


Education Report: Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua Annual Reports 2014

Recommendations

We recommend that the Minister of Education:

- a. **note** you have delegated approval of annual Partnership School reports to the Deputy Secretary, Sector Enablement and Support;
- b. **note** the Deputy Secretary has received and approved the annual reports for four of the Round One Sponsors;
- c. **note** that these four sponsors reported they were meeting the minimum requirements as set out in the Partnership Schools Agreement, and were operationally compliant with the Partnership Schools Agreement for the 2014 year;
- d. **note** the Deputy Secretary has received and not approved the Annual Report for Te Pūmanawa o te Wairua, sponsored by Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust;
- e. **note** that you have not delegated the authority to approve, or not approve, payment of the one percent performance retention, and we will provide a separate report and recommendations to you regarding this once we have received input from the Authorisation Board; and
- f. **agree** to release the annual reports on the Ministry of Education website as part of the next information release on Partnership Schools.

AGREE / NOT AGREE


Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

Encls


NOTED


Hon Hekia Parata
Minister of Education

David Seymour
Under-Secretary to the
Minister of Education

2, 19, 15

24/01/2015

Education Report: Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua Annual Reports 2014

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - i. confirm the approval of the annual reports from four of the Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua (Partnership Schools) that opened in 2014; and
 - ii. seek your approval to publicly release the annual reports.

Background

2. Clause 18.2(b(ii)) of the Partnership Schools Agreement requires the Sponsors to submit to the Minister an annual report by 31 January of each year in respect of the previous school year.
3. On 19 August 2014, under clause 34.1(a) of the Partnership Schools Agreement, you appointed the Deputy Secretary, Sector Enablement and Support to administer the Partnership School Agreements on your behalf [METIS 878319 refers]. On 26 November 2014 you added approval of the Sponsors' annual (and quarterly) reports to this delegation. [METIS 894825 refers]
4. Clause 18.3(a) requires the Sponsor to report to the Ministry at least twice each year on student achievement results for their students. This information was provided in the second Quarter Report and requested with the Annual Report.

Administration

5. Following a meeting with members of the Authorisation Board on 16 December 2014, Sponsors were advised that the student achievement workbook would be distributed in mid-January 2015 following further revision by key stakeholders.
6. The Ministry of Education provided Sponsors with the Annual Reporting template on 20 December 2014. The financial workbook and the student achievement workbook were distributed to Sponsors on 20 January 2015 and 28 January 2015 respectively.
7. Sponsors were asked to submit the student achievement workbook by 9 February 2015, allowing them adequate time to complete the template.
8. Sponsors were required to submit their Annual Report (including financial workbook) by 31 January 2015. One Sponsor submitted their Annual Report (and financial workbook) by the required date. The four remaining Sponsors submitted their Annual Report (and financial workbook) between 2 and 11 February 2015.
9. All Sponsors have received and considered feedback from the Ministry and have had the opportunity to resubmit their Annual Reports for approval.

10. The Annual Reports have been provided to the Authorisation Board (the Board) for their comment, and recommendations regarding the one percent retention payments. We have yet to receive the Board's input.

Annual Reports

11. The Annual Report includes information on the Objectives, Minimum Requirements and Performance Standards to allow our assessment of the Sponsor under the Partnership Schools Agreement.
12. The Report template is composed of three mandatory sections:
 - a. The Annual Report;
 - b. A workbook to record the fourth quarter and end of year financial information; and
 - c. A workbook to record student achievement at the school in 2014.
13. The Annual Report is designed to elicit a comprehensive picture of a Partnership School's recently completed academic year as it relates to the school's performance in those areas detailed in the Agreement [Schedule 6]: student achievement, student engagement, financial performance and targeting priority learners. It should also provide discussion of progress toward the achievement of the performance measures set out in the Agreement.
14. This is the first set of annual reports prepared under the Partnership School policy. Clause 20.1(c) of the Agreement recognises that qualitative information regarding performance standards and objectives requires a level of good faith to be exercised by both parties. Accordingly, the Ministry has generally accepted the information provided by Sponsors in the annual reports on this good faith basis. The exception is the report for Te Pūmanawa o te Wairua. The Specialist Audit conducted in March/April 2015 identified a number of breaches of the Partnership School Agreement, and that performance targets were not being met. This supersedes the information provided in the Annual Report, which is inconsistent with some of its findings. We expect that the quality of the reports will continue to improve over time as the Sponsors move into a business as usual state.
15. The financial performance standards set out in the Agreement are not particularly meaningful when considered at a quarterly timeframe, nor while schools are working towards reaching their maximum roll. The financial performance standard has therefore been assessed as part of the Annual Report.
16. All Sponsors except Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust were operationally compliant with the Agreement for the period 1 January to 31 December 2014, and confirmed they were meeting the minimum requirements as set out in the Agreement.
17. We have identified some areas of non-compliance with aspects of the Agreement for some Sponsors but these issues have not prevented the Deputy Secretary from approving their Annual Reports.
18. As previously advised, in making any decisions under this appointment, there will be a practice of 'no surprises'. Accordingly, the annual reports are attached as Appendix 1.

