



Office of Hon Hekia Parata

Minister of Education
Minister of Pacific Island Affairs

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COPY

Kevin Bunker
General Secretary
PPTA
PO Box 2119
WELLINGTON 6140



Tēnā koe Mr Bunker

Thank you for your letter of 26 November 2013 about Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua in Whangarei.

As you are aware, on 17 September 2013 I announced the details of five Partnership Schools to open in 2014. There are two being established now in Northland; including:

- Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru, sponsored by Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Trust. This partnership kura will be a co-educational secondary school for year 9-13 students in Whangaruru; be a bilingual school; target Māori students; and, offer additional learning opportunities including farming and outdoor education.
- Te Kura Hourua O Whangarei Terenga Paraoa, sponsored by He Puna Marama Charitable Trust. This partnership kura will be a co-educational secondary school for year 7-13 students in Whangarei. It aims to raise the achievement of Māori students by reconnecting them with an ethos of leadership and pride.

In the Ministry's Request for Application, applicants were asked to identify any partners they intended would deliver aspects of the operation of their proposed school. He Puna Marama Trust identified that they intended to partner with Whangarei Boys High School, Tikipunga High School and Kamo High School.

Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Trust similarly proposed to partner with Kamo High School and North Tec to provide students with access to specialist senior subjects, whilst the school built up its roll sufficient to be able to consider the provision of these subjects in-house.

It was acknowledged by the Ministry that the only identified risk was the need to ensure the sustainability of He Puna Marama Trust's arrangements to share teaching of senior students with these schools. The Ministry advised me it was confident that this could be addressed in the set up phase.

I took into account a number of factors as I made decisions about the establishment of Partnership Schools, including the potential impact of the establishment of a Partnership School on the network. Partnership Schools are schools of choice. Parents have the option of deciding whether or not to send their children to one. Each Partnership School is expected to have strong points of difference. As a result enrolments may come from a wide geographical area.

Partnership Schools will bring together the education, business and community sectors to provide new opportunities for students to achieve educational success. These schools are one of the new approaches we need to address educational underachievement, and ensure five out of five young New Zealanders experience success.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Heoi anō

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Hekia Parata'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Hekia' and the last name 'Parata' clearly distinguishable.

Hon Hekia Parata
Minister of Education