

**MINUTES OF THE NASDAP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY, 22 MAY 2009 at the CONFERENCE ROOM, AIRPORT,
WELLINGTON**

PRESENT:

Annette Taylor, Penny Prestidge, Roy Fletcher, Betty Wakelin, Lynette Parish, Gerrl Shorter, June Clark, Sarah Stenson, Geoff O'Halloran, Noreen Melvin, Phil Keenan, Sandra White (Minute Secretary).

APOLOGIES:

Nil

The meeting commenced with members preparing questions to ask the Hon. Anne Tolley, Minister of Education, who is today's guest speaker. The Minister is only available from 10.15 am – 11.15 am; thus the order of the usual meeting is changed to accommodate this.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 6 March 2009 were confirmed as read.
Annette Taylor/Roy Fletcher **CARRIED**

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

A Scholarship Selection Committee for 2010 was formed of Phil Keenan, Lynnette Parrish, Annette Taylor and Professor John O'Neill [Massey University.]

Members were asked to report on feedback from their regions regarding the conditions suggested for assisting regions with conferences. Most seemed happy with the suggestions; some thought the seeding grant could be larger. Hawke's Bay who are hosting the 2009 conference, were concerned that the proposed changes would affect them. Annette responded no, as they undertook to host the event prior to the suggestions.

Suggestions were made that smaller regions could combine together to co-host a conference and also alternate with overseas venues as these can be more cost-effective than NZ venues. Also a joint conference with Australia, namely New South Wales and/or Victoria was a possibility. Another area thought that smaller areas could host a conference – one from Monday-Thursday; the other Friday-Sunday. Annette will contact some conference organisers in Australia.

Very positive feedback was received from Steve Bovaird's presentation.

Annette had priced a generic banner for NASDAP Conferences but it was expensive. Gerri Shorter offered to undertake more research on a banner that is a metre wide and approximately three-five metres long.

Annette Taylor and Geoff O'Halloran are giving a 1 ½ hour talk at the TRCC Conference for new Assistant and Deputy Principals in Wellington on Wednesday 8 July.

Various suggestions were made regarding the newsletter, namely to modernise it further – perhaps colour? Sponsorship for the newsletter was also discussed and Phil Keenan is to approach his school's supplier of photocopiers to determine their interest. Executive committee members were asked to consider what would be of interest to DPs/APs.

The Term three meeting will be held on the Tuesday prior to the 2009 Conference. Those Executive attending will have a dinner meeting, organised by Gerri Shorter at 7pm on 25 August 2009 in Napier. Gerri to communicate whereabouts to Executive Committee members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

120 schools have still not paid their subscriptions to NASDAP therefore \$17,000 owes. No newsletter will be sent to those schools after 31 July 2009, if their subscription still remains unpaid. Annette will re-send accounts and also a list to each Executive member of schools in their region so they can follow up. It is important that Deputy Principals' and Assistant Principals' know that NASDAP's main focus is professional development and raising the profile of this group of educational leaders with educational stakeholders.

Moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and the Accounts payable be approved.

Annette Taylor /Gerri Shorter **CARRIED**

GENERAL BUSINESS

CONFERENCE – Hastings, 2009

It was suggested that we could video speakers/presenters and put them on the website (with their permission). June to discuss this with the Conference Organisers.

ROLE OF NASDAP EXECUTIVE

Noreen asked for clarification of Executive Committee Members' roles and for guidelines to be written up for new committee members. She would like to know how other Committee Members operate in their regions.

Committee members stated that the role of Executive Committee Members is to represent their collective voices of APs and DPs in their region. To try to raise the profile of our voices as a group with educational stakeholders continues to be at the forefront of our work. All regions operate their local organisations differently.

It was felt that NASDAP should pursue a new initiative where Leadspace [Ministry of Education] left off. If an Executive Committee member finds a speaker/course they feel would be useful for others, ask one other member and if they agree, it can be sent to the website.

Ask members in your regions if they have a good course/presenter to let you know so it may be put on the website.

Annette to have an article on the front page directing people to the "Opportunities" page.

EDUCATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVEMENT

Leadership BES

Annette has been asked to be part of writing the foreword for the next 'BES' – "Does Leadership have an Impact on Student Outcomes". The first of two meetings is set for Tuesday 26 May 2009.

Middle – Senior Leadership [Kiwi Leadership]

Sarah and Lynette represent NASDAP on this group.

Payroll – Geoff O'Halloran

Geoff didn't attend the last meeting so will forward information to members when it arrives.

