



SPANZ

SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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President
Peter Gall
Papatoetoe High School

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President's Comment 28

Dear Colleagues

Welcome back to term 4 which will be a hectic one for all of us, what with end of year celebrations, timetabling for 2008 and budgets all on the table.

Our executive met in Wellington on Thursday and Friday of last week and at that meeting met with the Senior Policy Analyst for Education Policy who is working on the Board of Trustees Stocktake.

Key questions for the stocktake are:

- Whether trustees are clear about their roles and functions.
- Whether responsibilities for school administration are suitable balanced between boards and Ministry of Education.
- Whether the current arrangements for determining board composition needs strengthening to ensure schools have sustainable and competent boards.
- Whether the current arrangements are suitably flexible for the 21st century.
- How we can ensure that boards have the skills and knowledge needed for effective governance.
- How we can improve the quality of board training and support.
- How we can assist schools to more easily access important area of expertise, such as legal and personnel management expertise.

As part of the Ministry of Education stocktake, all board of trustee members will receive a survey via the School Trustees Association relating to the Tomorrow's Schools Governance Policy. The timeframe will be fairly tight as the final report is due to be with the Minister on 26 November and I encourage you as a member of your board to complete and return this survey.

Decile Review

We took the opportunity to raise our concerns with ministry officials at the timing and method of how schools were informed of decile changes following the recent decile review process. I have subsequently been informed that schools should receive a full breakdown of their decile rating in the next ministry bulk mail out and that this information will be appearing on the ministry website this week.

Peter Gall
President