operative documents.

Background

2. Following the third round of PSKH procurement, you approved and signed Partnership School Agreements with two sponsors on 24 August (Kia Ata Mai) and 29 November (Te Aratika Charitable Trust) 2016 [METIS 1004779 and 1035206 refer]. Summary information on the two new PSKH opened by these sponsors is tabulated below.

Sponsor	Kia Ata Mai	Te Aratika Trust
School	Te Kōpuku High	Te Aratika Academy
Location	Hamilton	Hawke's Bay
Type	Co-ed, Years 7-13 (to be phased in over 5 years, starting with year 7-9 students in 2017)	Boys only, Years 11-13 (to be phased in over 3 years, starting with year 11 students in 2017)
Focus	Late immersion Kaupapa Māori	Vocationally-focussed Kaupapa Māori
Opening Roll	110 – at full capacity with a waiting list	18

General update

3. Both schools opened for Term 1 on Tuesday 7 February 2017 with pōwhiri for students and whānau. Overall, both sponsors were well placed to open their schools on the scheduled opening date.
4. Both sponsors experienced challenges relating to their premises.
5. Te Aratika Academy has signed a lease to co-locate with Mangateretere School near Hastings, and has robust measures in place to ensure the health and safety of its own students and the students attending Mangateretere School. Delays in confirming this site have impacted enrolments, and the school's starting roll is 18. The sponsor anticipates building up to around 50 students during 2017, and has been holding regular hui with whānau and the local community.
6. After some delay, Te Kōpuku High secured resource consent from the Hamilton City Council to use its proposed premises - which are based in the old Waikato Times building in an industrial area - for educational purposes, and will comply with special conditions imposed to ensure the safety of students. The resource consent limits the school to 110 students, which is below their maximum roll of 300. The school is already at full capacity and has a waiting list, but is unable to accept further students due to the restriction. The school's site is suitable for the maximum roll of 300 students, and the Sponsor intends to apply to increase the limit specified in the consent later in 2017.

7. The key formal mechanisms for ensuring that new PSKH are sufficiently prepared prior to opening are the Education Review Office's (ERO's) readiness review findings and the policies each school submits as their operative documents.
8. Both sponsors also appointed governance facilitators, who have provided detailed progress reports to the Ministry. The Ministry has also held fortnightly teleconferences with the sponsors to ensure the schools were suitably prepared to open.

ERO Readiness Review

9. In accordance with usual procedure, the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) and ERO agreed that ERO would conduct a review of the planning, processes, systems and procedures so far developed by the sponsors and management teams of each of the two new PSKH. This included identifying any gaps, risks and priority areas to be addressed, and assessing whether plans are achievable.
10. ERO has been working with the sponsors and management teams of each of the schools since the end of October 2016, and its reviews included onsite visits. ERO also reviewed and provided feedback on the operative policy documents submitted by each sponsor.
11. Following informal feedback provided to each sponsor in November 2016, ERO wrote to the Ministry on 15 December 2016 about the progress of each of the Round 3 PSKH. The letters from ERO are attached as Appendix I.
12. Overall, the letters noted good progress with regard to Te Kōpuku High, and satisfactory progress with regard to Te Aratika Academy. A summary of each of the letters is provided below.

Te Kōpuku High

- Very good progress towards opening at the beginning of 2017.
- The sponsor's vision is well documented in the curriculum and policies.
- The sponsor has been working in close partnership with Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Lands Trust and Tainui educational leaders.
- The school anticipates an opening roll of 110 students in years 7-9, coming from 18 contributing schools, including 40 students from Ngaruawahia.
- Teaching staff were appointed from the start of Term 4 2016, and have been working together from that time.
- Initial assessments have been made for all students.
- Assessment practices are very well informed by current best practice.
- There are appropriate processes in place for governance and management.
- The school has a supportive landlord, who is providing opportunities for work experience and real life learning in engineering contexts.
- Resource consent has been secured from Hamilton City Council, with special conditions in place to ensure student safety and limiting the roll to 110 students.

Te Aratika Academy

- Satisfactory progress towards opening at the beginning of 2017.
- The sponsor's vision is well documented in policies and curriculum.
- The shared premises on the Mangateretere School Site is suitable with minor adaptations, and there are well-developed plans for maintaining the separation

between the two schools and the safety of all students – for example, different start, finish and break times so students won't be sharing outside areas.

- The sponsor is in the process of appointing teaching staff, and two experienced teachers have been appointed to share the role of Head of Learning¹.
- The sponsor has access to useful professional learning tools and support, and advisors to take them through the New Zealand Qualifications Authority *Consent to Assess* process.
- There are appropriate processes in place for governance and management.
- The delay in negotiating a lease for premises has meant that whānau have been slow to enrol their young people in the Academy. The Sponsor has been holding regular hui with whānau and the local community, and expects numbers to gradually build to around 50 students during 2017.

Next steps

13. ERO intends to meet with sponsors and school management teams in March 2017 to review progress and observe the schools in action. ERO is due to provide their final ERO Readiness Review Report to the Ministry in May 2017, reporting on each school as at the end of Term 1.

Operative Documents

14. The Partnership Schools are required to submit the following policies as operative documents for approval by dates specified in their Agreements:
 - *Engagement with parents, family, whānau, iwi and communities of the students* (clause 10.6);
 - *Ensuring a safe physical and emotional environment for students* (clause 7.5);
 - *Curriculum Handbook* (clause 9.1(d)).
15. Both new sponsors provided policies to the Ministry by the required dates. The policies are attached as Appendix II.
16. Policies for *Engagement with parents, family, whānau, iwi and communities* and *Ensuring a Safe physical and emotional environment for students* were reviewed by ERO, and the *Curriculum Handbooks* were reviewed by the Ministry and deemed to be acceptable.
17. The PSKH Agreement allows “reasonable changes” to be requested to any draft policy prior to approval. The sponsors were provided with feedback on each policy, but no changes were required by the Ministry.
18. We recommend that you approve the attached policies, following which they will become Operative Documents and will form part of each Sponsor's Agreement.

Release of Information

19. We recommend this briefing paper, ERO progress letters and the approved Operative Documents form part of the next scheduled proactive information release. We seek your approval for the inclusion of these documents in the next release. We will consult with your Office ahead of the release.

¹ Note – the Ministry has been advised that there will now be only one Head of Learning at Te Aratika.

Appendix I: ERO letters

Appendix II: Operative Documents