



04 September 2020

Dear parents

The Epworth Board of Governors would like to thank all Epworth stakeholders for their patience in the delayed announcement of Ms Laura Bekker's replacement in 2021. We are pleased to have concluded our deliberations sooner than the previously publicised dates.

The Epworth Board of Governors is proud to announce that as from 2021, Epworth School will be managed by a collective leadership, known as the School Executive.

A fundamental element of the School Executive will be the Principal of the High School, and it therefore gives me great pleasure to announce that Mrs Tracey Munro has been appointed as Principal of Epworth High School.

Epworth is blessed with an existing relational foundation on which to source and build this new leadership structure. The School Executive, comprising Mrs Tracey Munro (Principal of the High School), Mr Reynard White (Principal of the Preparatory School) and Mr MW Zeelie (Business Manager), will form a collaborative and visionary team that will continue to develop and build on the proud tradition and culture of Epworth School. Each member of the School Executive will continue to retain individual responsibility for their respective roles, but decisions and responsibilities of a whole school nature will be made by the School Executive.

The appointment of Mrs Munro, Mr White and Mr Zeelie as the School Executive is the culmination of an 11-month process which began in July 2019. The process was overseen by the Epworth Head Search Committee which evolved from seeking a Head of Whole School and/or a Principal of the High School, to embracing this innovative, collaborative leadership structure for Epworth. We are confident that this experienced, creative team will provide excellent leadership and vision for Epworth in these challenging and evolving times. Epworth has shown us that 2020 is the year to adapt, innovate and create. As the Board, we are ready to take up the challenge and invite our stakeholders to join us as we embark on this new chapter in the life of the school.

Mrs Munro, Mr White and Mr Zeelie need little introduction as they are integral members of the Epworth staff. We would nevertheless like to highlight their experience and backgrounds.

Mrs Munro joined Epworth in 1998 as a Mathematics and Physical Sciences teacher. She holds a BSc and HDE from the University of the Witwatersrand and a MSc from Notre Dame, Indiana (USA).

Mrs Munro has extensive academic and leadership experience, particularly at Epworth, as a teacher, Subject Head, Head of Department and in her current position as Deputy Head: Academics, as well as expert knowledge of the educational environment, nationally and internationally. Her experiences at Epworth, both professionally and as a parent of the Prep and High Schools, have equipped her with a unique and deep understanding of the ethos of the school. She is passionate about Epworth, academic excellence and ensuring that the pupils of Epworth are empowered and equipped to achieve their full potential.

Mrs Munro is married and has two daughters – one is presently at Epworth and her older daughter matriculated in 2017. Her husband is an academic and Professor of Bioinorganic Chemistry and Chair of Inorganic Chemistry at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her diverse interests include stamp collecting and indigenous gardening.

Mr MW (Emwee) Zeelie joined Epworth as the Business Manager in 2018. Prior to this he was employed as the Bursar at Mitchell House, during which time he served as SABISA NE Chair for three terms. Mr Zeelie's experience in educational institutions, as well as the financial services and investment sector, equip him well for his role as part of the School Executive. His vision that finance, business and educational factors should work together holistically to ensure the sustainability and growth of Epworth adds to the richness of the team.

He is married and has two daughters, currently in Grade 5 and 7, respectively at the Preparatory School. His wife is a teacher and Subject Head of Business Studies at Clifton School (Durban).

In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with family and participating in sporting activities including tennis, squash, fly fishing and scuba diving.

Mr Reynard White joined Epworth as Principal of the Preparatory School in 2011. His previous educational and management experience includes Principal of Woodlands Primary School, Deputy Principal of Fynnland Senior Primary and Head of Department at Grosvenor Boys' High School, and his experience, knowledge and insight, honed at Epworth, equip him well for his participation in the new collaborative structure.

He is passionate about Epworth and education, and in particular, developing strategies for sustainability, while continuing to embrace Epworth's traditions and ethos, ensuring Epworth's sustainable future.

Mr White is married and has a son. His wife is the Deputy Principal of Clarendon Preparatory School. His interests include road running (two Comrades Marathons and over 40 marathons), cycling and mountain biking, soccer, surfing, canoeing, swimming and scuba diving.

I would also like to take this opportunity to announce that assisting Mr White in the management of the Prep School, as the newly appointed Deputy of Epworth Preparator School will be Mrs Julie Calitz.

Mrs Calitz has been part of the Epworth family for 17 years and has taught Grades 1, 3 and 4, becoming the HOD of the Foundation Phase in 2019. In this post Mrs Calitz managed the intern programme in her phase and took responsibility for various managerial portfolios. Mrs

Calitz is involved in many of the team sports on offer at Epworth, has assisted in the organisation of the Mudskipper and Dustmites events and has herself, completed a Comrades Marathon. Mrs Calitz is married and has three children, two at Epworth in Grades 1 and 6 and another, a boy, in Grade 4 at Merchiston.

The Board acknowledges that Epworth is characterised by effective inter-personal relationships, a common sense of purpose, and, therefore, believes that a flatter, more participative management structure, where leaders consult and seek the support of a wide range of stakeholders when making decisions, is appropriate for Epworth.

Choosing the leadership of a school is one of the single greatest responsibilities of a Board of Governors, and for Epworth, this process has concluded with this innovative and exciting outcome that is the result of work by many. The Epworth Board of Governors is grateful to all members of the Epworth community who participated in the process.

We invite you to join us in congratulating the Epworth School Executive, Mrs Munro as Principal of Epworth High School and Mrs Calitz as the Deputy of Epworth Preparatory School and we wish them success in their new roles which commence in January 2021.

On behalf of the Epworth Board of Governors

Lisa Robertson  
Chair of the Epworth Board