



Te Kura Takiwa o Opononi Opononi Area School

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Tēnā koe

Thank you for applying for the position of Principal of Opononi Area School. Opononi Area School can be found on the Southern side of the beautiful Hokianga Harbour. The iwi of the area is Ngapuhi and Te Roroa and they have a long and proud history of occupying and taking care of the whenua. The community is diverse with a large Māori population, and this is reflected in the school's roll.

Generations of tamariki have been nurtured and educated at the school and it is integral to the connection and cohesion of the community. The school is surrounded by exceptional natural resources and strengthening the connection between our ākonga and the hapū and iwi mātauranga, provides enormous potential for the development of a curriculum that utilizes these taonga and speaks to our tamariki. Bringing the whānau along on the journey is fundamental to our vision and further highlights the importance of a leader who can grow strong relationships with whānau, manawhenua and the wider community.

Opononi Area School enjoys a large site with significant facilities including a hall/gym, technology workshop, Community Library, Astro turf netball/tennis courts, skate park and playing fields. The school also has a portfolio of nine rental homes which are in varying condition. The school buildings are undergoing a significant transformation; a new primary school is first and enabling works start this summer.

The principals' position is vital, and it is necessary that we appoint a passionate and strong educator who is committed to ensuring the very best environments are created for both learners and staff and that opportunities are made available for the ākonga to pursue their aspirations. The Board's commitment for the school is unwavering and there is a real desire to strengthen the school and education of current students and those of the future.

The school has encountered a number of challenges which resulted in a Limited Statutory Manager (LSM) being put in place in October 2023. The LSM currently has the powers and duties of employment and curriculum management. With the support of the wider community, our staff and the Board we are on track to complete self-governance in the not-too distant future. The new Principal would be key in leading the ongoing changes required to achieve this.

We kindly invite all applicants to send their applications in to us for consideration and we will send out a notification of the progress very soon after a decision has been made.

Ngā mihi, Melissa Parlane

Presiding Member, Opononi Area School Board of Trustees