



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



7th May 2009

President's Comment 12

Dear Colleagues

Re: School Support Staff Collective Agreement Negotiations

Pay talks began this week between NZEI Te Rei Roa and the Ministry of Education in relation to school support staff.

On behalf of Principals, I fervently hope that the following issues are given full consideration in these negotiations.

- * That the volume and complexity of the work required of our support staff has exponentially grown over the last few years.
- * The skill set, experience and knowledge of support staff needed to carry out their duties is at a high level. Their expertise commands a premium in the private commercial sector.
- * That whatever settlement is eventually agreed to that there is a 'quid pro quo' reflected immediately in our schools' operational grant. Principals and Boards for that matter, highly value the work of support staff and wish to meet all entitlements under the new Collective Agreement.

It is my view that it is disingenuous for the Ministry of Education to agree to pay rises, create legitimate expectations of support staff and then not to fully fund schools to meet these extra costs.

Principals are growing weary of becoming the meat in the sandwich. It is no answer to continually give us the default position that 'the extra costs can be absorbed by your operations grant'.

We wish our support staff all the best over the coming weeks. The above issues will be communicated to the Ministry of Education by SPANZ Executive on your behalf.

Patrick Walsh
SPANZ Vice President

PS

New leadership site just launched by the Ministry

The new site is called Educational Leaders and the address is:
www.educationalleaders.govt.nz

There is also a link from the SPANZ website
http://www.spanz.school.nz/Site/Links_2.ashx