

Education Report: Ministerial Appointments to the Moerewa School (2103) Board

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| To: | Hon. Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education | | |
| Date: | 08 June 2023 | Priority: | High |
| Security Level: | In Confidence | METIS No: | 1309376 |
| Drafter: | Lyndsay Whitehead | DDI: | 09 436 8036 |
| Key Contact: | Hira Gage, Director of Education for Tai Tokerau | DDI: | 09 436 8914 |
| Messaging seen by Communications team: | No | Round Robin: | No |

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is for you to consider the candidates recommended for appointment to the Board of Moerewa School (2103) ("the Board").

Summary

- 1 On 5 March 2014, the Minister of Education approved an Alternative Constitution for the Moerewa School Board (2103), under section 105A of the Education Act 1989 (now clause 4 of Schedule 22 of the Education and Training Act 2020).
- 2 As Minister of Education, you may appoint up to four members to the Board. We have facilitated the process of seeking and evaluating candidates for your consideration, on your behalf.
- 3 The current Ministerial appointments were appointed in May 2019 for a three-year term.
- 4 The process of appointing these Board Members to the Board at the time of the triennial elections in September 2022 did not reach an outcome because of contextual pressures on the region, including the Covid Pandemic. This resulted in a delay in making the recommendation for these appointments, but the successful appointees will join the Board as soon as their appointment is confirmed.

5

9(2)(a)



9(2)(a)



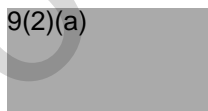
- 6 The current Board has indicated it would like to return to a standard constitution. Once these appointments have been made, the Board will formally submit a request, and we will follow the normal process to respond to its request.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **agree** to appoint the following candidates to the Moerewa School (2103) Board:

9(2)(a)



☒ Agree

☐ Disagree

☒ Agree

☐ Disagree

- b. **sign** the attached letters provided in Annexes 1 and 2 to the successful candidates, Principal of Moerewa School, and Presiding Member of the Board, confirming the appointments.

- c. **agree** that this Education Report be proactively released. Any information that might need to be withheld, will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Proactively release ☒ **Not release** ☐



Isabel Evans
Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Mahau/Te Tai Raro



Hon Jan Tinetti
Minister of Education

8/06/2023

11/06/2023

Background

- 1 Moerewa School is a state, coeducational composite school situated in Moerewa, Northland.
- 2 On 5 March 2014, the Minister of Education approved an alternative constitution under section 105(A) of the Education Act 1989 (now clause 4 of schedule 22 of the Education and Training Act 2020) for the Moerewa School Board (*New Zealand Gazette* notice 2014-go1426).
- 3 Under the current alternative constitution, the Board has the following members:
 - one elected parent representative;
 - the Principal;
 - one elected staff representative; and
 - up to four ministerial appointed trustees.
- 4 The appointment of a member may be for a term not exceeding three years.

The candidates

- 5 A summary of the advertising, evaluation criteria and appointment process is attached as Annex 3.
- 6 We received two applications.
- 7 The Panel recommends 9(2)(a) be appointed to the Board.

9(2)(a)



- 8 Both applicants have demonstrated that they have a willingness to provide sustainable governance for the school. The candidates are recommended because of the balance of skills and experience they bring, together with their mana and high level of acceptance to the Moerewa School community and stakeholders.

Risks and mitigations

- 9 Efforts were made during the advertising and appointment process, to ensure a robust and fair process. Steps were taken to mitigate any obvious risks. Each candidate was required to complete an eligibility declaration as required under Clause 9, of Schedule 23 of the Education and Training Act 2020.
- 10 The only risk the Ministry has identified is that Moerewa School will have a board of only five members. However, it is agreed that this will allow the school to move forward to having a fully elected and positively functioning board. This is a strong wish of both the Principal and the current Board members and will form an important next step in the school growing in strength and community acceptance.
- 11 The Panel believes that the recommended applicants have the necessary skills and experience to meet the requirements of the role and reached unanimous agreement that 9(2)(a) be recommended to you as Ministerial appointees for the Moerewa School Board.

