

8 August 2014

**Education Report: Partnership Schools Authorisation Board  
meeting 11 August 2014**

---

Recommendations

---

**We recommend that you**

- a. **note** you are meeting with the Partnership Schools Authorisation Board on Monday 11 August 2014 at 4:30pm in your office
- b. **note** an agenda has been set by your office consisting of three items: update on negotiations; the decision making process; feedback on the process.



Katrina Casey  
Deputy Secretary  
Sector Enablement and Support

NOTED / APPROVED



Hon Hekia Parata  
Minister of Education

12, 8, 14

## **Education Report: Partnership Schools Authorisation Board meeting 11 August 2014**

---

### **Purpose of report**

---

1. You have called a meeting with the Authorisation Board (the Board) on Monday 11 August 2014 at 4:30pm in your office. This report supports you for the meeting.

### **Background**

---

2. Prior to your meeting with the Partnership Schools Authorisation Board, they will be meeting from 1:00pm on Monday 11 August 2014 at the Mercy Centre, Thorndon. The Board Chair is expected to update the members on the decisions taken, the negotiations and to prepare for their meeting with you at 4:30pm in your office.
3. This will be the first meeting of the Board following your decision on 10 July 2014 [CAB Min (14) 23/14; METIS 865557] about which applications would be taken through to the contract negotiation stage of the process.
4. Ministry staff will be in attendance at your meeting. The Ministry staff are:
  - Peter Hughes, Secretary for Education
  - Rowena Phair, Deputy Secretary Student Achievement
  - Katrina Casey, Deputy Secretary Sector Enablement and Support

### **Agenda Items**

---

5. The agenda for your meeting with the Board consists of three items:
  - i. Update on negotiations
  - ii. The decision making process
  - iii. Feedback on the process.

### **Update on negotiations**

6. An update on the progression of the contract negotiations with the four preferred applicants to open a Partnership School | Kura Hourua in 2015 was also provided in a separate report [METIS 880345].
7. The Ministry aims to successfully conclude contract negotiations with all four applicants by the end of August 2014, with an establishment date for the schools in February 2015.
8. The Authorisation Board and the Ministry of Education have identified specific areas relating to each proposal that need to be addressed in the set up phase.

Initial discussions with all four applicants are on track and most of the identified issues have been adequately addressed. Discussions are continuing.

9. The Ministry has not identified any other critical issues at this time that will prevent the preferred applicants from successfully completing the contract negotiation process. However, progress with each applicant is being monitored closely.

#### **The decision making process**

10. On 4 June the Authorisation Board provided a list of ranked recommendations of five preferred applicants to be considered for the Partnership Schools contract negotiations [METIS 864802]. You wrote to the Board on 12 June to acknowledge that you had received their report and would be considering it along with advice from the Ministry. In the letter you set out the overall process they could expect, with a Cabinet paper being required.
11. On 24 June, the Ministry of Education provided you with further advice, primarily about the network and funding implications, recommending four of the five applicants proceed to contract negotiations [METIS 865557].
12. On 7 July 2014 you advised Cabinet of your intention to select four applicants from the second application round of Partnership Schools to enter into contract discussions [CAB Min (14) 23/14]. On 11 July you made your decisions on the preferred applicants to commence contract discussions [METIS 865557].
13. You wrote to the Board on 14 July 2014 informing them you had made decisions and had approved four applicants to proceed into contract discussions. You advised the Board that your decision took into account a range of factors and that Rowena Phair would make contact with the Board to discuss the Ministry's advice.
14. Between 22-29 July 2014, the Ministry of Education held face to face meetings with each of the preferred applicants, with meetings in Auckland and Whangarei. The contract discussion process is ongoing and requires further meetings and discussions.
15. We will provide you with a contract award report as soon as the contract negotiations are complete; these are expected to be complete by the end of August 2014.

#### ***The role of the Authorisation Board***

16. The primary role of the Board is to advise you in relation to the approval of sponsors under Section 158B of the Education Act 1989 and monitoring the educational performance of Partnership Schools. This includes evaluating the applications and providing advice and recommendations to you regarding which applications should be approved.
17. You can request the Board provides assistance, where reasonable and practicable, with the negotiation process. The Ministry of Education is to keep the Board informed of the negotiation of contracts with approved sponsors. It is intended that the update report on the progression of the contract negotiations

with the four preferred applicants be forwarded to the Partnership Schools Authorisation Board for their information [METIS 880345].

### **Feedback on the process**

18. The process for the second application round incorporated the lessons learnt from round one [SOC Min (13) 24/4 and METIS 865557 refers]. This included:
  - Giving stronger direction around where and what types of schools are being sought. The preference factors sought applications that:
    - cater for primary-age students
    - make effective use of the flexibilities offered by the model
    - are based in areas of roll growth
    - are large enough to be comfortably viable
    - demonstrate a strong case for their location in relation to areas where students are not being well served by the education system
    - offer innovative options for 0-8 year olds.
  - Improving the application process by redesigning the Application Form
  - Ensuring the applicants are clear about what is expected of them
  - Ensuring sufficient time is allowed for approved Partnership Schools to get established
  - Meeting the public interest through greater transparency about the applicants at an earlier stage
  - Getting the level of support right to assist potential sponsors before they engage in a selection process.
19. It is important that we continue to refine and strengthen the selection process for Partnership Schools. We were in a position to address the lessons learnt from the first round in preparation for the second round and would expect the same to occur if and when further application rounds are approved [SOC Min (13) 24/4 refers].