

## **Summary of the NZEI Te Riu Roa Principals' Council Meeting held at National Office, Wellington, 18 – 19 November 2011.**

### **Plenary Session**

The National President Ian Leckie spoke about NZEI's vision for Quality Public Education (QPE) as the overarching driver for NZEI involvement in a wide range of activities that included the RTLB Transformation; kindergarten CA bargaining; the Support Staff workforce strategy; national standards and school charters, and the development of the Reward and Remuneration notion as an alternative to moves to introduce performance pay. He also provided an insight into emerging and developing issues such as the reshaping of Early Childhood Education, alternative schooling options based on free and/or charter schools, moves to introduce a 'hub' concept to the organization of special education, and moves to further introduce privatization into the education sector.

### **Student Achievement Function (SAF)**

Joanne Allen and Melissa O'Carroll (MoE) spoke about the SAF describing it as part of the MoE's systematic approach to raising students' academic, social and cultural achievement. The Council sought clarification around the process for the appointment of SAF practitioners and stressed that the people appointed to these positions needed to have a high level of credibility within the education sector. The Council was given an assurance that the SAF did not target non-compliant schools and schools were able to self-nominate to participate in the programme.

### **Remuneration and Recognition**

Feedback from the Term 3 Principals' Focus Group meetings has been used by the NZEI Principals' Sector Steering Group to develop conceptual models as part of preparations for the 2012 PPCA bargaining round. Members will be consulted about the development of these models early in the New Year.

### **National Standards**

The Principals' Council (PC) and the Primary Teachers' Leadership Team (PTLT) met together to be updated on activities related to NZEI's national standards campaign viz the recent NZEI recent National Standards Hui with NZPF and the BTAC group, Martin Thrupp's RAINS project and the NZEI OTJ seminars. Discussion took place on how members of the PC and PTLT could support principals and schools who were under pressure for resisting implementing the standards and including them as part of their charter goals.

### **RTLB Transformation**

The Council was briefed on the RTLB transformation and the outstanding issues that had yet to be resolved. The Council provided the feedback on further issues that had emerged following the announcement of lead schools. An update on the transformation along with FAQs is on the [NZEI website](#).

### **Christchurch Update**

The Council received a report on the situation in quake affected Christchurch schools and the support being provided to principals and staff by NZEI.

### **The Future of Schooling in New Zealand**

The National Secretary Paul Goulter led a discussion with the Council on what schooling in New Zealand might look like in the future and the importance of retaining the concept of 'profession and vocation' as an integral part of a quality public education system.

### **Report on Academy Schools in the UK**

Peter Verstappen, principal of Southbridge School and the Deputy Chair of the NZEI Principals' Council, reported on his study award travels and his impressions of the academy schools he visited in England.

Peter's presentation was based on his article in [Education Aotearoa Spring Issue](#)

### **Insurance of School Property**

The Council received and briefly discussed the MoE's 'Catastrophic Loss Policy' that will come into effect 1 February 2012. Full details, including eligibility for catastrophic loss funding, will shortly be available on the Ministry web-site ([www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz)).