

Morena and good morning! First all thank you for that amazing welcome, it has felt huge finishing up at HPSS but I can assure you that I am beyond excited to be joining you all here.

As I mentioned in my whaikorero, since opening your school doors in 2009, I have followed your journey closely and from day one have felt a close connection to your values and vision for learning.

I thought I would kick off this morning with sharing a little of what promised to bring to this role at the interview, that way you can know where I am coming from and more importantly you can keep me accountable.

As Principal of Albany Senior High School I will live out our guiding principles through my leadership.

I will nurture. Ensuring every person that walks through the school door knows Barbara's vision lives on. They will know "it is not **if** you are bright, it is **how** you are bright".

I will empower. Ensuring all learners and educators aspire to **their** personal excellence. They will achieve highly and will be great citizens.

I will inspire. Working with our learners, educators and you to ensure that Albany Senior High School will always be a NEW school.

I will do this by bringing five key attributes to my role as your Principal.

First up, I am a courageous and caring leader.

I am a passionate, professional and highly experienced educator who develops warm relationships with ease. I bring with me experience in establishing and leading a similar modern learning environment, with very similar curriculum strands, values and vision, and with that I bring a commitment to protect what I know you hold dear. I exemplify a future-focused **academic plus** approach to learning, employing strategies that promote learner agency and personalisation and embracing technology so as to lead, design and deliver learning that supports success and nurtures diversity, inclusiveness and equity. I am a reflective adaptive expert who always looks to improve systems and processes and more importantly, I am not afraid to challenge thinking in order to do so.

Secondly, I am a leader who is guided by a clear moral purpose.

I am driven by a deep sense of social justice and desire for equity. The needs of the learner will **always** be at the centre of my decision making. I am a culturally responsive educator who understands how to meet the needs of Māori and Pasifika learners and also understands how this can benefit ALL learners. I bring an in depth understanding of how differentiation and universal design for learning can be used to ensure learning is inclusive. I bring many years of research and practice in leading and supporting educators to use a wide range of technologies so as to support, engage and extend learners. It was so good to see that this was also a focus for your Kahui Ako Achievement Challenge. I also bring a deep understanding of how the principles of restorative practice and positive behaviour for learning can be used to support warm and respectful teacher-student relationships.

Also, I am a leader who is informed by a deep knowledge of education.

I have an in depth knowledge of the New Zealand Curriculum and NCEA and know how to lead and support educators to ensure they know how it can be used creatively and responsively so as to meet the needs of ALL learners. I have gained my experience as one of the writers of the NCEA English Achievement Standards, as a member of the NZQA Future State Brainstorming Group, the NZC think tank and as member of Minister Kaye's 21st Century Learning Reference Group. I bring with me proven expertise in leading Teacher Professional Inquiry and I know how it can be used to improve outcomes and lead meaningful and manageable change. I look forward to combining my skills with those of the existing senior leadership team - who I know to be fiercely passionate, highly skilled and deeply academic.

I am also experienced in governance and policy development at a national level. As a foundation board member of the Education Council of Aotearoa I was involved in the development of our new Standards for the Teaching Profession and Code of Professional Responsibility and in my work with the council I continue to support the development of a national Educational Leadership Strategy.

Another attribute I bring is, I am a leader who is relentlessly future-focused.

I love futures thinking and as a result I have developed an understanding of foresight, and the future of education. I am passionate about new technologies and how they might be used to improve learner agency, student engagement and raise achievement by providing more inclusive approaches to teaching and learning. I am an experienced change leader. I understand the concept of exponential change and why continuous evolution is absolutely necessary and more importantly I understand how to work collaboratively so as to develop a genuinely shared vision for continuing to evolve and improve what is already a highly successful and hugely innovative senior high school.

And finally, I am leader who can build powerful partnerships and networks.

I have experience in developing productive and warm relationships with local schools to establish a highly effective Kāhui Ako. I bring in depth experience gained as a Projects Pathways and Partnerships Leader and as an Impact Project Guide, having worked with the community and business sector to create rich and authentic learning partnerships for our students.

As Education Advisor for the 21st Century Skills Lab and as a board member of NetSafeNZ I have experience that spans across the education and business landscape. I have fostered a vast education, community, innovation and business network that will support the growth and expansion of powerful partnerships for this school and its learners.

As a passionate and confident communicator I can continue to grow the reputation of this fabulous school.

Twenty years in education and I have reached a point in my career where I have gained a breadth of experience and I am now ready to **focus**. I am ready to **commit** my experience, energy and passion to the leadership of this school.

I feel a personal connection with Albany Senior High School's vision, values and curriculum design.

I am incredibly excited to be the Principal who will lead this school into its next decade and beyond.

So what now? As you can imagine, I have a lot to learn and to that end, this term I will be focusing on getting to know you, our students and our community. I will be spending as much time as I can out in our learning commons seeing how things are done around here. Don't worry you will probably hear me coming, I apologise in advance for my snorting and cackling, I will do my very best to operate in Amos stealth mode. So you may see me in your classes, projects and tutorials, you will see me in the staff lounge and you will most definitely see me at staff drinks.

Finally, I a huge believer in speaking up and speaking out, so if you have ever have feedback, concerns, questions please ensure you let me know.

Thanks again. Thank you to the board for giving me this chance and thank you to Miranda and the SLT who have been leading the school these past two terms.

And finally I wish you all the best for a fabulous Term Three.

Tēnā koutou tēnā koutou tēnā koutou katoa!