



# NZSTA REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

## Northland

Nau mai haere mai Northland School Board Members,

As we struggle towards the end of what has been an extraordinary year it is time to reflect on what has happened in our kura and communities as we review our Strategic Plans for 2021. It is interesting to think that this time last year when we were in our review cycle for 2020 how many boards included plans to cater for their staff and students for an international pandemic including;

- a four week lockdown and school closure
- distance teaching/learning
- the fear and uncertainty of the disease and it's impact on Tai Tokerau
- the financial implications of the loss of jobs
- the ongoing financial ramifications of the loss of international tourists to our economy
- the continual uncertainty of what the future holds
- the impact to the vulnerable members of our communities
- the impact on our staff of supporting the learning our our tamariki in these uncertain times

...and the list goes on

I do not imagine any of us got this one right!

The difficulty now is to plan for 2021 knowing that this pattern could continue for several years and planning must allow for several different realities and ensure that our staff and students wellbeing is paramount. We must also be aware that we are not all affected equally and those most vulnerable members of our community are likely to suffer more hardship, more deprivation and even 'disappear' from our line of sight. Many of our staff are exhausted from planning for different contingencies and using innovative methods to get our students through this year and, for those in secondary education, passing their assessments. Many staff also have their family and personal circumstances to deal with. Acknowledging the tremendous efforts staff have made including principals and senior management will help and please ensure they have access to support networks and other resources provided by the MOE.

The STA News has a great article titled "OECD Schooling disrupted, Schooling rethought: How the Covid -19 Pandemic

is Changing Education”, if you haven’t seen this ask your Board Chair, principal or secretary for a copy. This article is based on a survey of 59 countries (NZ not included) and the key points are summarised providing interesting insights that we can take forward into our planning.

This time last year we were looking at the passing of the Education and Training Bill 2019 into law for 2020 and NZSTA were looking at all the implications for school board members from this legislation. The change in terminology from school trustees to school board members is part of the changes to the way boards conduct their governance and will include compulsory board training and a national code of conduct. This work is on-going and we will keep you updated on exactly what this legislation will mean in terms of school governance and operations.

One advantage to come out of this situation is the use of digital devices for learning and teaching has increased and more ākongā have access to devices. NCEA exams are now able to be sat online in over 20 subjects and is providing an attractive alternative to the traditional written format (see article later in this newsletter). Andrea Gray and her team are ready and able to come to Northland and meet with school board members to ensure we have the information and confidence to follow this pathway. The Northland Regional Executive are planning a series of events around Tai Tokerau early next year and would like to include Andrea and her team from NZQA, if you wish to include your kura and board in these events please contact me at [northlandregionalchair@nzsta.org.nz](mailto:northlandregionalchair@nzsta.org.nz) or Andrea directly according to the information later in this newsletter.

Meanwhile, lets all work to keep this virus under control in Aotearoa by following Ministry of Health guidelines so we can be assured of spending quality time with whānau and friends this Christmas and holiday period. Take care of each other and celebrate your successes no matter how small.

**He waka eke noa - we are all in this together**

Hei konā mai  
Sue Cresswell

## 2020 Special General Meeting

Thank you to all Board Members who supported NZSTA at the recent Special General Meeting. The NZSTA Board called a Special General Meeting (SGM) of NZSTA member boards, on 7 November to fulfil our constitutional requirements in 2020. The SGM business was successfully completed and are very grateful for the time you gave to participate.

## Call for remits to the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

All members of an NZSTA member board are invited to attend. Every member board is entitled to one vote on business considered at the AGM and may nominate one person (your AGM delegate) to speak and vote on your board's behalf. Forms for appointing your chosen delegate will be sent out in February 2021.

Every member board is entitled to propose items of business to be voted on at the AGM, using the 2021 AGM Remit (Constitutional Notice of Motion) [form](#) in Membership Matters 19 November).

## Professional Development

Over the past month NZSTA has made contact with board members across the country to obtain targeted feedback on our PLD offerings and to identify opportunities for further improvement and innovation. The feedback from email surveys, focus group interviews and individual discussions highlighted several opportunities for NZSTA to enhance its PLD to better fit the current needs of board members.

This led to the development of several pilot PLD projects that commenced in November 2020 and continue into 2021. The projects will include the development of:

- 1.** A short online foundations course for all new school board members. The program will be interactive, collaborative, run in community cohorts and is designed to provide board members with the essential knowledge they need to be effective. Two modules will be piloted initially with the aim of expanding into other topics after the trial (e.g. the role and responsibilities of the board, meeting processes, strategic planning and effective reporting).
- 2.** A small suite of high-quality programs that focus on the complex issues that boards that boards often struggle with. These courses will focus on discussion and group problem solving rather than the delivery of content. An expert facilitator and experienced advisor/board member will run each session.

The above initiatives will run in parallel to the existing nationally advertised workshops and support resources available through the Knowledge Hub.



