

In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Education

Office of the Associate Minister of Education

Memorandum for the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee

## **PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS | KURA HOURUA AUTHORISATION BOARD**

### **APPOINTMENTS**

#### **Proposal**

1. This paper outlines our intention for the Minister of Education to appoint the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua Authorisation Board (the Board).
2. We propose staggering the terms of office to allow continuity for the Board as its work progresses. Membership of the Board is as follows:

#### *Chair*

- Catherine Isaac

#### *Deputy Chair*

- John Shewan

#### *Members*

- Terence Bates
- Dr Margaret Southwick
- Dame Iritana Tawhiwhirangi
- Tahu Potiki
- John Morris.

#### **Background**

3. On 30 July 2012 Cabinet agreed to the key features and major design elements of Partnership Schools [CAB Min (12) 26/6 refers]. One of the key features agreed to was the creation of the Board to analyse applications and provide advice to the Minister of Education.
4. Partnership Schools will be a new option for delivering public education which brings together education, business and community sectors to provide opportunities for students to achieve educational success. They are one of the new approaches we need if we are going to address educational underachievement, and ensure five out of five learners succeed.

5. The initial pilot of a small number of Partnership Schools will be in areas where learners are currently underserved by the education system.
6. As noted by Cabinet in December [SOC Min (12) 27/9 refers], the key functions of the Board will be to:
  - a) thoroughly evaluate applications for Partnership Schools
  - b) provide advice and recommendations to the Minister of Education
  - c) oversee the regular review of each schools' progress against agreed achievement targets
  - d) periodically report to the Minister of Education on each schools performance.

## **Comment**

7. We propose that Ms Catherine Isaac is appointed from the date of appointment to 1 March 2016, as Chair of the Authorisation Board.
8. Ms Isaac's appointment as chair of the Board will be enhanced by her experience as a member of the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua Working Group. Ms Isaac knows the policy well, and has a strong personal commitment to its success. She also brings experience from the Government's Welfare Working Group, and the boards of the Wellington Community Trust, the ACT Party, the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary and the Royal New Zealand Ballet. She is a highly-respected businesswoman, specialising in communications. She has served on the boards of trustees of two schools. Ms Isaac will bring a strong understanding of business and school governance to her position.
9. We propose that Mr John Shewan is appointed from the date of appointment to 1 March 2015 as the Deputy Chair of the Authorisation Board.
10. Mr Shewan is a highly-respected businessman, with a strong background in business management. He is the current chair of Fonterra Shareholders Fund management company, the former Chairman of PricewaterhouseCoopers, and now serves as chairman of a number of boards. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Accounting at Victoria University. He was involved in the Government's Tax Working Group, and has a deep interest in work to assist those currently underserved by the education system. Mr Shewan will bring business and management skills to the Board.
11. We propose that Mr Terence Bates is appointed from the date of appointment to 1 March 2016 as a member of the Authorisation Board.
12. Mr Bates has a sound understanding of the statutory frameworks that regulate New Zealand education, public expenditure and public service decision making and accountability. His current role as the Chief Executive at Cognition Education has a significant focus on commercial oversight, business growth, change management and internal quality assurance, which will be valuable skills for the Board. Mr Bates also has educational experience with the Ministry of Education, the Education Review Office, the Post Primary Teachers Association and as a school principal and teacher.

