

## **Education Report: Update on the readiness of the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua to open in February 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; and
  - seek your approval on Contract Milestone Two, the Health and Safety Policies.
2. Overall, all sponsors are committed and well placed to opening their schools at the start of Term 1, 2014. They have each experienced significant challenges in securing the required building and resource consents and preparing their properties in time for their respective opening dates.
3. All schools have met or almost met their establishment enrolment figure.
4. Due to the continued actions from the PPTA, Te Kura Hourua o Whangarei Terenga Paraoa have now revised their approach and no longer have a reliance on Whangarei Boys High School (WBHS) for delivery of any part of their curriculum. They instead are negotiating arrangements with NorthTec Tai Tokerau Wānanga and Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu - The Correspondence School.
5. Te Kura Hourua o Whangarei Terenga Paraoa will continue to pursue an arrangement with WBHS for the future as they see real benefit for their students through this potential partnership.
6. NZSTA are working with and supporting WBHS Board. The Ministry is keeping in close contact with NZSTA and has indicated to the NZSTA and the Board that we can provide additional resource or support as and when required.
7. The Ministry has now received from all Sponsors their Health and Safety Policies for your approval as required for within the Partnership School Agreement.
8. When you have approved these policies, they will form part of the Agreement and the Sponsor is required to act in accordance with it.

## Recommendations

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We recommend that you:

- a. **note** all sponsors are committed and well placed to opening their schools at the start of Term 1, 2014; and
- b. **approve** the attached Health and Safety Policies submitted by the Sponsors which will then form part of their Agreement.

YES / NO



Katrina Casey  
Deputy Secretary  
Sector Enablement and Support

Encls



Hon Hekia Parata  
Minister of Education

3.12.14

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

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### Purpose of Report

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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; and
  - seek your approval on Contract Milestone Two, the Health and Safety Policies.

### Update on Readiness to Open

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2. Overall all sponsors are committed and well placed to opening their schools on the respective scheduled dates.
3. All schools have experienced significant challenges in securing the required building and resource consents and preparing their properties.
4. We are confident that all schools will meet, or be very close to the 2014 enrolment targets.
5. In addition three of the five schools require consent to assess from NZQA. One of the three schools is very close to having this approved. The other two are working hard and making good progress. They are however, unlikely to have an assess to consent approval prior to the school opening. Whilst this is not ideal, it is not something that would preclude the opening of the school on the scheduled date.

### Progress to date

6. Below is a summary of the progress to date for each Partnership School in preparation to open in Term 1, 2014.

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

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Opening ceremony</b>       | 31 January 2014   |
| <b>First day of school</b>    | 4 February 2014   |
| <b>Enrolments</b>             | 110 of 120 places filled (the establishment roll was set at 90)   |
| <b>Property</b>               | Securing property consents has proven challenging, but will not prevent the school from being able to open as scheduled |
| <b>Teaching staff</b>         | All staff have been recruited and inducted  |
| <b>NZQA consent to assess</b> | N/A   |

7. South Auckland Middle School is well on track to be ready to open in time for their official opening on 31 January 2014, with the school's first day of learning on 4 February 2014.
8. Enrolments currently stand at 110 against an establishment roll of 90. All staff have been recruited and inducted. Securing property consents has proven challenging, however this will not prevent the school from being able to open as scheduled.

***Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru***

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Opening ceremony</b>       | Mid April 2014 (end of Term 1)<br>Local opening on 10 February 2014 with Karakia and breakfast at 4:30am   |
| <b>First day of school</b>    | 10 February 2014   |
| <b>Enrolments</b>             | 55 of 71 places of the establishment roll are filled   |
| <b>Property</b>               | The school's facilities are on track to be ready and the Trust is committed to opening their Kura on 10 February 2014  |
| <b>Teaching staff</b>         | All staff have been recruited and inducted in the school's mission and vision  |
| <b>NZQA consent to assess</b> | The sponsor has not yet secured the NZQA consent to assess, but continues to work with NZQA to finalise, with a view of consent being granted by the middle of February 2014 |

9. Enrolments stand at 58 against an establishment roll of 71, and despite this, the school remains optimistic that they will be oversubscribed during the first term of the school's operation. All staff have been recruited and inducted in the school's mission and vision.
10. Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru expressed an interest in partnering with Kamo High School to provide arts and drama subjects to their students. Due to the actions of the PPTA, this partnership is currently not being progressed. It will not affect the delivery of their curriculum, but it is a partnership they would like to develop in the future if possible.
11. The Trust is to be commended on the determination that has seen them resolve the challenges faced towards the end of last year and forge ahead in preparation for opening.

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

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Opening ceremony</b>       | 15 February 2014  |
| <b>First day of school</b>    | 10 February 2014  |
| <b>Enrolments</b>             | 46 of 50 places of the establishment roll are filled  |
| <b>Property</b>               | The buildings will be largely (but not fully) complete by opening day, with cosmetic details requiring completion after the school has opened                             |
| <b>Teaching staff</b>         | All staff have been appointed to operate the school   |
| <b>NZQA consent to assess</b> | The sponsor has not yet secured the NZQA consent to assess, but continues to work with NZQA to finalise, with a view of consent being granted by the end of February 2014 |

