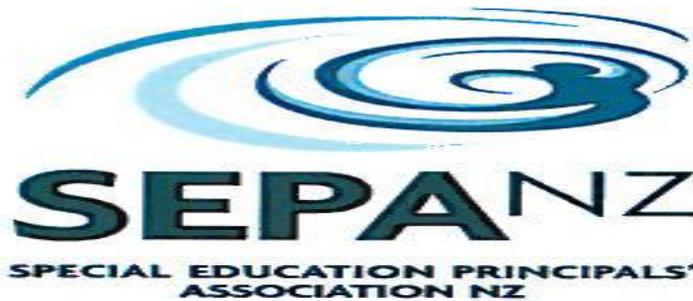


Judith Nel – President
Parkside School
184 Wellington Street
Pukekohe
Ph: 09 2389689
principal@parkside.net.nz



“It’s not where, it’s how”
“Ehara I te wāhi ko te tino take, engari me pēhea”

SEPANZ Executive:

Northern/Auckland: [Sally Wilkinson, Blomfield Special School \(Secretary\)](#)

Central: [Barrie Wickens, Tauranga Special School \(2016-17 NZEI Rep.\)](#)

[Diane Whyte, Fairhaven Special School \(Treasurer\)](#)

Southern: [Graeme Daniel, Allenvale School \(Past President\),](#)

[Margaret Dodds, Waitaha Centre \(Southern Rep.\)](#)

PRESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

May, 2017

Kia ora. Tēnā koutou katoa.

The year rushes by and it has become obvious that general changes across the Education Sector will impact on our work within Special Education/Learning Support! We have an obligation to understand the current and impending change and to ensure that we are best placed to include our Young People as positively and supportively as possible.

On your behalf several of us attend many meetings and Forums – usually in Wellington. Our inclusion is appreciated, as that is the best way that “we” can voice our opinions and be included.

I have provided notes below from the main events thus far this term. They are in chronological order starting with the most recent:

Hon. Nikki Kaye – Minister for Education

The first Ministerial Cross Sector Forum was held on **25th May** in Wellington. Following in Hon Kekia’s footsteps, Hon Nikki Kaye also held a meet and greet pre forum event on the evening before. This is a small group of Leaders – mainly Presidents of the various Educational Groups and some Academics. Hon Nikki conversed one-to-one with most participants. Hon Nikki attended closely to my contributions regarding Special Education and is clearly interested in “us”.

The 25th included a “Budget Lock Down” – whereby we were given insights into the Budget and the ramifications and intent of Budget allocations. This too, was an action initiated by Hon Hekia Parata and is a “brave first” for any Government. The details are readily available – items specific to Special Educational spending include additional Satellites and the Sunnydene – Carlson merger. Recently Auckland Principals were shown drawings/plans of modular buildings that might be used for new satellites.

Cross Sector Forum 25th May (on Raising Achievement):

The Forum consisted of various updates regarding: Education Act, National Achievement Targets – Writing and Maths, Social Investment (presented by Hon Amy Adams and focussed on interagency support for Families/Children as well as additional funding to ensure that Children access early childhood education experiences.

Another work-shop focussed on “Data for Outcomes” – quite detailed and comprehensive processes have been developed by the MOE. Ultimately we can expect that the “Progressions Framework” will lead much of the data collection process in the future. Special schools are already in that scope – with a sensible approach to recording progress for Young People who will always work within Levels one and two of the Curriculum.

There was an Update on Kahui Ako (Communities of Learning). As previously advised it is best that our schools link with a Kahui Ako – or at least create formal alliances. Quite a deal of thinking about how schools will interact, funding distributed, monies better allocated, property planned for etc. is based on the Kahui ako model.

Do read the budget pertaining to Education and make your own assessment!

Inclusive Communities Through Education Summit -11th-12th May, 2017

The Summit advertised the following questions and statements:

“How can we make sure resources are there for every child to fulfil their potential, in every educational setting”. “What we need to grow understanding and relationships”. “This event will aim to inspire, help leaders build our knowledge, and promote the call to better funding”.

My observations:

The Summit was attended by significant and well known people from the Disability sector, NZEI Folk, RTL&B, MOE-LS, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary people and by a number of Special School Colleagues, and many Family representatives.

Day 1: Apart from several guest speakers including Roger Slee (Melbourne University), much of the day was devoted to “war/sad stories” about Children not finding easy access to schooling, similar to those too frequently heard.

When asked what we thought of Day One some of us stated our disappointment that pro-active and relevant schooling examples had not been discussed. Our biggest disappointment was that our schools were still inadvertently or even overtly, being described as “not inclusive” and worse that our Whanau (Families and Students) were invisible in the rhetoric of Day One.

Little understanding that “we” ensure many Young people access an appropriate education; that we are “inclusive” – we are a part of the whole of education! “Our Young People” seemed not to be “included” in day one.

Day 2: Started on a much better note! Lynda Stuart- NZEI President and very knowledgeable about our schools, gave a collaborative speech in which she acknowledged our schools (Lynda had spent a day at Parkside soon after her election and has Sunnydene Satellites and Outreach at her school).

Day Two consisted mainly of Workshops – but we could only really attend two each. The Arohanui/Oaklynn presentation was well received generally.

The Politicians – Catherine Delahunty, Chris Hipkins most responsive and spoke well – but really same old/same old when distilled down!

For me, at the end of the day the event was summed up by the following:

It is all about relationships. We must create working relationships that are collaborative, supportive and sustained across all contexts. We should nurture these relationships as they are pivotal in maximising success for our Young people. We are all doing our very best to bring about effective learning for “our” Young people – value everyone. For example there are really good people in the Ministry – acknowledge them – don’t alienate anyone! (I mentioned this as there were Folk such as Sally Jackson in attendance representing the MOE-LS, and who were openly derided during Day One and at times in Day Two also!)

