

## **Education Report: Update on the readiness of the Partnership Schools|Kura Hourua to open in 2014**

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### **Executive Summary**

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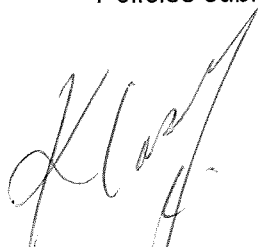
1. The purpose of this report is to:
  - update you on the readiness of the Partnership Schools| Kura Hourua to open at the start of Term 1, 2014 based on the progress letters received from ERO as part of their readiness review; and
  - seek your approval on Contract Milestone One, the Parent, Family, Whānau, Iwi and Community Engagement Policy.
2. ERO has reported that good progress has been made by all Sponsors in setting up their Partnership Schools.
3. ERO indicates that four of the five Sponsors are well placed to operate a Partnership School, and to provide for students at the beginning of 2014. ERO advises, in its view that while Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust has made good progress in a number of key areas it stills faces a significant challenge to be able to operate a Partnership School and provide for students by the beginning of 2014. This challenge relates predominately to having suitable premises to use by their planned opening date.
4. The Ministry has been working closely with Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust and as at 13 December 2013 can confirm that the Trust has a viable option in place that will ensure it has premises by its start date and building works have commenced.
5. The Ministry continues to actively work with all schools to ensure that they are ready to open in February 2014.
6. The Ministry has now received from all Sponsors their Parent, Family, Whānau, Iwi and Community Engagement Policy for your approval as required for within the Partnership School Agreement.
7. When you have approved the policies, they will form part of the Agreement and the Sponsor is required to act in accordance with it. Each policy was reviewed by the Ministry and feedback provided. All Sponsors have considered the feedback and have resubmitted their policies for your approval.
8. We now seek your approval of the Parent, Family, Whānau, Iwi and Community Engagement Policies submitted by the Sponsors.

## Recommendations

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We recommend that you:

- a. **note** that ERO has submitted to the Ministry of Education a readiness review progress letter for each of the five Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua;
- b. **note** that ERO has reported that good progress has been made by all Sponsors in setting up their Partnership Schools and that four Sponsors are well placed to be able to provide for students at the beginning of 2014;
- c. **note** that the fifth Sponsor, Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust, finalised its building option on 13 December 2013 and has begun implementation. This mitigates the primary concern ERO expressed; and
- d. **approve** the attached Parent, Family, Whānau, Iwi and Community Engagement Policies submitted by the Sponsors to then form part of their Agreement.




Katrina Casey  
Deputy Secretary  
Sector Enablement and Support

Encl

YES / NO



Hon Hekia Parata  
Minister of Education



## **Education Report: Update on the readiness of the Partnership Schools|Kura Hourua to open in 2014**

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### **Purpose of Report**

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1. The purpose of this report is to:
  - update you on the progress letters received from the Education Review Office (ERO) about the readiness of the Partnership Schools| Kura Hourua to open at the start of Term 1, 2014; and
  - seek your approval on Contract Milestone One, the Parent, Family, Whānau, Iwi and Community Engagement Policy.

### **ERO Readiness Review progress update**

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#### **Background**

2. Through a MOU with the Ministry, ERO was contracted to conduct a review of the planning, processes, systems and procedures so far developed by the Management Team of each Partnership School to open in 2014.
3. The purpose of this review is to help determine the readiness of each Partnership School to open in Term One, 2014.
4. ERO has been working with each Partnership School since the end of September 2013 and its final report to the Ministry is due in April 2014. In the interim, ERO has provided to the Ministry a progress letter on each of the five Partnership Schools (letters attached as Appendix 1).

#### **Progress to date**

5. Below is a summary of the progress to date for each Partnership School based on ERO's readiness review.

#### ***South Auckland Middle School***

6. ERO reports that Villa Education Trust is well placed to operate and manage a Partnership School, and to provide for students at the beginning of 2014. ERO note that good progress has been made in:
  - finding ways to engage with the community and creating opportunities to meet with and inform prospective students' parents, and other interested parties about South Auckland Middle School;
  - enrolling priority learners. Enrolments to date are comprised of Pacific 58% (Samoan 27%, Tongan 13%, Cook Island Māori 9%, Fijian 4%, Niue 4%, and Tokelauan 1%) Māori 22%, NZ European/ Pākehā 8% and other 12%.
  - appointing five full-time teachers from a large field of high quality applicants. One part-time teacher has been appointed and other appointments are planned to ensure coverage of the curriculum and provision of specialist teaching.