International Symposium on the Assessment for Learning – Penny Prestidge

There was an impressive line-up of international speakers who gave two-hour sessions. There were people from Canada, USA, UK, Norway, and Tel Aviv. It was encouraging. Formative assessment - good feedback works as long as it isn't about behaviour. NZ is a leading country in terms of what we are doing with assessment.

It is available on DVD – Penny is awaiting a response to her request. Penny to recommend speakers to all Executive Committee Members from the Symposium.

SPAC: Geoff O'Halloran: Has topics to take to the SPAC meeting – if anyone has others, please send them to him.

- 1) DP's sabbatical; ;
- 2) 21 days 'Acting Up' allowance;
- 3) Senior Management allowance;
- 4) Liaison with NASDAP;
- 5) Workload.

It was also discussed that the ERA training that is a co-joint event between POPTA, STA and Department of Labour, is well worth attending. Many Executive have attended in the past, and the information provided over the two days is vital for senior managers. Contact your local PPTA Field Office for more information.

NZQA PARTICIPATION RATES

Roy questioned some of the possible implications of NZQA's participation rate statistics for NCEA Levels I-3. Annette's school had noticed significant changes in some schools' statistics when comparing the percentage of the roll gaining qualifications with the participation rate statistics. [Please refer to the newsletter, as there is a reply from Bali Haque, outlining NZQA's reasons for these statistics.]

TERM V 2009 SPEAKERS

Bali Haque and Tony Turner were suggested – Annette will write to them both, to assess their availability for Friday 30 October 2009.

REVISED CURRICULUM and NATIONAL STANDARDS REVIEW

Discussion ensued about the issues that many schools have faced/will face around the lack of facilitators in some subjects for the curriculum support days.

Also acknowledged was the National Standards Review and the fact that this is being looked at, at the same time as the implementation on the revised curriculum.

A letter should be written regarding our concerns about the clash of focus for schools of Revised Curriculum Implementation and Standards Review. We would like recognition that schools and school leaders are working hard to implement this. Further clarification needed from Minister about Level 2 being the minimum qualification for apprenticeships. Annette to draft a letter on NASDAP's behalf.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Auckland : Successful day and another one next week. Link on the webpage.

Taranaki: Meeting 1st term run at WIT. Another next week.

East Coast/Hawke's Bay: Massey University College of Education presented a session on Kiwi Leadership. The group has established a meeting shortly with the Manager of the Napier Ministry Office – Melissa O'Carroll. The group is also busy focusing on the conference in August. In relation to the 2009 Conference, please encourage people to come.

Wellington/Hutt Valley/Horowhenua/Wairarapa: In Term I, Kate Gainsford, newly elected PPTA President spoke to the group about how she was finding the transition from being a Deputy Principal into leading a large union organisation. A meeting is to be held on 22nd June in Trentham Gardens, with the focus being on Aspiring Principals' and Leadership.

Top of the South : Has had no formal meeting, but on behalf of the 30 Assistant and Deputy Principals within this region, Annette farewelled Jim Scott from Waimea College after many years of service. The group wish Jim well for his retirement.

Canterbury/Aoraki : One of the local DPs called a meeting on the revised curriculum implementation. The next meeting is scheduled for 12th June, for a half-day. This region has asked for Support Services to present three different approaches to the new curriculum for consideration and strategies. Friday before end of term, drinks and nibbles; 4-5 people meeting once a term, talking about issues – sort of “supervision” in an informal way.

Southland/Otago : Have both had meetings in the last term. Both groups are thinking about joining meetings. At conference last year, leadership was brought up. University of Otago has picked this up and issues have been discussed and leadership sessions on coaching and mentoring have been offered. Professional development for aspiring principals and all leaders is being planned.

Annette thanked everyone for their attendance and commitment.

The meeting closed at 2.35 p.m.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION, RT. HON. ANNE TOLLEY

Ms Tolley outlined the new Government's priorities. As we are heading into a recession, the economy dominates them. Productivity levels and skill levels of New Zealanders need to be lifted for a 21st Century work environment.

Young Maori and Pacifica students need to achieve at comparable levels to other ethnic groups.

The Government have six priorities for education:

- 1) Early Childhood – increase participation;
- 2) Primary and intermediate – the Draft National Standards are out for comment. Expectations are around Numeracy and Literacy. Parents need clear information as to what the weaknesses are with their children.
- 3) A minimum of NCEA level II for all students prior to leaving school.
- 4) Tertiary – making sure our qualifications system is credible and responsive to the needs of students and the economy. What works well for Maori students also works well for all students.
- 5) Acknowledgement of language, culture, and identity personalised learning. We ask that schools have a professional response for all students. Involvement in family and whanau to help with students' learning.
- 6) An efficient response and effective Ministry that works to support teachers. Professional development for each school may be different. Regional Officers and Property – we need clear rules in regions so it does not come back to Wellington – Ministry should be there supporting teachers and schools. At secondary school we need to make sure that all young people leave with qualifications that they need. Truants – we need to encourage disengaged students in learning.

