Briefing Note: Meeting with Bill Moran and Trevor Gile (Liger Leadership Academy)

To: Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education

Date: 14 October 2019

Priority: Medium

Security Level: In Confidence

METIS No.: 1205547

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DDI: 

Messaging seen by Communications team: Yes

Round Robin: No

Purpose of Report

This paper provides you with information to support your meeting with Bill Moran and Trevor Gile on 24 October 2019 to discuss the work that Trevor Gile undertakes in Cambodia through his Liger Leadership Academy.

Note that there are three options for establishing the Liger Leadership Academy New Zealand,

Noted

Note that the Ministry of Education can provide introductions to Philanthropy New Zealand and individual philanthropic organisations as required, and invite the Liger Leadership Academy to participate in our regular engagements with the philanthropic community, and

Noted

Agree that this Briefing will be proactively released.

Agree / Disagree

Rose Jamieson
Deputy Secretary (Acting)
Parent Information and Community Intelligence

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

14/10/2019
Background

1. You are scheduled to meet with Bill Moran on Thursday 24 October in Queenstown.

2. The meeting will also be an opportunity for you to meet with American philanthropist, Trevor Gile. Trevor has been successful in the technology industry in Silicon Valley, USA. He now lives in Queenstown. We have included a profile of Trevor and his wife and Bill Moran in Annex 1.

3. Trevor’s success has allowed him to establish a philanthropic venture that invests in education in Cambodia, the Liger Leadership Academy. Trevor wishes to discuss the possibility of establishing a network of similar academies in NZ, starting in Queenstown.

4. Trevor would like to discuss with you what he needs to do to establish his academies, and gauge the likely response from the education system.

5. We have included information for you:
   a. on the Liger Academy and their programme in Cambodia
   b. about the current education settings that may assist in the establishment of a similar philanthropic venture for New Zealand
   c. a short summary of the work we have been doing with the philanthropic sector and how Trevor Gile could be involved in this
   d. contacts within the Ministry of Education and Philanthropy New Zealand that Trevor Gile could have further discussions with
   e. some talking points to support your meeting.

The Liger Leadership Academy

6. The Liger Leadership Academy (LLA) was first conceived by Trevor and Agnieszka Gile on their visit to Cambodia in 2002. Trevor recognised that the opportunities he had experienced did not exist for those in the developing world. For Agnieszka, Cambodia reminded her of her home country of Poland that had experienced oppression and World War II genocide. Together they were determined to give the children of Cambodia a new opportunity.

7. The Giles have developed a programme on the philosophy of that instead of giving a man a fish, you teach a man to fish. With this in mind the Giles began to research and plan the concept of the LLA. They created a team of specialists from education and the non-profit sector. They have promised long term resourcing into children as a way to help the entire society. The first academy was opened in Cambodia in 2012 and today hosts 110 students.

8. LLA provides essential curriculum based study, with a focus on project, opportunity, and experiential-based learning. LLA’s model has enabled young leaders to excel beyond traditional subjects. Students are encouraged to become internationally published authors, app and digital currency developers, regionally recognised robotics engineers, and national award-winning filmmakers — all by the age of 15.

9. Entry to LLA is through an extensive, nationwide recruitment process. This process has reviewed applications from over 8,000 children. LLA select students who they believe have the most potential to become future change agents and leaders of Cambodia.
10. LLA provides full scholarships to all students including; tuition, room and board, clothing, vaccinations, medical and dental care, health insurance, school supplies, and transportation. LLA’s graduates are prepared for international and Cambodian universities, and the skill sets to start, develop or join a business.

11. LLA are proud of their holistic approach to Cambodia as a country. Their goal is to assist in the development of Cambodia by focusing on the young and delivering well rounded, educated and empathetic young people. The graduates of LLA have the ability, passion, and commitment to improve not only their own lives but the lives of their fellow Cambodians.

Options for establishing the Liger Leadership Academy in New Zealand

12. From what we have learnt about the Liger Leadership Academy model we believe there are three options for how they could establish and run under current New Zealand legislation and policy. These include:
   - establishing LLA as a private school
   - establishing a unit of LLA within a State school (similar to a Montessori unit) to teach the NZ curriculum through the Liger Leadership Academy model
   - forming a relationship with a Board of Trustees who would offer the LLA programme to students at their school.

