



President's Comment 18

17th June 2010

Dear Colleagues

Review of the Satisfactory Teacher Dimensions

The NZTC has established a Reference Group which has had regular meetings since 2006. It will lead to significant and positive changes in identifying what makes an excellent teacher.

I urge you, as professional leaders, to take the time to become familiar with the new criteria and attend the workshops.

A key issue for the success of Provisionally Registered Teachers is the quality of the induction and mentoring they receive within the school. A pilot programme has been running for over 18 months in selected schools where mentors of provisionally registered teachers have received training, release time and peer support. It has by all accounts been very successful.

As a professional organization, we would fully support mentors within our schools receiving professional development, a formal qualification and release time to do this vital job well.

Our submission to the MOE and NZTC is that if the pilot is successful, then it should be funded and rolled out to all schools.

Professional Supervision (Mentoring) for Principals

Over the last few years a recurrent theme in the Professional Leadership Plan has been the concept of a universal service of supervision or mentoring of Principals.

It strikes me as odd that it is now a well established practice to provide supervision for school counsellors but not Principals. The research in NZ (Professional Supervision for New Zealand Principals Analysis of Current Issues and Options University of Auckland, 2008) states the obvious, our jobs are complex, demanding and often lonely. Principals surveyed in this research clearly indicated they would welcome independent, confidential, sympathetic and expert counsel on their role and decision making. It also seems to me that some Principals who have made errors of judgment in their professional practice may not have, if they had access to high quality mentoring or coaching.

Mentoring has been successfully set up by the MOE in the First Time Principal's Programme as well as with Experienced Principals. It does, however, need to evolve beyond this to a coaching model for all school Principals.

The above issue will be picked up in the current collective negotiations for which you will have an opportunity to comment.

Previous Comments

Comment 17 - 10.06.10

Neita Regional Teaching & Leadership Awards, Joining the Dots - An Imperative for the MOE, Effective School Leadership, The Paradox of Principals.

Comment 16 - 03.06.10

Leaders of Learning Profile, Effective Teaching Profile, Lockdown Procedures, School Leadership, Restricted Entry to Universities.

Comment 15 - 27.05.10

May Budget, Updates - Compliance Costs, Search & Seizure, Initial Teacher Education, Homework, New BOT.

Comment 14 - 20.05.10

Search & Seizure in Schools, ERO Meeting

Comment 13 - 13.05.10

Health & Safety Guidelines, Aspiring Principals' Programme, 2011 Symposium.

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Secondary School Principals' Collective Claim

It is not appropriate for me to comment on the claim itself or to raise expectations but I wish to commend the members of SPANZ Bargaining Team and the NZSPC for their hard work, innovation and cooperation.

The claim is well researched, logical, creative and very supportive of Principals as career professionals.

President's Availability for Regional Meetings

The President's Newsletter is a useful means of communicating with you and I am grateful for the feedback. It does however have its limitations.

Although busy, I would be happy to attend regional meetings of Principals to discuss current trends, issues and concerns. September to October of this year is preferable for me or Term 1 2011.

Quality Education!

We are fortunate that both domestically and internationally, New Zealand is perceived to have a high quality education system. I hope that consumers of our education system never have the following reflection:

Chinese consumers are very demanding – they don't like "made in China" products.

Florent Perrichon
CEO of Italian Luxury Fashion House
Cerruti on the increasingly upscale tastes of Chinese shoppers

Standing In the Shoes of Students!

Every good teacher is a student of students. After all, if he is to venture to cross over to the student's side of experience, he should have some idea of where he is going and how to get there.

Wayne Rood



Patrick Walsh
President

