

6 November 2013

Hon Hekia Parata  
Minister of Education

Tēnā koe Minister

Thank you for meeting with the Partnership School/Kura Hourua Authorisation Board on 22 October. The Board found the discussion very useful.

As indicated during that meeting, the Terms of Reference for the Board have been revised by the Board and I have attached these for your approval. There are several changes from earlier versions which I would like to draw to your attention.

Firstly, as well as the Board's statutory role of advising you on the approval of sponsors and monitoring the educational performance of the Partnership Schools Kura Hourua once established, the Board also sees that it has a wider role to:

- act as kaitiaki of the Partnership Schools policy
- contribute to the mana and success of Partnership Schools
- provide advice to you on policy development related to Partnership Schools.

As discussed with you at the meeting, although not explicitly spelled out in the revised Terms of Reference, we do see this wider role as including ensuring the integrity of the policy and the autonomy of the kura are respected and preserved.

Secondly, as agreed at the meeting, the Board would like to increase its number from seven to eight members, and for this additional person to have strong education capability, preferably with teaching and school leadership experience. We look forward to having this further member join the Board in the new year.

In addition, we noted that in your letter dated 28 August 2013, you indicated the possibility of Board members taking on a mentoring role with each of the Partnership Schools Kura Hourua opening in 2014. The Board discussed this additional role but concluded that acting in a mentor role for specific schools could lead to a loss of objectivity and independence. There may however be occasions where the Board can assist in addressing obstacles that may impede the negotiation process or the establishment of the schools. In such cases, and where reasonable and practicable, the Board is more than willing to provide assistance, and this is noted in the revised Terms of Reference.

Finally, the revised Terms of Reference note that the Ministry's secretariat will provide the full range of organisational support and resources required by the Board to carry out its functions, including access to such external support that it may deem necessary.

I am happy to discuss anything in these Terms of Reference further with you.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Isaac'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Catherine Isaac  
Chairperson  
Partnership School Kura Hourua Authorisation Board