13. To establish LLA as a private school LLA would need to apply and register a private school. This process is governed by Section 35 of the Education Act 1989. Establishing a private school would allow more flexibility to select students, design curriculum, etc. More information on establishment of a private school is included in Annex 2.

14. The main elements of this process include the supply of information on:
   - the LLA team, managers and teachers
   - prospective pupils
   - location of proposed site, including approvals from local government and local agencies, i.e. fire, health etc.
   - policies and procedures
   - proposed curriculum that will be taught.

15. To establish a unit within a State school LLA would need to build a relationship with a school Board of Trustees, forming and agreeing a Memorandum of Understanding between the parties to establish a unit within the school that delivers the curriculum. Some key points on this process include:

   - Units like this have been established within state schools to offer a different form of education while being part of a school community. An example of these types of units are Montessori units. These units have been established in partnership between Board of Trustees and Parental Montessori Trusts. They are typically governed by a Memorandum of Understanding. A guide for Boards about establishing Montessori’s is attached as Annex 2.

   - A Board of Trustees make the decision to establish a unit, not the Ministry of Education. The Board remains accountable for the management and governance of a unit. The Ministry often set maximum rolls on these units to help manage enrolments and spaces. Boards and the partner organisations need to set out a transparent process to fairly treat enrolments into the unit. Schools must follow the New Zealand Curriculum or Te Marautanga o Aotearoa and be of a secular nature of education.
• Reviewing the information on LLA’s website we believe their educational philosophy would align with the New Zealand educational programmes.

16. **To establish an LLA programme at an existing school through an agreement with a school’s Board of Trustees.** In this process, the LLA management team would need to be clear about what they are offering students of state schools. This includes information such as the curriculum areas that the programme will cover, what NCEA credits the course would provide, etc. As all state schools must offer the NCEA qualifications framework, LLA would need to engage with the New Zealand Qualifications Authority to discuss and agree where their course fits within the NZ qualifications framework. The LLA team would be responsible for advertising, visiting schools, and promoting the LLA to the boards of trustees and parents.

**Engagement with other philanthropic organisations in New Zealand**

17. Over the past 18 months, the Ministry has been building a relationship with individual philanthropic organisations and Philanthropy New Zealand. The purpose of building these relationships has been to:

• create a more productive and value based relationship between philanthropic groups and the Ministry
• explore ways to share data which the Ministry collects that is useful to philanthropic organisations in their decision making, and review and evaluation processes
• develop an increased understanding by Ministry officials of funding and decision making processes used by philanthropic organisations.

18. A positive outcome of the engagement has been three joint meetings between philanthropic organisations and Ministry officials. These meetings have resulted in a closer working relationship, both nationally, and regionally. During these meetings we have developed a collective understanding of our work, and discussed how we can work more closely together.

19. The Ministry, Philanthropy New Zealand and individual philanthropic organisations are currently developing a Memorandum of Understanding and Accord. This document, when completed and signed, will further cement the working relationship and create a structure for collaboration.

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21. Philanthropic organisations have indicated that working more closely with the Ministry is desirable so they can share how their education focused work is positively impacting on young people.

22. The Ministry can assist LLA with introductions to Philanthropy New Zealand, and individual philanthropic organisations. This may be an opportunity for LLA to grow relationships with the New Zealand philanthropic community, build a knowledge base around the context and importance of their current work, and develop an understanding of what areas philanthropic organisations are already supporting.

23. The Ministry would welcome LLA’s involvement in future meetings between philanthropic organisations and the Ministry.
Talking Points

24. We have provided for you a set of talking points to support your meeting (attached at Annex 2).

Engagement contacts

25. Further engagement with LLA can be supported as follows:
   - Local engagement in the Queenstown area for support in connecting to schools can be provided by the Ministry’s regional office.
   - Support to connect to Philanthropy New Zealand, other philanthropic organisations, and connections to Ministry experts can also be provided.

26. Details of key contacts that can provide support are provided at Annex 3.

Proactive Release

27. We recommend that this Briefing is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annexes

Annex 1: Profiles of Bill Moran, Trevor Gile and Agnieszka Tynkiewicz-Gile
Annex 2: [Redacted]
Annex 3: Details of key contacts for additional support following the meeting
Annex 1: Profiles of Bill Moran, Trevor Gile and Agnieszka Tynkiewicz-Gile

BILL MORAN

Bill Moran was with the New Zealand Treasury from 1985 to 2016. His last role was as Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Secretary Strategy, with responsibility for economic and organisational strategy. He previously led work for the Treasury in macroeconomic and fiscal policy, tax strategy and public sector management.

