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“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 \(2016 NZEI Rep.\)](#)

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

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

[Janine Harrington, Halswell College](#)

PRESIDENTS NEWSLETTER **September- October, 2016**

Tēnā koutou katoa. Another year has almost whisked by Folks! My, what a plethora of initiatives to get our brains around! It is a cascade of discussions, projects and working parties!

Executive Meeting: The Executive met in Wellington in early September. Again we had a very full agenda and I sincerely thank our executive members for their hard work!

CLICK:

Thanks to on-going diligence from James Le Marquand, Graeme Daniel and committee members, the process has concluded. The remaining funds, approximately \$50k will be deposited with SEPANZ to be tagged to procure professional speakers for conferences. The money will be placed in a separate identifiable stream within the SEPANZ Budget. In addition with SEPANZ now “purchasing the KCP manuals on behalf of the membership, some funds will be tagged for this purpose. In the future Members will please contact Diane Whyte at Fairhaven regarding KCP Manuals.

Key Competency Pathway Manual Review:

Gary Quarless and the KCP Working Group have continued the re-write of “unfinished” aspects of the KCP document. These changes will be reviewed and the whole SEPANZ network will be given an opportunity to read the draft changes and feedback their reflections.

SEPAnz participation in Work Programmes: The following reports indicate the work that the Executive is involved with.

NZ Disability Strategy draft update: The Specialist School community is disappointed in the wording used for this document. The executive will express its concern in writing and make an alternative suggestion!

Funding Reviews- Cabinet Papers:

Two Cabinet papers have been published. The first initiated the series of sector wide funding review meetings – during which we were reassured that ORS was ‘not on the agenda’. Those meetings concluded with well published responses – one of which was a strong recommendation against “Global Funding” – interpreted as “bulk funding”.

Out of the blue the second Cabinet paper was published – and that most definitely put ORS on the agenda! In speaking with Hon Hekia Parata I have since found out that she personally insisted that the paper be published so that everyone could consider the implications (not just “those behind closed doors”). Without her open action we may well have not understood the ramifications for some time!

Concerns generated by this paper include: Dropping of Special Ed terminology- replaced by “learning support”. Strong view expressed throughout the paper that funding for 18-21 years could be dropped. Possible move towards dissemination of ORS students throughout COLS and Special Schools becoming Resource Centres or hubs - without students. Again this is a long-term suggested proposition extending possibly out to 2020.

I have a meeting soon with the Minister to discuss the possible ramifications – and her open-to-conversation approach is reassuring!

Understanding Behaviour – Responding Safely working group:

Graeme has been on the Advisory Group and Hamish (from Allenvale) and Judith are on the working party. Diane has been involved at the implementation stage. It should be a sound resource based on researched principles. It will support positive behaviour practices well suited to mainstream schools - based on de-escalation and having plans in place. We will need something in addition to this resource to meet the “needs” as specialist schools. The resource will be on line, and introduced to groups of schools. When specific training is asked for/required this can be requested from M.O.E.

Everyone will have an opportunity to consider this resource and to ask questions at Conference as both Brian Coffey and Di Thomas will present it.

NZEI discussion:

Barrie kindly arranged for Louise Green and Stephanie Mills from NZEI to speak at the September Executive meeting.

Issues discussed included:

-PUM about increasing funding into system. Support staff and Specialist salary increases not matched by increase in Ops Grant. Specialists gone up approx. 5%. no concurrent increase in ORS. Diane – read email from member of SEPANZ re logistic issues of PUMs for Special Schools due to timing of PUM during school day. Louise acknowledged the issue but no clear solution apparent. Diane suggested that Special Schools could pay support staff to come after school. Louise proposed that members who couldn't attend endorse the outcome. Consideration of use of social media to update members who can't attend. Video streams to be made available to special schools to show to Teacher Aides.

PLEASE NOTE: The 2017 SEPANZ NZEI Representative will be voted for at the Annual Meeting during Conference. Kindly register your interest for this position at least two weeks before Conference. Registrations of Interest can be sent to Sally Wilkinson (Secretary).

Also: Kindly send any Annual Meeting Agenda items to Sally.

Reporting on Progress for Students who are learning long term within one level of the NZC:

Under guidance from Jacky Burgon (ex NZCER), Sally Jackson (MOE) and Julie Roberts (MOE + Cognition) this project continues to seek the holy grail of special education – namely to achieve the above!

Several workshops consisting of members from our schools and others in the field of assessment have been held. Numerous tools, systems, processes are being considered. It will take time and a great deal of careful consideration. Fortunately our expertise is seen as a major contributor. What we don't want is a "tool" or process that is inappropriate, wastes time and does not contribute value to the sector. At the meeting held during the non-contact break and attended by a "who's who" of NZ assessment, it was apparent that a great deal more thought is required. Thankfully people like Jacky and Sally are fully aware!

Property and Satellite Establishment issues:

Following on-going concern expressed by the Central region, Judith attended one of their meetings. An enlightening and superb two days in beautiful Wanganui/Whanganui!! Understanding their unique issues certainly is assisting in debating on their behalf!

Graeme and Judith met with Brain Coffey and Jill Ford. We were reassured that Wellington specialist schools would be supported with property development to address increasing rolls. The conversation included agreement that especially in "corridors of growth" such as the "Kapiti corridor" Satellites were in consideration. None-the-less concern still exists and we would like to see the development of a national process to set up satellites – specialist provision. The MOE web-site would indicate that there is an agreed process however it appears there is "variation"!

As at October, 2016, following on-going, expressed concern, we have been invited to participate in meetings to discuss a national vision for special education/learning support. I will

be keen to ask for your feedback and participation. At least our voice is well-included right from the “get go”!

Specialist Service Standards Review of the process:

The review of the review! The working party have had “robust” discussion concerning the need for the ORS Review process. The discussion at the recent workshop centred on School Self Review and I felt it was a leap forward! It will not remove the debate about the fact that “we” participate in two Reviews. Nor has the conundrum that the MOE reviews itself been addressed. Until the “new process” is finalised we have an “open-mind” to suggested change.

MOOT 2016 24th – 25th November Venue: James Cook Grand Chancellor Hotel, Wellington:

Check the flyer – on Web site – and sent by Diane!. An excellent line-up of quest Speakers – please book with Diane – ASAP!

We look forward to meeting with everyone.

Have an excellent Term Four. Looking forward to meeting with everyone during conference.

Thank you for the on-going conversations – just so important that we share our frustrations with each other and problem solve together!

Very best regards to all.

Judith