- enlisting some high profile sportsmen to support the sports programme and provide models of personal achievement;
  - leasing suitable premises in Manurewa. The site provides the attractive, flexible space and open surroundings desired by the sponsors; and
  - curriculum documentation has begun. Learning area overviews and planning for students' individual projects are already in place for Term 1, 2014.
7. The main challenges identified by ERO includes:
- building a shared understanding of the desired pedagogical approach in the time available;
  - ensuring that teachers are well equipped to know their students and their needs. It may be helpful to consider specific professional development in this area; and
  - dealing with possible antagonism towards South Auckland Middle School students from other students in the community. The academic advisor for the School is concerned that students may be subjected to bullying in the community and is considering ways to address this.

***Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru***

8. Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust faces a significant challenge to be able to operate a Partnership School by the beginning of 2014. This challenge relates to having suitable premises to use by their planned opening date.
9. Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust have made good progress in other areas of establishing their school including:
- establishing the ethos of the school, serving Māori learners and promoting success for Māori;
  - articulating a compelling vision and direction for the school;
  - reflecting that vision in all school documentation and practices;
  - ongoing and systematic monitoring of their timeline, strategic plan and progress towards goals;
  - engaging the community through a series of hui to inform them about school;
  - recruiting staff who appreciate the vision and are likely to be able to advance the espoused model of teaching;
  - planning for staff induction and student orientation and the ongoing development of the curriculum; and
  - clearly articulating desired governance and management structures, and implementing policies and procedures for managing school finances.

10. The main challenges identified by ERO includes:
- having suitable premises to use by their planned opening date of February 10, 2014;
  - clarifying governance and management roles;
  - clarifying the enrolment policy and its implementation;
  - enrolling sufficient students in the time available; and
  - meeting tight timelines to document material for Consent to Assess for NZQA. This accreditation needs to be in place by the beginning of the school year.
11. On 13 December 2013 Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust finalised its plan for building its premises, obtained the necessary funding and work has now commenced.

***Te Kura Hourua o Whangarei Terenga Paraoa***

12. He Puna Marama Trust is making good progress towards operating and managing a Partnership School and to providing for students at the beginning of 2014. Key points to note include:
- the vision and direction for the school is clearly articulated and reflected in documentation;
  - there is an ongoing commitment to engage with the community to best meet the needs of the students in the school and to inform people of the purpose of the school;
  - there is a carefully planned induction process for students and their parents;
  - an effective and efficient management system is in place to support the development of the school;
  - key teaching staff have been appointed after a careful appointments process;
  - the school has access to suitable premises that will be easily adapted for their purposes; and
  - North Tec has expressed keen interest in working in partnership with the school to provide further opportunities for learning.
13. The main challenges identified by ERO includes:
- meeting tight timelines to document material for Consent to Assess for NZQA. This accreditation needs to be in place by the beginning of the school year;
  - the development of the school curriculum, and shared teaching and learning practices to support the school direction;
  - confirming enrolments. While enrolments are now confirmed for 30 students who are already involved in the academy programme, the school needs to have certainty about other enrolments from this programme, so they can offer further places; and
  - working through the complexities of their proposed educational model.

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

14. ERO reports that the Rise UP Trust is well placed to operate and manage a Partnership School, and to provide for students at the beginning of 2014. ERO notes that good progress has been made by the Trust, in particular:
- the school's philosophy is well articulated, and community information meetings have been well attended. Interest is high, deriving in part from the Trust's previous success as an afterschool care provider;
  - the school roll is set for a maximum of 50 students from Years 1 to 6. Enrolments to date suggest that this target will be easily met;
  - curriculum development is proactively underway;
  - suitable premises have been leased with good planning in place to make the premises suitable;
  - a leader of learning has been appointed but not yet released from her current school;
  - the planned staff induction programme includes team building, the development of shared expectations, shared vision, and ongoing co-construction of the curriculum;
  - effective management systems are in place. All documents are aligned to the school's philosophy and purpose and reflect a clear understanding of the regulatory framework;
  - the Trust has been proactive in networking with local school and businesses. There is ongoing, regular communication with parents; and
  - processes to ensure smooth transitions for children to the school have been discussed with the parent community.
15. The main challenges identified by ERO includes:
- further clarifying for parents what sits with the after school programme so parents know what it is in the programme that they are required to pay for;
  - reviewing the funding allocation for the school; and
  - ensuring that all necessary school facilities, in particular the school ablution blocks, are provided within the given budget and ready when the school opens.

