

KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER, AUGUST 2022

This morning our Board Chair and Deputy Chair joined the school staff for Monday Briefing to announce the appointment of our new Principal in 2023.

We'd like to share some of our process with you now. On the Friday before last, the 5th, our Board came together to shortlist and we were here for 6½ hours. We had interest from overseas. We had applications from the Far North to the bottom of the South Island. They were some great people, and we selected the three strongest. The candidates came from the middle of the South Island and two from the North Island.

At shortlisting, we worked on the interview questions – we started with 63 and we whittled that down and reworded them so they were uniquely KKHS. We finished up with 13 questions – that may not sound like much but it took us 1½ hours to go through them with each candidate.

We asked our community for feedback and overwhelmingly they came back at us with innovation, visibility, the curriculum and more. And all of it was already on our list, and we worked it into our 13 questions. We were on the same page.

And so we held the interviews last Friday the 12th, and we were here from before 9 in the morning until after 6 at night. We had asked the candidates to prepare in advance for one of the questions, and that was about their vision for our school, for them and for our community over the next 5 years. They all had great ideas. They didn't know what our community had told us or what we were looking for. But the successful candidate came at us with innovation, visibility and the curriculum. This person has some incredible plans for this school. They were fizzing and the excitement in the room was palpable.

After consulting with our Kaumatua and Kuia, we held the interviews in our Whare; it was a warm place and the right place. We had our Māori department helping us with the Tikanga. And we had our Head Students looking after our candidates. They all made it a very special day for all of us, including our candidates.

Our Board have made a lot of decisions over the last 6 years, but this time one of us was missing. We kept Mrs Forgie out of this process. We know it was hard for her, but we told her she had to trust us. Elizabeth has done some incredible work for KKHS and brought us to a great place. And the successful candidate is going to take us even further with their energy and new ideas.

And we are delighted to now be able to share with our community that the new Principal for Kerikeri High School in 2023 is Mike Clent.

Hei konā mai and goodbye for now.

Sue Richards (Parent Trustee; Board Chair)
Chris McLellan (Parent Trustee; Deputy Board Chair)
Roger Ludbrook (Parent Trustee)
Emma Wise (Staff Trustee)
Jacob Fewtrell (Student Representative)

Elizabeth Forgie (School Principal)
Mariaho Hohaia (Parent Trustee)
Wendy Butler (Parent Trustee)
Haylee Rhodes (Parent Trustee)
Wai Muunu (Ngāti Rēhia representative)