

Aparima College – Update from the Commissioner

31 October 2017

Principal Appointment Process

Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey. I received 130 responses from students and 62 responses from staff, parents and community members.

A person who leads from the front, is professional, has excellent relationship building skills, fosters a strong school spirit, has a thorough understanding of school administration and who openly engages with the school and wider community, were viewed as the most desirable skills and attributes.

Additional desirable skills and attributes identified by students were:

- Relates well to teens
- Takes genuine interest in students
- Sporty
- Not too strict
- Fun and funny

Students also wanted Physical Education as a subject in the senior school so this will be considered for the future.

The staff, parents and community respondents, who recommended taking the necessary time to find the right person, also identified the need for a new principal who will treat everyone fairly, consistently and with respect and who will listen to and interact with students and parents - both current and prospective.

Advertisements will be placed by the end of this week and applications will close on the 8th of December 2017, with interviews in mid-December. Given it is a very busy time of year for potential candidates, this may need to be extended should we not receive sufficient interest by this date. The appointment panel consists of Janette Packman (principal of Waimate High School – a similar school and school community to that of Aparima College), Denis Cocks (former secondary school principal, school commissioner, Limited Statutory Manager and principal appraiser) and me.

I would like to express my gratitude to Mrs Fraser who has stepped cheerfully into the role of Acting Principal and to Mr Laurenson and all the staff who are busy keeping the school running smoothly for our students.

Return to Self Governance

Following the appointment and induction of the new principal, the intervention will be reviewed by the Ministry of Education with a view to permission being granted for an election date to be set for a board of trustees. I am heartened by the continuing support of school community members, including those who attend our monthly governance meetings – this ongoing support will assist the Ministry of Education when they are assessing the likelihood of a successful board of trustees' election.

Scoping Report and Outcomes Plan

Another thank you – this time to all those who contributed to the scoping report during September and early October 2017. The focus for the outcomes plan is now on the successful recruitment and induction of a new principal and a return to a board of trustees, while maintaining a strong focus on raising student achievement and improving the wellbeing of both staff and students. The scoping report is attached to this update and the outcomes plan will be distributed as soon as it has been signed off.

This is an exciting time for Aparima College – thank you all for your ongoing support.

Nicola Hornsey