

NZEI Campaign News (Support Staff) 2009/06

To: All Primary, Area and Secondary Schools where there are members covered by the Support Staff in Schools & Kaiarahi i te Reo, Therapists', ATSSD and Special Education Assistants' Collective Agreements.

PAID UNION MEETINGS

October 2009

KEY POINTS:

- NZEI is holding a series of paid union meetings in order to report back to members on the lack of progress on the negotiations and to discuss a way forward.
- NZEI considers these meeting to be critical and we are encouraging all NZEI support staff members to attend.
- Sufficient meetings are scheduled to ensure that disruption to schools is minimised and where possible, there will be both morning and afternoon meetings.
- The meetings will be 1 hour – 1 hour 15 minutes long. The paid release time is 2 hours leaving time for travel to and from the meeting.
- Members will be asked to endorse three principles that will guide the negotiating team at the next set of negotiations on 18 and 19 November.
- Members will also be asked to endorse a Day of Action if the negotiations fail.
- A schedule of the meetings is attached and copies can be found on the NZEI support staff page of the website www.nzei.org.nz

ACTION:

Worksite Representatives /Support Staff Contact Person

- Ensure that all NZEI members get a copy of this newsletter and that the schedule for the meetings is posted in a prominent area.
- Encourage all support staff at your site to attend a paid union meeting.

Support Staff

- Please take time to read this newsletter.
- Please ensure you attend one of the paid union meetings.

ENQUIRIES:

For further enquiries contact 0800 NZEI HELP (0800 693 443).

October 2009

Kia Ora koutou
Nga mihi mahana ki a koutou

The Support Staff in Schools (SSCA) and the Kaiarahi i Te Reo, Therapists', ATSSD and Special Education Assistants Collective Agreements (KRCA) both expired on 1 March 2009. The purpose of these paid union meetings is to report back to members on the lack of progress on the negotiations and to discuss a way forward. NZEI considers these meeting to be critical and we are encouraging all NZEI support staff members to attend.

To minimise disruption in schools, most areas will have a morning and afternoon meeting which will enable some staff to attend one meeting and the rest to attend the other. Each meeting will be between 1 hour and 1 hour 15 minutes long. However, the period of paid leave will be two hours in order to give time for travel to and from meetings.

Your negotiating teams have been in negotiations since May. For the SSCA there was a nil offer for 2009 with small adjustments to A scale in 2010. For the KRCA, the offer was to maintain the current terms and conditions of the collective which in simple terms is nil.

Details of the offers for both agreements can be found on the Support Staff page at www.nzei.org.nz

Members under both agreements did receive a 2% increase in January this year. However, the negotiating team does not believe the offer by the Ministry addresses the relativity issue with school cleaners who received a pay jolt on 1 July bringing their rate to \$14.62. There are members under both agreements who are paid rates lower than this. We have now reached the stage of the bargaining process when we need all members to become involved.

The negotiating team is also conscious that, under the Employment Relations Act, when a collective agreement expires, it is 'rolled over' for 12 months. For this reason, the team understands the importance of seeing a new collective agreement in place prior to 1 March 2010.

At each meeting, members will be asked to endorse three principles that will guide the negotiating team at the next set of negotiations on 18 and 19 November. The negotiation team is also seeking endorsement for a proposed Day Of Action on 27 November if there is not an improved offer from the Ministry when bargaining recommences.

A schedule of the meetings in your area is attached to this newsletter and copies can be found on the NZEI support staff page of the website www.nzei.org.nz. Your attendance at one of these meetings is very important in sending the message back to the Ministry and to government that you remain determined to secure a fair deal.

Don't forget NZEI's fair deal website for support staff members – www.fairdeal.org.nz

Kia kaka, kia toa, kia manawanui
Kevin Burrows and Sharyn Gibbons
Your Advocates