Bill was involved in wide-ranging public engagement programmes to review the tax system in 2009 and to test the assumptions for the Treasury’s Long Term Fiscal Statement in 2013. Prior to this he spent eight years as principal economic advisor to two Ministers of Finance and a Deputy Minister of Finance.

He also spent eight years on the board of New Zealand Football and was Chair of the organising committee for the 2015 FIFA Under-20 Men’s World Cup. He also has ties with the creative sector as founding Chair of Play It Strange.

Bill currently holds governance roles with government, private sector, and not-for-profit organisations. He is Chair of both Sport NZ and High Performance Sport NZ, Deputy Chair of Otago Polytechnic, and a director of WorkSafe NZ, Pioneer Energy, Community Trust South and Youthtown.

He is also Chair of both Turn Up the Music and Three Lakes Cultural Trust, a trustee of the NZ Football Foundation, Aspen Initiative New Zealand, Parliamentary Education Trust, National Dementia Prevention Trust, Queenstown Community Hub Trust and an advisory trustee to Play It Strange and the School of Government at Victoria University.

In 2018 he chaired the 7th triennial appropriation review of parliamentary funding. In 2017 he was a member of the Affordable Housing Taskforce Queenstown.

In the 2019 New Year’s Honours, Bill was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to State, Sport, and Youth. Bill holds a Master of Arts Degree in Political Science from Victoria University.
TREVOR GILE, FOUNDER AND CHAIRPERSON OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Trevor attended Washington State University and achieved a double major in Finance and Management.

His career began in Chicago and London with investment banks PaineWebber and UBS Warburg where he spent seven years.

Following this he and his wife Agnieszka moved to Poland and founded several new businesses, including Liger Investments Limited, which applies advanced technology to trading in the financial markets.

Trevor is an avid traveller and his experiences in the developing world have been a strong motivator to leverage his success with Liger Investments to pursue an innovative model of international development aid that he had been formulating since his time at university.

His own experiences with development, poverty, entrepreneurship, and technology came together to form the vision for the Liger Leadership Academy.

Trevor and his wife Agnieszka have two children, Sophie and Alex.

AGNIESZKA TYNKIEWICZ-GILE, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD
Agnieszka graduated from Kazimierz Wielki University in Poland. Following this she received a degree in Interior Design from the Chelsea College of Art and Design in London.

She worked for highly acclaimed interior designers in London where she also met her husband, Trevor.

In 2001, Agnieszka and Trevor took a sabbatical and travelled around the world with the goal of seeing some of the most remote places on the planet. This experience greatly influenced her later design work under her own brand Signatura Remi & Gile which she successfully ran for over a decade in Krakow, Poland.

In addition to her design career, Agnieszka is a Licensed Italian Farmer (IAP) and Founder of the Terre di San Giustino Vineyard in Italy.

Since 2009, she has been sharing her time between her responsibilities as the President of the Liger Charitable Foundation, composing boutique wines in Tuscany and being a mother to her two children -- Sophie and Alex.

Other Board Members - Liger Leadership Academy

- **Bambi Betts – Board Director**

  Bambi has worked in the international education world for over three decades. Bambi is currently the Director of the Principals’ Training Centre for International School Leadership (PTC), a non-profit organisation dedicated to providing professional development programs for international educators around the world.

- **Monte Snider – Board Director**

  Monte is the founder and president of Snider Financial Group in Bellevue, Washington which provides comprehensive financial planning for high net-worth individuals, business owners and families who seek objective and dynamic financial plans to achieve their life goals.

- **Martin Timmins – Board Director**

  Martin is the Managing Director and Global Head of Energy at ED&F Man Capital Markets, Inc. Martin has 30+ years of experience in the financial industry with a focus on the commodity and energy derivative service.
Annex 3: Details of key contacts for additional support

The following key contacts are provided to you to pass onto Bill Moran or Trevor Giles for additional support following your meeting.

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<tr>
<th>Regional office support in Queenstown area (for connecting to schools or establishing a private school)</th>
<th>Connect to Philanthropy New Zealand, other philanthropic organisations, and connections to Ministry subject matter experts</th>
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