



Office of Hon Hekia Parata

Minister of Education
Minister of Pacific Island Affairs

28 AUG 2013

Catherine Isaac

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Tēnā koe Catherine

Thank you for your email of 21 August 2013 in response to the report I gave the Authorisation Board concerning the progress of partnership kura contract negotiations. The report was requested following the meeting we had on 31 July.

Thank you for the offer to help the Ngatiwai Whangaruru group to address the challenges regarding a site and facilities. I am keen to see a bridging role for Authorisation Board members between the conclusion of the recommendation process and the establishment of the monitoring process.

I think it would be highly desirable for members of the Board to take on a mentoring role for the current applicants on practical matters, for example, a Board member could be assigned to support each applicant. The objective of the role would be to provide support focused on all five applicants successfully opening in term one of 2014. When we have agreed on the Authorisation Board's monitoring role I expect this matter will be included.

The mentoring role must not, of course, cross into contract negotiations. I do, however, expect the Ministry to keep you briefed on practical matters that require attention, for which the direct contact is Alison Thom, the Ministry's Regional Director in Auckland. My office can provide further guidance on this if required.

I note the lack of progress in confirming the terms of reference. In light of this I suggest that the Authorisation Board provide the Ministry with the Board's suggestions about what the monitoring role should include. I will expect final advice on this as soon as possible.

In your email you also raised an issue that applicants may have perceived a delay in signing contracts. However, I am advised timelines did not slip and no dates were given to the applicants. The timing was necessarily uncertain because we required the successful passage of the Education Amendment Bill 2013.

Thank you for raising the matters in your email with me. I greatly appreciate the on-going advice and support from all the members of the Authorisation Board.

Heoi anō

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Hekia Parata'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'H' and 'P'.

Hon Hekia Parata
Minister of Education

cc Hon John Banks, Associate Minister of Education
Rowena Phair, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Education
Alison Thom, Northern Regional Director, Ministry of Education