13. We propose that Dr Margaret Southwick QSM is appointed from the date of appointment to 1 March 2016 as a member of the Authorisation Board.
14. Dr Southwick (Tuvalu/NZ European) will bring a community development and Pasifika perspective to the Board. She has been an active member of the Partnership Schools|Kura Hourua Working Group, and is an advocate in the Pasifika community. Her experience includes tenure as Dean of Whitiorea Community Polytechnic's Faculty of Health, and Director of the Pacific Health Research Centre. She has been involved with a number of community development initiatives, and has mentored Pacific community organisations. Dr Southwick has served on numerous government and community boards, and is the current chair of the Nursing Council of New Zealand.
15. We propose that Dame Iritana Tawhiwhirangi is appointed from the date of appointment to 1 March 2015 as a member of the Authorisation Board.
16. Dame Iritana is a highly respected leader in the community. She has been heavily involved in Māori education, especially at the early childhood level. Dame Iritana has a strong commitment to the preservation and rejuvenation of te reo Māori. She has also served on a number of Government advisory groups and working parties. Dame Iritana will bring a wealth of knowledge regarding Māori education and wider community needs to the Board.
17. We propose that Mr Tahu Potiki is appointed from the date of appointment to 1 March 2016 as a member of the Authorisation Board.
18. Mr Potiki will bring a strong understanding of governance and strategy to the Board. His experience includes five years as the Chief Executive Officer for Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu and four years in a senior executive position at Christchurch Polytechnic with responsibility for the institution's responsiveness to the needs of Māori learners. He has extensive experience in governance and advisory roles. He is currently a PhD student at Canterbury University, as well as the Independent Chair/Governance Advisor for the Otago Whanau Ora Maori Provider Collective.
19. We propose that Mr John Morris is appointed from the date of appointment to 1 March 2015 as a member of the Authorisation Board.
20. Mr Morris was a leading figure in secondary education in Auckland, and will bring a strong understanding of the sector to the Board. His experience includes 22 years as headmaster of Auckland Grammar School and Takapuna Grammar School. He is currently a member of a number of boards and advisory groups, including the board of Education NZ. He is also a Commissioner for the Tertiary Education Commission. Mr Morris has been heavily involved with work regarding secondary qualifications, and was the Chairman of the Association of Cambridge Schools New Zealand.
21. We propose staggering the terms of office to allow continuity for the Board as its work progresses.

## **Representativeness of appointments**

22. We are satisfied that the appointment of the chair, deputy chair and other members of the Board will provide for a well-balanced group in terms of gender, age, ethnicity and geographic representation, and an appropriate mix of skills and experience.

## **Remuneration**

23. The Board is classified as a Group 4 Level 2 Working Group under the Cabinet-approved fees framework. Appropriate fees will be determined with reference to the framework.

## **Appointment process and consultation**

24. We can confirm that an appropriate process has been followed in considering the proposed nominees in terms of the State Services Commission Appointments Guidelines.

## **Conflicts of interest**

25. All members of the Board will be expected to declare any potential or actual conflict of interest.
26. As noted by Cabinet in December [SOC Min (12) 152 refers], in the Board Terms of Reference, the Board chair is responsible for any conflict the Board members may have and the Minister of Education will manage any conflict of interest the Board chair may have.
27. There is a potential conflict of interest arising from the appointment of two members (Catherine Isaac and Dr Margaret Southwick) of the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua Working Group. This will be managed as set out in the abovementioned Terms of Reference.

## **Timing and Publicity**

28. A media statement will be issued once the appointments have been approved, and the chair and members have been notified.

## **Recommendation**

29. It is our recommendation that the committee:
  - a) note the Minister of Education's intention to appoint Catherine Isaac as chair of the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua Authorisation Board with a term of office from the date of appointment to 1 March 2016
  - b) note the Minister of Education's intention to appoint John Shewan as deputy chair of the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua Authorisation Board with a term of office from the date of appointment to 1 March 2015

- c) note the Minister of Education's intention to appoint Dame Iritana Tawhiwhirangi and John Morris as members of the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua Authorisation Board with a term of office from the date of appointment to 1 March 2015
- d) note the Minister of Education's intention to appoint Terence Bates, Dr Margaret Southwick and Tahu Potiki as members of the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua Authorisation Board with a term of office from the date of appointment to 1 March 2016.

**Hon Hekia Parata**  
Minister of Education

7,2,13

**Hon John Banks**  
Associate Minister of Education

07 / 02 / 2013