Next Steps

- 12 If you approve the appointment of these candidates, letters confirming the appointments are provided for your signature (see Annex 1).
- 13 Letters to the Presiding Member and the Principal of the school, confirming the appointments are also provided for your signature (Annex 2).

Proactive Release

- 14 It is intended that this Education Report be proactively released as per the expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information that may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annexes

- Annex 1: Letters of appointment to successful applicants
- Annex 2: Letters to the Principal and current Presiding Member informing them of the appointments
- Annex 3: Advertising and evaluation process of candidates

Proactively Released

Proactively Released

Hon Jan Tinetti

Minister of Education
Minister for Women
Minister for Child Poverty Reduction



11 June 2023

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

I am pleased to confirm that I have appointed you to the Moerewa School Board in accordance with its constitution, approved under section 105A of the Education Act 1989, (now clause 4 of Schedule 22 of the Education and Training Act 2020.)

You have been appointed because of the balance of skills, experience, and attributes that you will continue to bring to the Board and the school community. I am confident with your experience, you will support sound governance practice, and contribute to the ongoing development of the Board during your appointment term.

Your re-appointment will commence on the date of this letter, and your term of office will end seven days after the next triennial election for boards in 2025. Before that time, the Ministry of Education will commence the appointment process for this position in the following term, and you will be welcome to reapply for selection.

I have also appointed 9(2)(a) to the Board.

I have advised the Principal and the current Presiding Member of your re-appointment. They will be in contact with you in the future to inform you of the details about the Board, including when and where Board meetings will be held.

Thank you for your willingness to accept this appointment. I congratulate you and wish you a rewarding and successful term of office.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Jan Tinetti
Minister of Education

Cc: Maia Cooper, Principal, Moerewa School
Charn Ngawati, Presiding Member, Moerewa School Board

Hon Jan Tinetti

Minister of Education
Minister for Women
Minister for Child Poverty Reduction



11 June 2023

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)

I am pleased to confirm that I have appointed you to the Moerewa School Board in accordance with its constitution, approved under section 105A of the Education Act 1989, (now clause 4 of Schedule 22 of the Education and Training Act 2020.)

You have been appointed because of the balance of skills, experience, and attributes that you will bring to the Board and the school community. I am confident with your experience, you will support sound governance practice, and contribute to the ongoing development of the Board during your appointment term.

Your appointment will commence on the date of this letter, and your term of office will end seven days after the next triennial election for boards in 2025. Before that time, the Ministry of Education will commence the appointment process for this position in the following term, and you will be welcome to reapply for selection.

I have also appointed 9(2)(a) to the Board.

I have advised the Principal and the current Presiding Member of your appointment. They will be in contact with you in the future to inform you of the details about the Board, including when and where Board meetings will be held.

Thank you for your willingness to accept this appointment. I congratulate you and wish you a rewarding and successful term of office.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Jan Tinetti
Minister of Education

Cc: Maia Cooper, Principal, Moerewa School
Charn Ngawati, Presiding Member, Moerewa School Board

Proactively Released

Hon Jan Tinetti

Minister of Education
Minister for Women
Minister for Child Poverty Reduction



11 June 2023

Maia Cooper
Principal
Moerewa School
principal@moerewa.school.nz

Tēnā koe Maia

I am pleased to confirm that in accordance with the constitution, approved under section 105A of the Education Act 1989, (which is now clause 4 of Schedule 22 of the Education and Training Act 2020), I have appointed 9(2)(a) to the Board of Moerewa School.

The Board Members' term of office will take effect on the date of this letter and end seven days after the next triennial election for boards in 2025. Before that time, the Ministry of Education will commence the appointment process for these positions in the following term and will update the Board's Presiding Member on these processes at that time. Current Board Members are welcome to reapply for selection.

I have sent letters to the successful candidates to let them know of their appointments. Please contact them in the near future to discuss details of the Board, including membership and meeting dates.

