

Dear Chilmark Staff, Parent/s, Guardian/s, and Community Members,

I hope this email finds you well.

Chilmark Elementary School is a very special school with high achieving students, and a talented and caring staff. The process of naming the next principal of the Chilmark School began with an application period in December. The process will conclude in early March with the naming of the new principal.

On behalf of the Chilmark Principal Search Committee, I wish to invite you to meet the final two candidates on their visit days.

The two finalists are seen as exciting choices to potentially lead Chilmark Elementary School. They are Kate Squire, a current 4th grade teacher with Concord Public Schools, and Alicia Knight, a current 3rd grade teacher with Martha's Vineyard Public Schools. Both Ms. Squire and Ms. Knight possess an M.Ed. in Administrative Leadership and licensure as a principal in MA.

These two finalists will visit the Chilmark School on separate days, starting with Ms. Squire this Friday, February 16, 2024, and Ms. Knight the following Tuesday, February 20, 2024. We will invite staff, students, parents, and community members to visit on each of the days so that everyone has the opportunity to meet the candidates and offer their input regarding the two finalists to the Chilmark Principal Search Committee.

The search committee members are as follows:

Representation from the Community:

- Community Representative Toni Kauffman, President, NAACP of Martha's Vineyard
- Community Representative Lindsey Scott, Executive Director, MV Youth
- Community Representative Jade Gonsalves, Education Program Specialist, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)
- Community Representative Noli Taylor, Senior Director – Programs, Island Grown Initiative of Martha's Vineyard
- Parent and Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Representative Jessica Seeman Parent and
- School Advisory Council (SAC) Representative Jessica Mason Town Board Representative
- Marie Larsen, Chilmark Select Board

Representation from the Schools:

- School Representative Robyn Dori, Chilmark School Grade 2/3 Teacher
- School Representative Ellen Rossi, Chilmark School Grade K/1 Teacher, MVEA Union Rep.
- School Representative Robert Lionette, Member, UIRSD School Committee
- School Representative Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Principal, West Tisbury Elementary School
- School Representative Richie Smith, Superintendent of Schools, MVYPS

The committee worked with the New England School Development Council (NESDEC), who posted the principal position among NESDEC member districts throughout New England and on platforms such as School Spring, Indeed, EdWeek online (Top School Jobs), National

Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), School Leadership 2.0, Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs), and locally through the MV Times and The Vineyard Gazette.

Once the job posting was closed, the committee began the search process which involved the following:

- The committee held a meeting in the second week of January to consider the applicants with whom we wished to initially interview.
- Initial interviews were completed during the third week of January.
- From the initial interviews, the field of candidates was narrowed and our committee conducted a second round of in-person interviews with a smaller group of candidates during the last week of January and the first full week of February.
- From those interviews, the field of candidates was narrowed to the two aforementioned finalists.

The Chilmark Principal Search Committee will review the feedback from the visit days. Finally, a small, representative contingent will visit the finalists' current schools to gather final input before Superintendent, Dr. Richie Smith offers the position of Chilmark Elementary School principal.

Details regarding the visits and method/s for providing feedback will follow very soon.