

CPPA Exec Snippets (December meeting)

Dear Colleagues

The CPPA Executive held its final meeting for the year at the Russley Golf Course on Thursday 7 December. 50 people attended and enjoyed the end of year Christmas luncheon.. Here are some of the highlights of the meeting....

CPPA Elections

The Executive has received advice from at least two members that they will not be re-standing in 2018. We also acknowledge and thank Graeme Barber as he retires next week after a long and successful career. Graeme has also been a committed Canterbury voice around the NZPF table since 2015. There will doubtless be others who decide it's time to stand down, and we will thank them all properly in the New Year.

What an opportunity!

The term for the new CPPA Executive commences in March 2018, and the election will be held in late February. We would love to receive nominations (from now) for principals who are willing to stand and support this important work. We would love representation from a wide range of different types of schools and settings, so put your hand up! The nomination form is **attached below** and will be uploaded to the website very soon. Standing members should remember to get a nomination form underway too. A strong CPPA needs support from its members – so please consider standing. It is a great way to meet the criteria demonstrating principal leadership and increased remuneration (see your collective agreement) as a result of your efforts. (Nominations close 9 February 2018)

CPPA Fellowship

There were three applications this year for the Fellowship, and they were assessed by a sub-committee with representatives from the Ministry of Education (Coralanne Child), the University of Canterbury (Barry Brooker), and the CPPA (Marg Trotter). The calibre of the proposals was described as very high quality. The successful application was received from **Christine Harris**, (Thorrington School), who will explore the relationship between parents and their schools, their need to belong to a caring school community, and their anxieties around both parenting and schooling. The CPPA extends its grateful thanks to Barry Brooker who retires at the end of the year. Barry has been a great servant of schools over a long career, and we wish him a long and enjoyable retirement.

Water Rates

A conversation has started with the Ministry of Education about the way that water rates are charged, based largely on RV and land area, rather than the number of pupils. We suspect that this method of charging will be hard to change. We advised you last month to consider a Heat, Light, and Water review, and the Ministry's criteria

and process for this [can be found here](#). The changes to the way HLW is funded were intended to encourage schools to manage their consumption more carefully rather than simply funding actual costs which is what used to happen.

SUE Report Sign-off

There is some confusion around Canterbury schools about the need for SUE Reports to be “signed off” by a board member. Some principals have been claiming to their auditor that the CPPA has previously suggested that this is NOT an audit requirement. No-one on the Executive has any idea where this incorrect message may have come from. Here is the correct advice from **Aimee Hill** from BDO Spicers:

Any assurance about payroll practices and SUE Reports offered to a board by a principal holding Novopay authority is NOT independent. Auditors have had several instances of schools paying support staff incorrectly or at pay rates that are at odds with either annual budgets or the collective agreement rates. It is expected that a board member will scrutinise SUE Reports and office practices carefully from time to time, and sign them off as evidence that this has happened. This independent scrutiny should particularly focus on any employee with Novopay authority, including the principal. It is also good practice to record this independent scrutiny within your board report, where it can become part of the meeting record. This does not imply that every SUE Report needs to be signed, nor that a board member will necessarily know the name of every person included on the annual SUE Summary.

If a school pays someone more than has been previously agreed by the board, and such increases are not reported and understood by the board, that school will have an issue included within their management report!

CPPA PLD 2018

The CPPA's PLD programme is nearly sorted, although we are still awaiting confirmation from Chris Hipkins that he can come down in February to meet us all. In the meantime, and subject to tweaking, [here it is](#).

Positive Stories and Research

The Executive is painfully aware of the media's delight when things go wrong in a school. There is also a strong conservatism amongst parents who wish that schools could remain unchanged from their own school days. These folk express their views strongly, often pushing back against committed leadership trying to do exciting new things with teachers and students.

We are shaping up a campaign to put some of these positive messages in front of parents next year, and we need your help. If you have a great “good news” story, or ideas or research worth sharing, please email them to Phil Harding (pjharding@extra.co.nz) for use in this drive to promote schools across the region.



Canterbury Primary Principals' Association

National Standards, Statements of Variance and all of that stuff

To quote the inimitable Lester Flockton, you must all “do your own thinking” about the requirements to report to the Ministry your 2017 National Standards results and your statement of variance. There is some [advice on the Ministry's website](#) but principals are also aware of the huge inconsistency that exists in the judgements that different schools are using to describe their students' achievement. Once your data arrives at the Ministry's desks, it becomes somewhat incontrovertible and it is clear that Chris Hipkins prefers the measurement of *progress* ahead of the measurement of *achievement*. Regardless of the ways in which that progress is measured, it will be reasonable to expect better accuracy **within a school** as they track children over time and measure the gains, or lack thereof.

So – to report, or not to? **Do your own thinking**, but make sure that you take your board of trustees with you on the journey!

OIA Requests

The CPPA has not been able to discover who is behind the recent OIA request to some schools, however it is lawful, and if you are one of the lucky 30% of schools that was approached, you must respond within twenty working days. It is sometimes possible to transfer the request (i.e. pass the buck to another agency), or seek further explanation, but you must still respond without delay. The Ombudsman's full advice on OIA's can be found [here](#).

Have a well-earned break and some quality YOU time over Christmas.

Phil Harding - on behalf of Marg (President) and the Executive



Proud Business Partners supporting the Canterbury Primary Principals' Association