I recommend that the Board work with the Ministry's Whangārei office and the New Zealand School Trustees Association to ensure that Board Members are aware of their responsibilities to declare any conflicts of interest and to withdraw from relevant Board discussion and decision making. This will ensure that any potential conflicts of interest continue to be well managed, including those identified by new Board Members.

I look forward to the contribution the appointees will make, building on the work already undertaken by the Board for the benefit of the students at Moerewa School.

I congratulate the appointees and wish the Board a rewarding and successful term of office.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Jan Tinetti
Minister of Education

Hon Jan Tinetti

Minister of Education
Minister for Women
Minister for Child Poverty Reduction



11 June 2023

Charn Ngawati
Presiding Member
Moerewa School Board
nzdroid@orcon.net.nz

Tēnā koe Charn

I am pleased to confirm that in accordance with the constitution, approved under section 105A of the Education Act 1989, (which is now clause 4 of Schedule 22 of the Education and Training Act 2020), I have appointed 9(2)(a) to the Board of Moerewa School.

The Board Members' term of office will take effect on the date of this letter and end seven days after the next triennial election for Boards in 2025. Before that time, the Ministry of Education will commence the reappointment process for these positions in the following term and will update the Board's Presiding Member on these processes at that time. All current Board Members are welcome to reapply for selection.

I have sent letters to the successful candidates to let them know of their appointments. Please contact them in the near future to discuss details of the Board, including membership and meeting dates.

I recommend that the Board work with the Ministry's Whangārei office and the New Zealand School Trustees Association to ensure that Board Members are aware of their responsibilities to declare any conflicts of interest and to withdraw from relevant Board discussion and decision making. This will ensure that any potential conflicts of interest continue to be well managed, including those identified by new Board Members.

I look forward to the contribution the appointees will make, building on the work already undertaken by the Board for the benefit of the students at Moerewa School.

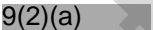

I congratulate the appointees and wish the Board a rewarding and successful term of office.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Jan Tinetti
Minister of Education

Proactively Released

Advertising and Evaluation process of candidates

- 1 We advertised in The Northern Advocate on 4 February 2023, for expressions of interest from community members who wished to serve on the Moerewa School Board.
- 2 Moerewa School is within the rohe of Te Runanga o Ngāti Hine.
- 3 A representative from the Ministry of Education's Whangārei office visited a group of community representatives to discuss the selection process, and to gain their approval of the wording of documentation that was forwarded to those expressing interest.
- 4 The following criteria for assessing applicants was agreed to:
 - People who are active participants in the Moerewa community willing to develop reciprocal relationships, which will benefit whānau, hapū and iwi;
 - People who are passionate and committed to Marae within te rohe tangata o Ngāti Hine;
 - People who are passionate about achievement, are advocates of te reo o te kainga and are willing to protect and nurture the educational aspirations of the Moerewa whānau, hapū and iwi;
 - People who may currently be part of a sporting body, marae committee or community group who have strengths or experience in the following areas: employment, finance, policies and procedures, property and maintenance, and/or asset Management that would support the school's strategic direction.
- 5 We did not receive any requests for information packages for some time, and the closing date for applications was extended twice.
- 6 Two applicants completed declarations stating that they are eligible to become a ministerial appointee, in terms of the ineligibility criteria specified in Clause 9 of Schedule 23 of the Education and Training Act (2020) and expressed their interest in being considered for appointment to the Board. The two candidates considered for the ministerial appointed positions were:
9(2)(a) 

- 7 A selection panel was formed consisting of three respected community and iwi representatives as well as the Principal for Moerewa School, a representative of the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) and the New Zealand School Trustees Association (NZSTA). The Panel met to consider the process and agreed on the wording of the documentation that was forwarded to prospective applicants. The Panel also evaluated the applications received and made its recommendation of candidates for appointment to the Minister of Education.
- 8 The Panel met on 14 April 2023 to review the applications against agreed criteria and agreed that the two candidates met the criteria for the positions and will make a positive contribution to the effective governance of the school.
- 9 The Panel unanimously agreed to recommend both applicants for your consideration.