



Toolkit for Branch Chairs

In this toolkit you will find all the information you need to hold a branch meeting in Term Two, to discuss the ‘Resolution Against Charter School Conversion’.

It’s important to do this even if you think it’s highly unlikely that your school will become a charter school because:

- It is a way for PPTA to track opposition to charter schools.
- It will turn the boards mind to the issue and prompt discussion and reflection on what the teachers at their school think about this issue.

We suggest that you hold the meeting in Term Two, either in your usual PPTA Branch meeting slot or as a special meeting.

You can invite your Field Officer to the meeting if you need support, and we recommend that you at least get in touch with them prior to the branch meeting to discuss any questions you have.



Suggested Branch Meeting Agenda

Please get in touch with your local Field Office if you would like to have PPTA Te Wehengarua Staff support you at this meeting.

1. Open the meeting. If you have a Māori representative on your committee, they would be the best placed to choose a Karakia. If not, there is a secular Karakia included in the PowerPoint.
2. Use the [Branch Meeting PowerPoint](#) to guide the meeting, in line with regular PPTA meeting procedures.
3. Discussion – use the FAQs on the website to help answer any questions. If you have a PPTA staff member present, they may also be able to clarify, or you can email through to public.education@ppta.org.nz for more information. As a committee have a look at the material together before the Branch Meeting to see if there are any points that you need clarification on.
If you have a few people who want to talk, keep a speaking list. If you have a Branch Secretary, they can be responsible for this. If you are a new chair, familiarise yourself with the [PPTA Meeting Procedures](#) before the meeting. You can talk about this with your FO as well.
4. Vote on the ‘Resolution Against Charter School Conversion’. You may use any process that the branch is comfortable with – a show of hands, voice vote, paper votes, Google form or other appropriate method that you see fit.
5. If this passes, send your resolution to your Principal and BOT Chair and display a the [poster copy](#) on your notice board
6. Send a copy to us at public.education@ppta.org.nz and to your Field Officer. You can also fill in the [report form](#) to say that you have done this. We will then be in touch with further support and resources.
7. If the resolution does not pass, please get in touch with your Field Officer to talk through next steps.
8. End meeting



Holding the Meeting

The meeting should take no longer than an hour (more or less, depending on discussion). If you do not have a regular PPTA meeting slot, it could be good to ask your SLT if there is an opportunity in the normal meeting cycle that you could fit into. Members will need to have engaged with the information prior to the meeting so give them plenty of time to do this.

If you have branch funds available, putting on lunch or afternoon tea will guarantee people will come.

You can email the agenda out to the branch prior to the meeting. Here's a suggested template (feel free to change).

Kia ora koutou,

Following on from the regional PUMS, we will be holding a branch meeting to discuss passing a branch resolution against conversion of our school to a charter school. The resolution, if passed, would then be sent to the school principal and board members. This is an action we can make in our branch to affirm our position and proactively raise it with the Board and school leadership.

Agenda

1. Presentation *Standing For Public Education*
2. Discussion
3. Vote on resolution
4. Any Other Business

More information can be found on the PPTA website -

<https://www.ppta.org.nz/campaigns/charter-schools/>

If the Resolution Passes

Send a copy to your Board and Principal.

Send a copy of the resolution to your Field Officer and by email to public.education@ppta.org.nz

Offer to meet with your principal and/or School Board to discuss the resolution. You may request that your Field Officer to accompany you or take another member of the branch. *Remember – Board meetings are public meetings unless they are 'in committee'.*

If the Resolution Does Not Pass

Let your Field Officer know, and email public.education@ppta.org.nz to let us know.



Reading List

PPTA Website

[Toitū Te Mātauranga, Toitū Ngā Kura | Standing For Public Education](#)

You can also find the most up-to-date 'Standing For Public Education' booklet which you can download.

We will add new information to the website throughout our campaign, check back regularly.

NZ Herald

[Charter Schools will fail again, and here is why](#) - Dr Shannon Walsh

NZEI Strategic Researcher

Education International

[In Defence of Public Education](#) (video and excerpts)

Network for Public Education analysis of CREDO (Stanford) Study

<https://networkforpubliceducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/In-Fact-or-Fallacy-CREDO-Report-1.pdf>

This is an important read – the Ministry is using the CREDO report (sometimes referred to as the Stanford study) to provide charter schools with a sense of legitimacy. The report is not peer-reviewed and is published by a right-wing think tank which is partly funded by the anti-worker and anti-union Walton Family. The methodology of the report that Ass. Minister Seymour is using as evidence does not provide a robust analysis of the context.