Summary of the Reports

19. Below is a summary of the key points from each Annual Report.

The Villa Education Trust, Sponsor of South Auckland Middle School

20. The Sponsor reports as follows:

- The School has had an outstanding first year operating as a Partnership School with a high and stable student roll;
- Over the course of the year, it has hosted a number of groups of educators as well as media people, politicians, and community leaders;
- Minor staff changes have occurred over the year but this has had minimal impact on the operation of the school;
- It has met all the minimum requirements as set out in the Agreement;
- It has met or is in the process of meeting the objectives of the school as set out in the Agreement;
- The renovations undertaken prior to the 2014 school year created fit for purpose classrooms, an administration block, the reception area and toilet blocks. There are no forecasted changes for the property in the next 6-12 months;
- It has built successful relationships with parents, family and whānau through a constructive and collaborative approach;
- It has built excellent partnership relationships with educational organisations and community groups;
- A new Community Liaison Manager started at the school in Term 4 and has been well received;
- It received one complaint which has been addressed by the Board; and
- The loss of key staff is a low risk as extensive staff training has been undertaken designed to ensure a shared understanding of academic and business operations.

He Puna Marama Trust, Sponsor of Te Kura Hourua o Whangarei Terenga Paraoa

21. The Sponsor reports as follows:

- It has laid a solid platform from which to continue to develop and strengthen the Kura in the coming years;
- It has met all the minimum requirements as set out in the Agreement;
- It has met the objectives of the school as set out in the Agreement;
- It has achieved very good NCEA results for the students enrolled;
- It has built and maintained successful relationships with parents, family and whānau and participated in community events including Kapa Haka and Manu Kōrero competitions;
- Relationships with NorthTec and Te Wānanga o Aotearoa continue to develop;
- 100% of students attending the school are from the priority learner group;

- The Sponsor is on track regarding the medium-to-long term development of the school site in order to cater for the growing roll;
- It received one complaint which has been addressed by the Board; and
- It has not identified any risks or issues that will be carried over to 2015.

The Rise UP Trust, Sponsor of The Rise UP Academy

22. The Sponsor reports as follows:

- The 2014 establishment year of Rise UP Academy has been a huge success;
- It has met all the minimum requirements as set out in the Agreement;
- Student achievement results for the school are notable, and include 82% of students at or above the National Standards in Numeracy, 80% at or above the National Standards in Writing, and 90% of students achieving at or above the National Standards in Reading;
- The School is pleased to be able to offer Year 7 and 8 provisions in 2015;
- It has met the objectives of the school as set out in the Agreement;
- Results from the Wellbeing@School student survey were positive and the school has set a 2015 performance standard of at least a 10% gain in all aspects of school culture results, particularly student culture and strategies;
- 100% of students attending the school are from the priority learner group;
- The renovations undertaken prior to the 2014 school year created the teaching spaces and minor property work was undertaken in 2014. Forecasted changes in the next 6-12 months include installation of two water fountains, school intercom, automatic bell and a Portacom to meet the needs for storage and meeting room space;
- Parents, family, whānau and community engagement are an integral part of the school and the Sponsor has provided many opportunities for this engagement to take place;
- Relationships with educational organisations and community organisations and groups are progressing well;
- No complaints were received during the School Year;
- It has identified the need to grow the schooling model in both year levels and the Maximum Roll to ensure the school remains financially viable.