# Statement of National Education and Learning Priorities (NELP)

The Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act) allows the Minister to issue a statement of national education and learning priorities (NELP) for early learning childhood, primary and secondary education. Boards of state and state-integrated schools and kura are required to have particular regard to this statement. This not totally new; it was added to the Education Act 1989 in 2017.

A Statement of NELP has now been issued and takes effect from 13 November 2020.

It is consistent with the education and learning objectives set out in section 5 of the Act, and gives boards a set of priorities which every school and kura in the primary and secondary education sector will be working towards achieving for a period of five years, unless withdrawn or replaced earlier.

## The priorities are:

**Learners at the centre:** Learners and their whānau are at the centre of education

- Ensure places of learning are safe, inclusive and free from racism, discrimination and bullying
- Have high aspirations for every learner and ākonga, and support these by partnering with their whānau and communities to design and deliver education that responds to their needs, and sustains their identities, languages and cultures

**Barrier free access:** Great education opportunities and outcomes are within reach for every learner

- Reduce barriers to education for all, including for Māori and Pacific learners, disabled learners and those with learning support needs
- Ensure every learner gains sound foundation skills, including language, literacy and numeracy

**Quality teaching and leadership:** Quality teaching and leadership make the difference for learners and their whānau

- Meaningfully incorporate te reo Māori and tikanga Māori into the everyday life of the place of learning
- Develop staff to strengthen teaching, leadership and learner support capability across the education workforce

**Future of learning and work:** Learning that is relevant to the lives of New Zealanders today and throughout their lives

- Collaborate with industries and employers to ensure learners have the skills, knowledge and pathways to succeed in work

**World class inclusive public education:** New Zealand education is trusted and sustainable

- Enhance the contribution of research and mātauranga Māori in addressing local and global challenges (Tertiary Education Strategy (TES) only)

## What does this mean for boards?

There is no expectation that the NELP need to be fully implemented immediately.

From 2021 schools and kura will gradually incorporate the NELP and TES priorities into their plans and practice. Boards need to ensure these priorities are specifically considered and incorporated into their strategic planning. For more information about planning and reporting view [here](#).

## How do these priorities align with the board's primary objectives?

The board's key task is to set the scene and provide a planned supportive environment that enables the school to put the Statement of NELP into effect.

For more information please see [here](#).

# Member Events



Nine membership events for NZSTA members have been held in October and November across the country. We had a total of 404 people attending these events with our most popular event being Breakfast with Pio in Auckland.

## The event breakdown is as follows:

- **Breakfast with Pio: Auckland – 95 attendees**
- **NZSTA Dealing with Unreasonable Complaints: Dunedin – 31 attendees**
- **What’s your risk – Tom Mulholland: Invercargill – 8 attendees**
- **NZSTA Dealing with Unreasonable Complaints: Oamaru – 34 attendees**
- **NZSTA Dealing with Unreasonable Complaints: Cromwell – 21 attendees**
- **Effective Governance in a Rapidly Changing World: Christchurch – 51 attendees**
- **Breakfast with Pio - Building Awesome Whānau - 35 attendees**
- **NZSTA Together Towards Tomorrow - 66 attendees**
- **Waikato Mini Conference - 55 attendees**

With the challenges 2020 has thrown us it is has been good to be able to get out into communities and continue to offer these events to our members, and the feedback we have received has been really positive. We hope that 2021 will give us the ability to run much larger events across our regions.

# NZSTA Key Contacts

## NZSTA Northland Regional Executive

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## NZSTA Northern Hub staff

<b>Regional Director</b> Patrick Ikiua	<b>Regional Coordinator</b> Sarah Hikuroa
<b>Regional Advisers Governance/Integrated</b> Belinda Weber (based in Whangarei) Chris France (based in Auckland) Katharina Friedli (based in Whangarei) Michael O'Brien (based in Auckland)	<b>Regional Advisers Employment (ER)</b> Diane Squire (based in Auckland) Isabel Dixon (based in Auckland) Korina Pascoe (based in Whangarei) Ngaire Cooper (based in Auckland)
<b>NZSTA National Office</b> <b>Phone: 0800 782 435</b> Advisory and Support Centre                      Option 1 HR & ER Advice    Option 2 Professional Development Advice                      Option 3 Office of the President    Option 4	<b>NZSTA National Office Email:</b> <b>Advisory and Support Centre</b> Governance advice <a href="mailto:govadvice@nzsta.org.nz">govadvice@nzsta.org.nz</a> Employment Relations advice <a href="mailto:eradvice@nzsta.org.nz">eradvice@nzsta.org.nz</a> Professional Development advice <a href="mailto:pdadvice@nzsta.org.nz">pdadvice@nzsta.org.nz</a> Office of the President <a href="mailto:feedback@nzsta.org.nz">feedback@nzsta.org.nz</a>



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