12. The Sponsor intends to open their school on 10 February 2014. During the first week, the students will travel across the region to visit various Ngapuhi marae, where the focus is about inducting the students. The School has planned a low key dawn ceremony on 15 February 2014 to mark the inauguration of the start of their academic journey.
13. Enrolments stand at 46 out of an establishment roll of 50. All staff have been appointed to operate the school. The buildings will be largely (but not fully) complete by opening day; with cosmetic details requiring completion after the school is open.
14. Kamo High School, Tikipunga High School, Whangarei Boys High School (WBHS), were part of the original contingent of schools named in He Puna Marama Trust's application to deliver specialist subjects to Te Kura Hourua o Whangarei Terenga Paraoa students.
15. Only WBHS Board of Trustees has continued to pursue this proposed activity. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been prepared between the two parties, however this remains unsigned.
16. Due to the continued actions from the PPTA, Te Kura Hourua o Whangarei Terenga Paraoa have now revised their approach and no longer have a reliance on WBHS for delivery of any part of their curriculum. They instead are negotiating arrangements with NorthTec Tai Tokerau Wānanga and Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu - The Correspondence School.
17. Te Kura Hourua o Whangarei Terenga Paraoa have advised that although they have revised their delivery approach, they will continue to pursue an arrangement with WBHS for the future as they see real benefit for their students through this potential partnership.
18. The PPTA has written to the WBHS Board Chair asserting the school had not followed due process with respect to consultation with its members, and the parents of the students.
19. Board representatives from WBHS Board met with PPTA on 23 January 2014. The PPTA stated that it will mount a formal legal challenge if WBHS enters into a MoU with Te Kura Hourua o Whangarei Terenga Paraoa. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
20. NZSTA are working with and supporting WBHS Board. The Ministry is keeping in close contact with NZSTA and has indicated to the NZSTA and the Board that we can provide additional resource or support as and when required.

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

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Opening ceremony</b>       | 7 February 2014  |
| <b>First day of school</b>    | 7 February 2014  |
| <b>Enrolments</b>             | 50 of 50 places of the establishment roll are filled   |
| <b>Property</b>               | Building Consent was granted on 23 January 2014 which may result in some residual building work to be completed after the school opening date. |
| <b>Teaching staff</b>         | All staff have been appointed to operate the school  |
| <b>NZQA consent to assess</b> | N/A  |

21. The Rise UP Academy met their targeted establishment roll of 50 some time ago. The school has been focused on completing its facilities and refining of its curriculum and pedagogy.
22. Building Consent was granted on 23 January 2014. This may result in some residual building work to be completed after the school opening date on Friday 7 February; however there is nothing outstanding that will prevent the opening of their school.

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

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Opening ceremony</b>       | March 2014 (TBC)  |
| <b>First day of school</b>    | 3 February 2014   |
| <b>Enrolments</b>             | 92 of 108 of the establishment roll are filled  |
| <b>Property</b>               | Construction on a section of the school is continuing, but will not impact on the opening or operation of the school                          |
| <b>Teaching staff</b>         | All staff have been appointed and have been in place since November 2013  |
| <b>NZQA consent to assess</b> | The sponsor has almost completed the consent to assess process , just requiring letters of support from three Industry Training Organisations |

23. The school is due to open on Monday 3 February 2014, and is well positioned to being open for this first day. The school does not intend to hold an official opening prior to the start of the school term. Rather it is planning to hold a formal event towards the end of March, where it will be able to demonstrate the programme on offer.
24. Enrolments stand at 92 of 108 establishment roll. The Sponsor reports that they have drawn students from as far south as Waiuku, and as far north as Wellsford, and from east to west, consistent with the assertions made in its application.
25. All staff have been recruited and have been working at the school since early November, which we feel contributes significantly to the schools readiness to open.
26. The Sponsor has almost been granted their consent to assess by NZQA with the final requirement being letters of support from the three Industry Training

Organisations who will be delivering components of the curriculum outside the base scope.

### **PPTA**

27. At the 2013 annual PPTA conference, two recommendations were passed:
- That PPTA members be strongly advised not to apply for positions in charter schools.
  - PPTA members to refrain from all professional, sporting and cultural liaisons with the sponsors, managers and employees of charter schools.
28. Despite these recommendations being passed by the PPTA, all five Partnership Schools have now successfully appointed their teaching staff and are expecting to join professional, sporting and cultural activities once their schools open.

### **Opening of the Partnership Schools**

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29. Separate advice has been provided to you about the opening of the Partnership Schools [Metis 831488].
30. Villa Education Trust has invited you to speak at the opening of their Partnership School, South Auckland Middle School on Friday 31 January 2014
31. Although you are attending the opening of South Auckland Middle School, the opening event is an opportunity to acknowledge the opening of the four other Partnership Schools in February 2014.
32. All Sponsors have been invited to the opening to be held at South Auckland Middle School. At this stage, only those sponsors located in Auckland have indicated they will be attending.

### **Contract Milestone Two**

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#### **Background**

33. 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).
34. 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.
35. 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.

36. The Parent, Family, Whānau, Iwi and Community Engagement Policies were forwarded to you for your approval on 17 December 2013 [Metis 830938].

**Contract Milestone Two**

37. All Sponsors submitted to the Ministry their health and safety policies by the required date of 1 December 2013.
38. All Sponsors have received and considered feedback from the Ministry and resubmitted their policies for your approval.
39. We recommend that you approve the policies as submitted but note that the Sponsors are required to review their policies after 12 months and include any additional policies the school may require once they are operating.
40. Appendix 1 includes the health and safety policies submitted by the Sponsors for your approval.