Advance Training Centres Limited, Sponsor of Vanguard Military School

23. The Sponsor reports as follows:

- It is happy with the school's performance over the 2014 year;
- It has achieved outstanding NCEA results for its students, including 96.2% for Level 1 and 100% for Level 2 students;
- It has met the objectives of the school as set out in the Agreement;
- It has met all the minimum requirements as set out in the Agreement;

- The current premises provide the school with everything that is currently needed. Five additional classrooms have been developed and there are plans to construct a shower block;
- The school continues to engage with parents, family and whānau and a number of events including the ANZAC Day parade, graduation and sports fixtures have provided opportunities for this to occur;
- Relationships with educational organisations, and community organisations and groups, are progressing well;
- The school takes a firm stance on behavioural issues which has led to it exceeding the Performance Standard for stand downs and suspensions;
- No complaints were received during the School Year;
- It has identified several issues that will be carried over to 2015, including any upcoming decile review and the impact this could have on the school, the definition of “priority learners”, and the requirement to enrol 75% priority learners but maintain an open enrolment policy;
- Its intention is to grow the school in the future beyond the maximum roll of 192 students.

Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust, Sponsor of Te Pūmanawa o Te Wairua (formerly Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru)

24. The Sponsor reports as follows:

- It has sought to meet the needs of students who have previously not experienced success in the education system. These students have presented with a number of challenging behaviours and situations to overcome;
- It believes it has addressed these challenges through working alongside students in a number of collaborative and constructive ways;
- It has met the minimum requirements as set out in the Agreement with the exception of exceeding the number of non-registered teachers employed at the school and non-compliance with the requirements in relation to standing down, suspending, excluding or expelling students;
- It has met or is progressing towards meeting the objectives of the school as set out in the Agreement;
- The school involves parents, families and whānau in decision making at the kura, including membership to the disciplinary committee and in recruitment activities;
- Professional Learning Development will be made available to staff in 2015 to strengthen their knowledge in Te Reo me ngā tikanga o Ngātiwai ki Whangaruru;
- 96% of students attending the school are from the priority learner group;
- Partnerships with local educational organisations and community groups are developing;
- The negative media coverage the school received throughout the year was a significant issue and it believes any issues were resolved in Term 1. This had a strong impact on student and staff retention and recruitment in the following school terms;

- No complaints were received during the School Year;
- It has identified several issues that will be carried over to 2015 including
 - a decrease in the student roll;
 - insufficient time to appoint quality staffing, and establish systems and curriculum development for the start of the 2014 school year;
 - the effect of a large proportion of the student body being 'at risk' and 'high needs' in Term 1, and the effect that has had upon the remainder of the student body for the remainder of the year and moving into 2015;
 - the long travel (distance/ time) to and from the kura, exacerbated by a large slow bus; and
 - issues in relation to establishment including staff turnover, student retention and student attendance.

Comment

25. The specialist audit of the kura, conducted by Deloitte and the ERO in March/April 2015, identified that the kura had failed to meet a significant number of minimum requirements, and three performance standards. The lack of systems and controls meant that it was difficult to obtain reliable information about performance, and that reports to the Ministry were not always consistent with data held by the kura. This inconsistency includes information contained in this sponsor's Annual Report. Accordingly, the annual report was not approved by the Deputy Secretary.
26. You have since given the sponsor notice to implement a Remedial Plan, with a follow-up Specialist Audit due to be carried out in October 2015.

The Performance Retention Payment

27. Schedule 7, Clause 1.5(i)(ii) of the Agreement provides for one percent of quarterly operational payments to be withheld. This is payable upon the Minister's receipt and consideration of the Annual Report, and confirmation that the school has met its performance measures for the year. This has not been delegated to the Deputy Secretary, Sector Enablement and Support.
28. As the Ministry has yet to receive comment and recommendations regarding this from the Authorisation Board we will provide you with a separate report on this once this input has been provided.

Next Steps

Release of Reports

29. We intend to proactively release the annual reports on the Ministry of Education website. We have previously released the first, second, and third quarter reports as part of regular releases of information [METIS 885303 and 910100 refer].
30. If you agree, we will release these with the next scheduled information release, currently proposed for 2 October 2015.

31. We will provide you with a separate report and recommendations regarding the one percent performance retention payments once we have received the recommendations from the Authorisation Board.

Appendix 1

Annual Reports 2014:

1. South Auckland Middle School (Villa Education Trust).
2. Te Kura Hourua o Whangarei Terenga Paraoa (He Puna Marama Charitable Trust).
3. The Rise UP Academy (Rise UP Trust).
4. Vanguard Military School (Advance Training Centres Limited).
5. Te Pūmanawa o te Wairua (formerly Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru) (Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust).