

The implications for triennial board elections in Christchurch 2013

Proposed Date	Decision	Implications for elections for schools affected by closures or mergers
1 February		Recommended date by which to appoint a Returning Officer and minute the election date (all schools whether part of the proposals or not).
18 February	The Minister of Education announces her interim decisions on the closure or merger of schools, and invites further feedback as to why the school should remain open or the merger should not proceed.	
28 March	Final date for the submission to the Minister.	
End of April	Ministry to report to the Minister on submissions.	
15 April		The recommended date for calling for nominations (the last possible date, 2 May, falls within the school holidays, hence the earlier recommended date).
16 May		Nominations close at noon. If fewer than three valid parent representative nominations are received, the Returning Officer must inform the Board Chairperson. The Board Chairperson must inform the Ministry of Education, and a Commissioner will be appointed.
May	Expected announcement of final decisions on the proposed closure or merger of schools.	On the day following the Minister's announcements, the Ministry and NZSTA recommend the Board Chairperson contacts all candidates and confirms that they wish to continue as a candidate in the election. If any candidate wishes to withdraw, they must do so in writing to the Returning Officer (refer to Page 15 of the Returning Officers' Handbook 2013). If there are changes to the number of nominations, the Returning Officer should update the Board Chairperson, and also update the number of nominations in the Returning Officers' section of the NZSTA website.
30 May		Voting closes at noon.
5 June		Votes counted and results declared.
6 June		Boards take office.
Term 2/3	Decision will be Gazetted where the final decision is for closure or merger from the beginning of 2014.	

Proposed date	Decision	Implications of boards affected by closures or mergers		
		Closing	Merging	
			Continuing school:	Merging school:
Start of interim period for merged schools			Appointed Board (to represent the interests of both schools) replaces the school's elected Board	Board continues
Date of closure / merger		School closes and the Board ceases to exist as a legal entity.	Appointed Board continues	School merges and the Board ceases to exist as a legal entity
End of interim period (3 months past merger date)			New Board elections are held and the appointed Board is replaced by an elected Board.	

Further information available on the *Shaping Education* website www.shapingeducation.govt.nz

