

Memorandum for the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee

**PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS | KURA HOURUA AUTHORISATION BOARD:  
APPOINTMENTS**

**Proposal**

1. This paper outlines my intention to appoint Sir Noble Thomson (Toby) Curtis and John Taylor as members of the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua Authorisation Board (the Board).
2. The term of office will be from the date of appointment to 1 March 2016.

**Background**

3. The Authorisation Board is a statutory advisory group established under section 158C of the Education Act 1989.
4. As outlined in the Board's Terms of Reference, the key functions of the Board are:
  - 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.
5. The role of the Authorisation Board is to evaluate the applications to operate Partnership Schools, and to provide advice on and recommend to the Minister of Education which applications should be considered for approval.
6. The Authorisation Board currently comprises the chair, the deputy and four members appointed by the Minister of Education, following the resignation of Tahu Potiki. The membership of the Board is as follows:

*Chair*

- Catherine Isaac

*Deputy Chair*

- John Shewan

*Members*

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

7. I intend to appoint two new members. Sir Toby Curtis will fill Tahu Potiki's position following his resignation from the Board and John Taylor will be an additional member who will bring additional educational experience to the Board.

#### **Comment**

8. I propose to appoint two new members to the Board, one to replace Tahu Potiki and another to add additional educational experience to the Board.
9. I propose that Sir Toby Curtis is appointed from the date of appointment to 1 March 2016, as a member of the Authorisation Board.
10. The Iwi Chairs Forum is supportive of the Partnership Schools policy and has indicated their interest to have a member serve on the Authorisation Board. Sir Toby Curtis's name was put forward as the Iwi Chairs Forum's representative.
11. Given the resignation of Tahu Potiki from the Board, having a representative from the Iwi Chairs Forum will provide an important perspective and Māori voice that will inform the Board's independent advice to me.
12. Sir Toby Curtis is a highly respected leader in the community. He has been heavily involved in Māori education and was made Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (KNZM) after 45 years in the education sector from primary school to tertiary level. He has a strong commitment to the achievement of Māori students in education. He has served on a number of boards and advisory groups, including chairing the Iwi Education Authority for Nga Kura a Iwi o Aotearoa, representing Maori Immersion schools. Sir Toby Curtis will bring a wealth of knowledge regarding Māori education and wider community needs to the Board.
13. I propose that John Taylor is appointed from the date of appointment to 1 March 2016 as a member of the Authorisation Board.
14. John Taylor has also been a keen supporter of the Partnership Schools policy. John Taylor is the Board Chair's preferred nomination.
15. John Taylor was a leading figure in secondary education in Auckland, and will bring education expertise and a strong understanding of the sector to the Board. His experience includes 24 years as headmaster of King's College, Auckland and Rathkeale College, Wairarapa and 10 years with the University of Auckland as the Director of External Relations and Development. He has served on the boards of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of New Zealand, and the New Zealand Education and Scholarships Trust. John Taylor was the founding chairman of the Education Forum.

#### **Representativeness of appointment**

16. I am satisfied that the appointment of Sir Toby Curtis and John Taylor as members of the Board will provide for a well-balanced advisory group in terms of gender, age, ethnicity and geographic representation, and an appropriate mix of skills and experience.

#### **Remuneration**

17. The Board is classified as a Group 4 Level 2 Working Group under the Cabinet-approved fees framework. Appropriate fees have been determined with reference to the framework. Members will receive fees of [REDACTED] per day.

s 9(2)(a) OIA

#### **Appointment process and consultation**

18. I 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**

19. All members of the Board are expected to declare any potential or actual conflict of interest.
20. I can confirm that appropriate enquiries concerning conflicts of interest have been carried out.
21. As noted in the Board's 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 the Board Chair may have.
22. There is a potential conflict of interest arising from the appointment of John Taylor who was a member of the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua Working Group. This will be managed as set out in the abovementioned Terms of Reference.

#### **Timing and Publicity**

23. I do not intend to publicly announce the appointments of Sir Toby Curtis and John Taylor.

#### **Recommendation**

24. It is recommended that the committee:
- a) note my intention to appoint Sir Toby Curtis as a member of the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua Authorisation Board with a term of office from the date of appointment to 1 March 2016;
  - b) note my intention to appoint John Taylor as a member of the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua Authorisation Board with a term of office from the date of appointment to 1 March 2016.

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Hon Hekia Parata  
Minister of Education

9 / 4 / 14