

17 MAR 2017

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Dear Pamela

Thank you for your email of 3 March 2017 about the qualifications of school Commissioners with particular reference to Rangiora High School.

The Education Act 1989 provides the Minister of Education the authority to dissolve a Board when there are reasonable grounds to believe there is a risk to the operation of the school, the educational performance, or welfare of its students. In the case of Rangiora High School there had been a history of tension between the Board and Principal regarding governance and management roles, which had impacted on the Board's ability to perform its functions.

The Rangiora High School Board was dissolved on 26 February 2015 by the Minister of Education and she instructed the Secretary for Education to appoint a Commissioner.

Commissioners are appointed by the Secretary for Education and take on the governance duties and powers of the Board. The Ministry runs a robust approval process for people who wish to be considered for a Commissioner's role. To be successful in this process, applicants must show sound governance knowledge as well as various qualities and specific skills useful for the intervention.

The role of a statutory appointee does not require the appointee to have a particular qualification or employment background. Similarly, Trustees on a Board do not require particular skills or qualifications. Experience as a teacher or principal is not essential to an understanding of good governance practice.

Ms Moore was appointed because she has significant governance experience, including as Board Chair, at a large secondary school. As well as experience in previous statutory roles, she is an experienced Board trainer and has the knowledge of governance processes that were necessary for the Commissioner role at Rangiora High School.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely



Jim Greening  
**Group Manager**  
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