



# *Pukekohe North School*

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Tēnā ra tatou katoa,

With a Commissioner now in place to support our school people have asked if some information on the role of Commissioner can be provided to help build understanding. Please find attached the 10 most frequent FAQ's about the Commissioner position.

Ngā Mihi  
Dr Shane Edwards

## A Commissioner – The top 10 FAQ's

### **1. *What is a Commissioner?***

A Commissioner is a person that replaces a schools Board of Trustees in a school. The appointment of a Commissioner is a Statutory intervention by the Ministry of Education

### **2. *What is a statutory intervention?***

A statutory intervention is a way the Ministry of Education supports schools that are in need of help with operational risks, or risk to the welfare or educational performance of their students.

### **3. *Is it legal to have an intervention and Commissioner?***

Yes. Under the Education and Training Act, 2020, Section 171 it states;

#### **171 Interventions in State schools by Secretary or Minister**

(i) the dismissal of a board by the Minister and the appointment of a commissioner:

(j) the dismissal of a board by the Secretary and the appointment of a commissioner.

(2) The Secretary or the Minister may use an intervention only if the Secretary has reasonable grounds for concern about the operation of the school or the welfare or educational performance of its students.

(3) The Secretary or the Minister may use an intervention described in subsection (1)(g) to (i) in relation to a school only if the Secretary or the Minister has reasonable grounds to believe that there is a risk to the operation of the school or to the welfare or educational performance of its students

(4) The Secretary or the Minister may use an intervention described in subsection (1) in relation to a school if either of the following requests the intervention:

(a) the board:

(5) When applying an intervention, the Secretary or the Minister must apply whichever intervention they consider is reasonable to deal with the risk without intervening more than necessary in the affairs of the school.

**4. *What are the sorts of risk to the school that requires a Commissioner?***

Every school is different but types of risk could include some of the following;

- financial management issues
- personnel management and/or asset management
- poor planning
- policy setting and reporting to parents
- poor community relationships
- not complying with legislation.
- inadequate policies and practices to ensure student welfare, health and safety
- persistently high truancy rates
- high suspension, exclusion and expulsion rates.
- inadequate curriculum management
- absence of adequate policies and processes for student assessment
- staffing issues that may influence student performance
- persistently low student achievement in relation to comparable schools
- low achievement of particular groups within the school.

**5. *What is the purpose of a statutory intervention?***

The aim of any intervention with a Commissioner is always to return the school to full self-governance as soon as the recommendations and objectives of the intervention have been met.

**6. *Does the Commissioner run the school?***

No. When an intervention with a Commissioner is in place, the day-to-day running of the school remains with the principal and the principal reports to the Commissioner.

**7. *What powers does the Commissioner have?***

The full powers that were previously with the Board of Trustees. These pass to the Commissioner.

**8. *Who is a commissioner?***

A Commissioner is an independent educational expert contracted by the Ministry to govern the school and return it to full self-management.

**9. *How long does a Commissioner stay for?***

The Ministry of Education will review the need for an intervention at least annually. A Commissioner remains in place until the Secretary or Minister considers either that:

- it is no longer required
- there is a change in the level of risk and another type of intervention is required.

**10. *Who pays for the Commissioner?***

- 11.** Normally the school pays for the Commissioners costs unless the Secretary of Education decides otherwise. When a school or kura can't meet these costs without putting teaching and learning at risk, the Ministry will consider funding some or all of the costs of an intervention. The costs for the commissioner for Pukekohe North School are being paid for by the Ministry of Education.