### ***Vanguard Military School***

16. ERO reports that Advance Training Centres is very well placed to operate and manage a Partnership School, and to provide for students at the beginning of 2014. This is evident in:
- the keen interest and enrolment of students from the priority groups;
  - key appointments that have been made, including the principal, deputy principals and teachers for all curriculum areas offered by the school, including three non-registered teachers with military expertise;
  - the clearly delineated management and leadership structure;

- an inclusive process for the development of the school curriculum that is designed to prepare students for further training/employment options, or to gain the necessary qualifications for entry into tertiary education;
- suitable premises that are being well adapted to cater for students and the nature of the curriculum ;
- the carefully planned and implemented orientation processes for students and their parents; and
- the emphasis on self review throughout document and practices to monitor the provision of high quality learning experiences for students.

17. The main challenges identified by ERO includes:

- meeting tight timelines to document material for Consent to Assess for NZQA. This accreditation needs to be in place by the beginning of the school year; and
- continuing to develop and implement effective assessment, analysis and reporting processes, responsive to student needs.

### **Next Steps**

18. The Ministry will continue to work with other agencies and support each school to ensure their planning and preparation for opening remain on-track.
19. The Ministry local office, Governance Facilitator and Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust are actively working to resolve the property issue, which as noted by ERO, is the principal challenge to opening on time. There is a working option being progressed that we believed is achievable.
20. ERO will be submitting to the Ministry its final report on the readiness of the each Partnership School at the end of Term 1, 2014.
21. ERO will undertake an accountability review of each Partnership School by July 2014 after the completion of the Readiness Review, to provide public assurance as to whether the school has effective processes and planning to provide quality education for its community.

## **Contract Milestone One and Two**

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### **Background**

22. The Agreement commits the Sponsors to provide to you:
- a. no later than 1 November 2013, a policy setting out how it will engage with parents, family, whānau, iwi and communities of the students (clause 10.6); and
  - b. no later than 1 December 2013, the school's policies for ensuring a safe physical and emotional environment for students (clause 7.5).
23. These policies are regarded as Operative Documents. You are able to request reasonable changes to any draft Operative Document prior to approval which the Sponsor must include and resubmit for approval within ten business days.

24. Once approved, they then form part of the Agreement and the Sponsor is required to act in accordance with it. Any failure to comply with an Operative Document will constitute a breach of the Agreement.
25. For the Parent, Family, Whānau, Iwi and Community Engagement Policy, once approved, the Sponsor must make this policy publically available to parents, family, whānau, iwi and communities of the students either on their website or an alternative suitable forum.

