

Registration of Interest

Independent Trustees for Ministerial Appointment to the Boards of Trustees of Merging Schools

Christchurch

On 27 March 2013 the Minister of Education announced the merger of two Christchurch schools into one school and on 29 May 2013 the merger of six schools into three. The mergers will happen in 2014, with three taking place on 27 January 2014, and one on 5 May 2014.

The Minister's preference is for these schools to be governed by appointed boards of trustees from the date the Minister specifies, until the result of elections held within three months of the date of merger.

These boards are likely to be made up of equal or close to equal numbers of representatives from each of the merging schools' communities, and an independent chairperson. The Ministry is already meeting with the newly elected boards of affected schools to seek expressions of interest for appointment to these boards.

The Ministry is also seeking Registrations of Interest from individuals wanting to be considered for appointment as independent trustees on these boards. While it is expected that school appointed trustees will constitute the majority

of board members, some boards may also require independent trustees to provide further skills or experience.

The term of appointment is from the date the Minister specifies, and for up to three months following the date of merger (about July 2013 – April 2014 for schools merging in January 2014, and about July 2013 – July 2014 for schools merging in May 2014). Applicants should preferably have knowledge and experience of school governance.

The appointed boards are responsible for overseeing the merger process, starting the development of the vision for the newly merged school, deciding on curriculum and policy matters, staff appointments, strategic plans and property issues. Trustees need to work well in a team, be able to put plans in place for the school's future, ask challenging questions, have good communication skills and represent the diversity of a school's students. The overriding focus and objective of effective trusteeship is the quality of education that each of the school's students is receiving. The appointed board also governs the continuing school in the merger from the date of appointment through to the date of merger.

For more information and an application package please contact Erika Ross on (03) 378 7356 or email erika.ross@minedu.govt.nz.

Applications, with a copy of a current CV and completed eligibility form, need to be received by 24 June 2013.