We are all on this journey together – Families/Whanau are our closest allies without them none

We are all on the journey together. As long as there is a divide – our sector will be divided and conquered!

Building On Success Forum – 9th May:

Below is the “Building on Success” agenda – for your interest.

1. Karakia, mihi, waiata	Matu Ihaka – Raukura/Chief Advisor
2. Introduction	
3. Video	‘My world, my view’ <i>NOTE THIS IS AN MOE production and is a narrative presented by Children with Learning Support needs –</i>

	<i>all of whom are either with KDEC or are in mainstream settings – our Young People are NOT represented.</i>
4. Welcome to attendees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Key themes 	David Wales National Director Learning Support
Morning tea and networking	
Key note 5. Inclusive Practices in reporting on progress and achievement in the NZ Curriculum – an exploratory study	Jacky Burgon and Julie Roberts (New Zealand Council for Educational Research)
6. Mini presentations and information stands - choosing what you would like to hear more about	Anne Pattillo - Facilitator
Theme: <i>Connecting educators to a body of knowledge around inclusive practices</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting inclusive practices in schools • Building confidence in describing progress for all learners within the NZ Curriculum Theme: <i>Building confidence in the learning support system</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Support Update • Measuring outcomes of specialist services • Dispute Resolution Process • Building confidence through new opportunities in the legislation (Education Act Update) • Education Council – equitable outcomes for diverse learners 	
Morning tea and networking	
7. Forum address	Iona Holsted- Secretary for Education

Please find Feedback from my notes on the day below:

1: Inclusive Resources: A comprehensive list of resources to assist schools to work with Young people with learning and other challenge has been compiled in one place and can be found on the MOE Web Site.

2: Learning Support UpDate:

MOE-Learning Support personnel have been “re-aligned”. They hope to better achieve a “child-centered” model by using a Presence, Participation, Well Being and Achievement model.

“The door to MOE Learning Support has not been changed but the Approach to the door has been” – not certain of this meaning!

3: Outcome Measurement Tool

The MOE – also Learning Support - has developed a “tool” which they use to measure their outcome across all of their services. It is also based on Presence, Participation, Well Being and achievement. I asked how this fits alongside the Specialist Review process and was not given a convincing answer.

4: Dispute Resolution Process

This important piece of work was contracted to give Parents/whanau another option other than the Human Rights Commission when they have a dispute with a school. Often this arises when a family/whanau is denied or “put off” enrolling in their local school. It will be a direct contact with MOE people and should be far quicker than the long-winded HRC process. There will be 4 pilot projects: Auckland city, Manawatu, Wanganui and in Marlborough to test the design.

5: Strengthen a Self Managing Profession:

Objective one is that all students will reach their maximum potential (sounds like Special Schools’ mission statement to me!!) They refer to a range of objectives that should be instilled in Children – inclusion being one. Boards MUST be inclusive and must meet the needs of all Students.

Physical restraint must be a clearly defined process written up in a Child’s Plan and must only be used by “authorized” people.

As from 19th May the Education Act became law. We already know that Seclusion is NOT lawful and we should have protocols around that specific area.

There must be NO seclusion-type practice that involves a Child being excluded from the class programme and placed somewhere where he/she thinks they cannot leave from at will.

Graeme Daniel will attend a meeting, which will look at school reporting on incidents of restraint. Schools with a high number might need extra support. 40 MoE trainers are to be

trained in MAPA (Managing Actual and Potential Aggression). The key for us is to advocate that MoE should provide funding for Specialist Schools to have their own accredited trainers. Suggestion that Specialist School trainers could feed into CoLs. Currently schools have to do UBRS training with their whole staff before accessing Restraint training from MoE. Graeme notes the importance of informing staff that they may be hurt in the course of their duties and that this needs to be recorded as part of their induction. Graeme recommends that Special schools need to align with MAPA as it is the MoE's chosen training model.

6: Education Council:

The Council replaced the old Teachers Council and has been well received by the profession. They are developing values and a code for the profession. Much is about Teacher personal, professional, responsibility. "They" are developing a new set of professional standards and addressing/changing Teacher Initial Education. The responsibility for Teacher Professional development is being transferred from MOE to the Education Council. The Council is also developing a Leadership Strategy for all educational Leaders.

National Education Leaders Partnership, May 2nd.

NELP consists of the elected Leaders of each Education Association plus New Zealand Council of Research (NZCER) plus NZSTA (NZ School Trustees Association). The purpose is to gather high level responses to what is happening across education and to frame actions.

At the meeting conducted on May 2nd, an item of consternation was about how poorly Schools with Children with disability and/or challenging behaviours are supported. One easily forgets that outside of specialist schools there is very little actual on the ground support for these Families/whanau and their Children!

An appropriately worded letter has been written to Hon Nikki Kaye regarding the lack of adequate consultation during the Funding Review.

SEPANZ Conference Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd November, 2017:

As advised - The Executive decided to return to the use of the word Conference rather than "MOOT". We have planned a two day event to be held at:

Venue: Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre in Panmure, Auckland.

We are currently contacting speakers. Depending on the election year results, and the availability of our new Minister, we may/may not have “political” speakers.

We are currently attempting to organise additional relevant and entertaining Speakers. Suggestions/contacts greatly appreciated!

- It is always a very difficult matter to “keep up with” all of the various pieces of work. Should anyone have direct experience with projects that potentially impact our sector kindly contact a SEPANZ Executive member.

Wishing everyone a highly positive Term!

Very best regards to all.

Judith