**Contract Milestone One**

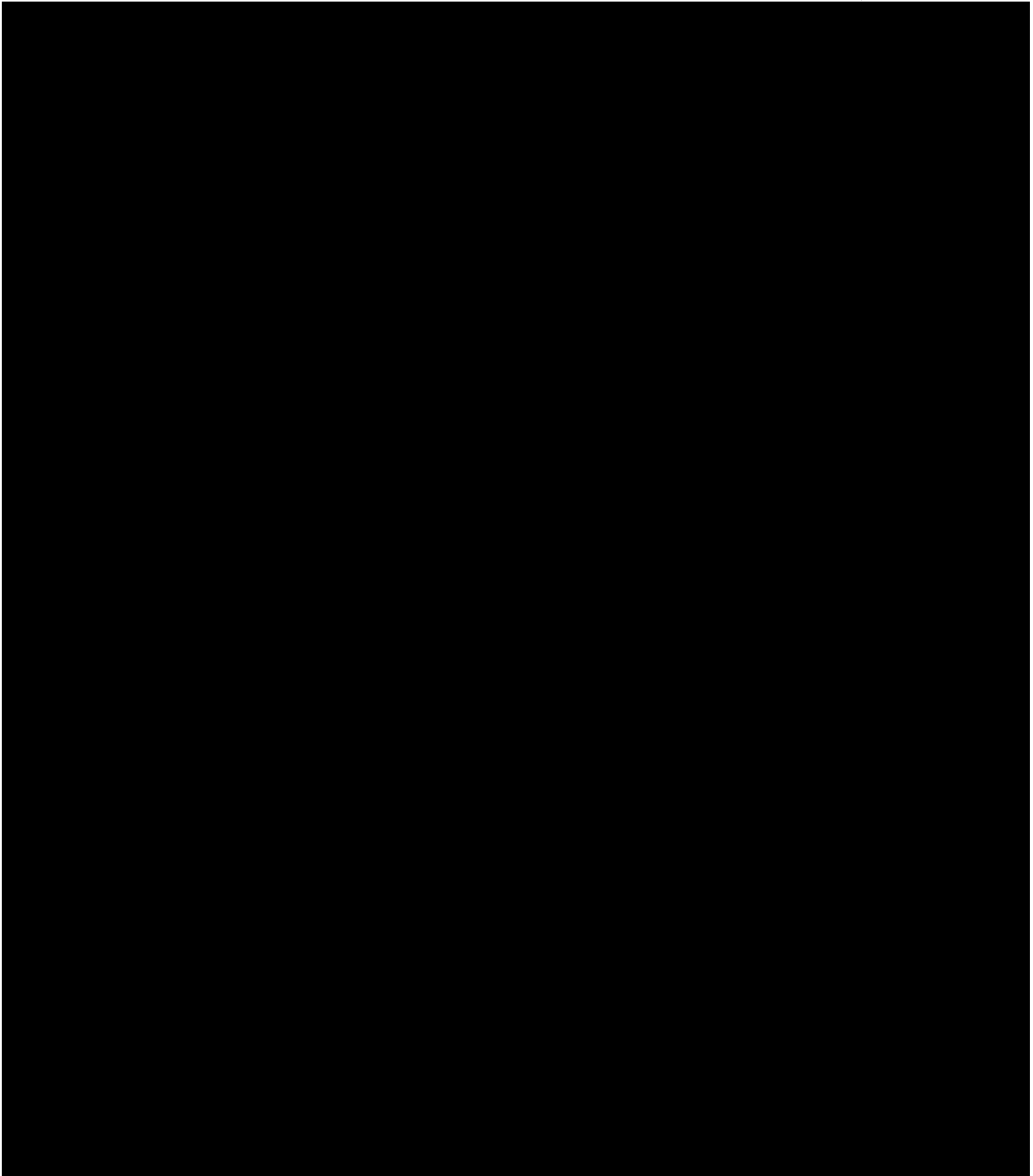
26. All Sponsors submitted to the Ministry their engagement policies by 1 November 2013.
27. All Sponsors have received and considered feedback from the Ministry and resubmitted their policies for your approval.
28. Appendix 2 highlights the strengths and areas for improvement for each of the resubmitted policies.
29. We recommend that you approve the policies as submitted but note that the Sponsors are required to review the policy after 12 months to ensure it accurately reflects the school and its methods for engagement.
30. Appendix 3 includes the engagement policies submitted by the Sponsors for your approval.

**Contract Milestone Two.**

31. All Sponsors submitted to the Ministry their health and safety policies by the required date of 1 December 2013.
32. Feedback will be provided to each Sponsor by 18 December 2013. All Sponsors will be asked to consider the feedback and resubmit their policies for your approval.
33. It is expected that the policies will be resubmitted and finalised early in 2014 and will be forwarded to you for your approval ahead of the schools opening.



## Appendix 2



**Appendix 3: Parent, Family, Whānau, Iwi and Community Engagement Policies submitted by the Sponsors.**

<b>Policy 1</b>	<b>South Auckland Middle School</b>
<b>Policy 2</b>	<b>Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru</b>
<b>Policy 3</b>	<b>Te Kura Hourua o Whangarei Terenga Paraoa</b>
<b>Policy 4</b>	<b>The Rise Up Academy</b>
<b>Policy 5</b>	<b>Vanguard Military School</b>

Enclosed