



SPANZ

SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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Friday, 7 September 2007

President's Comment 25



President
Peter Gall
Papatoetoe High School

Dear Colleagues

At our executive meeting in Wellington earlier this week we had the opportunity to discuss issues with the Minister. We appreciate the chance to be able to meet with him and the ensuing discussions are always 'two-way', open, frank and respectful.

Matters that we raised with the Minister included:

- Concerns over teacher supply.
- Concern with lack of quality applicants for HOD positions.
- Release of the new curriculum – request for a teacher only day.
- Microsoft licensing and Apple computers.
- Property:
 - Concern at the large number of school buildings built in the 1940s and 1950s that are no longer fit for purpose and uneconomic to refurbish. The 5YA funding is insufficient to adequately address this situation and although there is a building replacement programme, the amount of money available on an annual basis is also insufficient to meet demand.
 - Increased compliance associated with the new property manual and a lack of 'seeding' funding for projects under \$500,000 were also mentioned and these will be agenda items for a future meeting that the executive will be having with Ministry of Education officials.

The minister noted our concerns and also took the opportunity to explore our thoughts on education policy development.

Regards

Peter Gall
President