



# Office of Hon Hekia Parata

Minister of Education

20 FEB 2015

Hori M Parata  
Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust  
27 High Street  
Otaika  
WHANGAREI

Tēnā koe Hori Parata

## **Partnership Schools Agreement - Performance Notice and Intention to Audit**

The Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust (Sponsor) and the Minister of Education (Minister), together the Parties, entered into an Agreement to operate a Partnership School | Kura Hourua on 16 September 2013 (the Agreement).

Clause 20.2 of the Agreement requires that I assess the performance of your school, against the objectives and performance standards set out in the Agreement, and assign one of the following categories of performance:

- (a) exceeds the Objective/Performance Standard;
- (b) meets the Objective/Performance Standard;
- (c) almost meets the Objective/Performance Standard;
- (d) does not meet the Objective/Performance Standard but is capable of remedy;  
or
- (e) does not meet the Objective/Performance Standard and is incapable of remedy.

Clause 20.2(c) of the Agreement sets out a range of sources that I may draw information from to support my assessment of your school's performance.

The Ministry contracted the Education Review Office (ERO) to undertake a schools readiness review. The readiness review sought to confirm that the planning, processes, systems and procedures, developed during establishment, were sufficient to enable the school to open and operate successfully.

In April 2014, at the scheduled completion of the readiness review, the ERO advised that your school was not ready to operate without further substantial support. I agreed to extend the period of the review to allow you a reasonable period of time to address the identified issues.

During this time, I understand that you undertook to reorganise the school's management team, and were able to demonstrate that you had either resolved or had progressed resolving the challenges the school had faced. Unfortunately this progress appears not to have been sustained as, at the conclusion of the extended readiness review period, the ERO reported that the school was still not yet in a position to operate effectively without further substantial support and noted the following key areas of concern:

- (a) the quality of teaching and learning
- (b) the quality of school management
- (c) the variable implementation of leadership (governance) roles
- (d) disengaged students
- (e) recruiting suitable staff
- (f) the lack of business expertise.

I am aware of the challenges that your school has faced in its establishment and the actions taken by you to address these. I am also aware that you have developed a further remedial plan to address the issues identified in the ERO Readiness Review.

I am advised that the Ministry has provided ongoing advice and support to you on a number of areas including governance, management and operational matters through the establishment, opening and operational stages of development.

Based on the available data your school has failed to meet two of the 2014 Performance Standards:

1. Unjustified Absence – Performance Standard = 2.8%, Achievement = 11-17%
2. Enrolment Variance – Performance Standard = 71, Achievement = 46

Whilst I have assessed your performance against the standards and concluded that you do not meet the two above, I have not at this stage determined if these failings are capable or incapable of being remedied.

I have also reviewed the provisional data on student achievement and I am concerned that these achievement rates put the contracted achievement target in jeopardy.

To this end, I issue this letter as a Performance Notice under clause 24.2 of the Agreement and I give notice that I am exercising my right under clause 19.3 of the Agreement, to conduct a Specialist Audit at the school as set out under clause 24.5 of the Agreement. The Specialist Audit will take place one calendar month from the date of this notice.

I intend to use the findings of the Specialist Audit to assist my overall judgement as to whether the failings referred above are capable or incapable of being remedied.

I expect you as sponsor of Te Pumanawa o te Wairua, to immediately rectify the issues noted by the ERO and to urgently recruit and engage suitably qualified and experienced persons into the governance and management teams, and to demonstrate material improvement of the school's performance by the time of the Specialist Audit..

Failure to take immediate action in response to this Performance Notice may result in termination as set out in the Agreement.

Due to the high level of public interest, I intend to publicly release the ERO readiness review, the Remedial Plans you have developed in response, the Ministry's advice to me on this matter and confirmation that a performance notice has been issued to you under this Agreement.

I expect to see the issues resolved, and for the students enrolled at your Kura to achieve the educational success they deserve, as you promoted in your application to operate a Partnership School.

Heoi anō

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hekia Parata". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'H'.

Hon Hekia Parata  
**Minister of Education**