



SPANZ

SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

Secretariat Address

P O Box 11541, Ellerslie Auckland 1542
Phone: 09 571 2233: Fax: 09 571 2244
Email: office@spanz.school.nz

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President's Comment 2 2007



President
Graham Young
Tauranga Boys' College

Where to from here?

The Annual General Meeting of our Association on Saturday 31st March is a very strategic time for the future of our organisation. Following on from last week's President's Comment, it is clear that a decisive resolution is necessary from the membership of our Association so as to mandate a way forward for our incoming Executive. You have made it very clear that principals' workload and remuneration are burning issues for secondary principals in New Zealand.

During my time as President, the Executive has bought time to debate the issues that are important to principals. Members' views have been clarified and a strategic and operational plan developed for our organisation. As a consequence the Executive needs a mandate from its members on what role, if any, we should have with respect to industrial matters and, more specifically, principals remuneration. Further, what sort of relationship we should have with other educational organisations, particularly with Post Primary Teachers' Association (PPTA). You are aware of my personal view, espoused at our last AGM, and that is we should work to co-exist with all stakeholders in education and particularly with other principals groups such as the principals arm of PPTA. That we should stick to our knitting – our core business - the professional aspect of principalship and PPTA's Principal Group should stick with the industrial aspect of principalship. I am only too aware that my personal view is not necessarily in concert with all principals. Hence the value of democracy. A mandate can only be given to your incoming Executive at this year's AGM through resolution. To test the membership I would foreshadow that any of the following would be appropriate resolutions:

1. That the Secondary Principals' Association of New Zealand Executive (SPANZ) be authorised to investigate becoming a registered union, including its political, legal, economic and resource implications: or,
2. That this meeting give the delegated authority to the Executive of SPANZ to register as a union for the purpose of representing members in remuneration negotiations: or,
3. That the SPANZ Executive be authorised to enter into a heads of agreement with the New Zealand Secondary Principals' Council on their respective roles of professional and industrial issues for secondary school principals: or,
4. That the SPANZ Executive ask its legal counsel to investigate and report on legal requirements and impediments of becoming a registered union.

Later this week and over the weekend your Executive will be meeting with NZQA, the Minister and other government officials as well as looking to structure your AGM. Any advice to the Executive in advance of our weekend meeting should be submitted by reply mail to our Secretariat.

Graham Young
President