Annette thanked Ms Tolley for coming to talk to NASDAP Executive and opened the floor for members to ask questions.

Betty: Alternative Education: We have a concern that funding has not been raised since the inception of the programme 12 years ago. We do not have any place within the school to be able to run alternative education so we hire a building. We pay market rental for the building. Our centre is seen as a model of best practice in the region. We have trained secondary teachers and funding doesn't stretch. Can more funding be made available? Some students are quite violent and we need the trained and qualified staff.

Answer: Ms Tolley has not received the report on Alternative Education yet. The Ministry has been asked to re-shape the document in line with the new Government's policies. There will be no movement in the current budget but it is part of the work Government will be doing this year. There are very good models where it is working extremely well and others not so well. We need consistent quality.

Roy: Section 27: In response to a statement about the use of Section 27 made in the Minister's reply to Annette (21/04/2009) the question was asked: What provision has the Government made to deal with serious behavioural problems? Sometimes people working with these students are not qualified to do that job.

Answer: You get paid for every child even those with severe learning and behavioural needs. We need a response for every child. There will be some children who need extra help and you do get extra help for them. If you cannot help those students, that funding goes to another school who takes those children. The interim response fund was very effective and provided extra help and we promised to increase that. We are trying to get resourcing back to the schools so you can make decisions on those children. We want to get away from you having to ask the government for extra money when you have a behaviour problem with a student. We have got to make better pathways for some of these students. Sometimes the school environment is not the best place for a particular child.

Sarah: Property: Most schools have had to develop their property in an ad hoc manner. It costs more and more to maintain schools like this. There is frustration that there is no funding to help schools re-develop.

Answer: There is a fund specifically focussed on replacing buildings which have reached the end of their economic life. This is done on an annual basis but it depends where you sit in the queue. There is a major review of property taking place.

Sarah: We would like some clarification on the rules regarding this as there are inconsistencies from region to region.

Answer: TEZ – I am trying to organise it so I can have the power to make the final decision. The Ministry often does not believe schools when they are told about roll projections. The National Party has a philosophy that students should have a choice as to which school they go to.

Noreen: Revised Curriculum – Provision of Training: Our experience is that it is not co-ordinated. We are spending a lot of our own professional development money trying to meet our own needs. PPTA have picked up the provision of the curriculum support days and for that we are grateful. We are concerned about the huge fundamental pedagogical shift for our staff and schools. What can we look at?

Answer: ERO says the majority of schools are well prepared.

Noreen: We have done a lot of work on our own.

Answer: ERO are finding some schools which are not. The draft has been out there – it has taken place over five years' work.

Noreen: The capacity for schools to put it in place takes a lot of time and effort to put in place. They want a better co-ordinated approach.

Annette: Teacher Only Days – there were no facilitators for English and Mathematics in Nelson.

Phil: What secondary schools are not doing well and what is the Ministry doing for them?

Answer: I have only recently become Minister and I have asked ERO how schools are prepared for the implementation of the revised curriculum. They have told me that the majority of schools are well prepared and some are even implementing it now. I suggest you put your concerns down in writing and I will get answers.

Annette: Most of us round this table would have been the Curriculum Co-ordinators for the training session. We will forward responses to you.

Lynette: Nationalisation of the Language of Reporting: Where did the language of reports and concerns come from?

Answer: It is a common complaint. I have seen some horrific reports which parents don't understand. Some schools do it well and others don't. Some schools needed help with ideas.

Annette: Why do schools have to develop policies which the Ministry could develop generically for all schools to adopt?

Answer: We believe in Tomorrow's Schools.

Roy - Zoning

It would be great to see some relaxing of the rules around zoning. It seems difficult to justify denying parents the right of choice if the revised curriculum enabled schools to develop a curriculum that is unique to what they felt a specific community.

Sarah: It would be nice if students who live in neighbouring zones could have an advantage over students who live a long way away.

Penny: School Refuses: We wait the statutory 21 days and then NET a student – it takes 3-4 months before there is a response.

Answer: There is a review underway regarding truancy services. We need to find a better way of making that money work. Send me any ideas you have. I'd like to make a deadline of the beginning of next year.

Annette thanked the Minister for attending the meeting, and answering honestly the questions that Executive posed to her.