



WWSTA

NEWSLETTER



WELLINGTON WAIRARAPA STA PO BOX 33-176 PETONE PH (04) 568 2970

TERM 1 — MARCH 2010

Hi All

We trust you all had a very pleasant and relaxing holiday break, even though the weather was very poor for those who spent most of the time in Wellington. Whatever happened to Global warming?

Already, the holidays seem in the distant past as we all prepare for what's going to be a very busy year with:

- ☆ The School trustee elections on 7 May 2010.
- ☆ The introduction of the new curriculum
- ☆ The introduction of controversial national standards for primary and intermediate schools.

Good luck and all the best for 2010.

Message from the Chairperson of WWSTA, Chris Toa.

Kia ora

2010 has got to be the year of the trustee.

With the trustee elections set for May 7, there will be a number of new trustees, so WWSTA is gearing up to ensure that trustees 'old and new' will have face-to-face training available as soon as possible after the elections.

This is a commitment that WWSTA makes to its membership because of the loyalty you've shown over the years.

The WWSTA is eager to face the challenges of working with others to ensure that our membership, and in particular those new to trusteeship, are well supported in their role.

Education is going through a bit of turmoil at present with a number of issues coming to the fore. WWSTA will endeavour to present both sides of any issue that arises and provide you with as much background information as possible to allow you to make your best decision as Governors of your school.

At the end of 2009, WWSTA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Canterbury STA, which has the Nelson, Marlborough West Coast region under their wing. This area contains a combined

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total of approximately 700 schools. The Memorandum gives the mandate for 2 members (the chairperson and 1 other) from each region to be your representatives at any education forum that we are invited to. We exercised this opportunity on January 28th when we accepted an invitation to speak with the Minister of Education, Anne Tolley. I believe that the meeting went well. However, more importantly, the four members of our team worked well together, which augurs well for the future.

Finally I would encourage you to ring our office if you have any questions whatsoever. You will be greeted by our coordinator, Grant Kerr. If he can't answer your question immediately you can be sure that he will find out for you.

Chris Toa

National Standards

A Perspective for Trustees

The start of the 2010 school year saw the introduction of the Government's National Standards system of assessment and reporting for all state and state-integrated schools with students in Years 1 to 8. The ongoing debate has generated a good deal of media attention and a lot of this has focused on the role of school trustees.

WWSTA has not taken a stance, one way or the other, on this controversial policy. Many of our member school boards may have strong views but we suspect that some boards may not even have discussed it. As with many issues, we feel the majority of school boards will lie somewhere in between the two extremes!

We suggest that the issue of National Standards is discussed at board level with your principal, so that all trustees are aware of the issues and views and take part in formulating and agreeing on the approach that the school will take. We recommend that trustees review their approach to assessment and reporting, to understand the role that National Standards will play in your school.

Key Questions: Assessment and Reporting

1. Do you receive good student achievement reports from your principal and discuss them in full as a Board?
2. How do you use the achievement data to analyse trends and patterns across the school?
3. Has the Board been involved in setting achievement targets?
4. Are you satisfied that the teaching staff use sound assessment tools and techniques to inform their assessments of achievement?
5. Do you understand what intervention programmes are in place to deal directly with students who are at risk of underachieving?
6. How do you evaluate the success of these intervention programmes?
7. How do you determine how often, and in what manner, the school should report to parents and to the community as a whole?
8. What have parents told you are the most important matters they want to hear about in school reports?

Key Questions: National Standards

1. Has the Board received and read the new NAGs, including the new NAG 2A?
2. Has the principal briefed the Board on what the implementation of National Standards might entail?
3. Has the Board made a collective decision on how to proceed?
4. What plans are in place for training and development, so that everyone is in a position to make informed judgements about NS and what it means?
5. What support do people need to undertake that training? How do we prioritise that? What else gives way?
6. What communications to parents are we putting out? What are their expectations?
7. Who is investigating data management and reporting system requirements, even if we do get some "templates" from the MoE?
8. Regardless of whatever happens outside our school, how are we going to support our principal and teachers to always do what is best for our students?

We have two articles on the National Standards on our web site, www.wwsta.org.nz prepared by Bill Courtney of the WWSTA management committee and Rob McDowell of the Cansta management committee. These make interesting reading.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE an URGENT PLEA.

Because a number of members are retiring after many dedicated years on your Association's Management Committee we are looking for new members. Over the years, many trustees have gained extended support, advice and encouragement by participating in the WWSTA management team.

You don't need to be an expert, or to be nominated or appointed — all trustees are welcome, just get in touch with us and come along.

Belonging to the management team supports other trustees, and will also develop your own knowledge of trusteeship.

The committee usually meets twice a term (8 times a year) for between 1 to 2 hours at the Association's office in Petone.

If you are interested please contact, Chris Toa (Chairperson), Lorraine Allison (Deputy Chairperson) or Grant Kerr, (Executive Officer) at the numbers listed at the end of this newsletter.

Web Site

Our new web site is up and running.

Please use it as a reference site. It is reviewed regularly and items of interest are added from time to time.

If there is anything you would like to see added to the web site let us know in an email to wwsta@wwsta.org.nz.

Your feedback is important to us.



Trustee Elections

As you will all be aware, the triennial elections will be held on 7 May 2010.

We know this period is a very busy one for those involved and we trust the outcomes will be very successful.

All the resource material to help you and your returning officer can be found on the election web site: www.trustee-election.co.nz

The Association sincerely thanks those Trustees who are retiring this year, for the efforts you have made to improve the education of our children and assisting to run our schools. These are big tasks that take a huge time commitment but nevertheless are very rewarding.

We have contracted Sue Cotter to undertake Trustee training workshops following the elections. They will be held in Kapiti, Porirua, Hutt Valley, Wellington and the Wairarapa. When the details are finalised you will be advised by email and on our web site: www.wwsta.org.nz



CANSTA and WWSTA

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed late last year between the Canterbury STA and your Association to share information and ideas and work closely on matters of importance to Trustees.

This group has met twice and, as an Independent Trustees Association, has had two meetings with the Minister Anne Tolley to discuss the issues of National standards, and the recent ERO report focusing on year 1 and 2 students.

The Minister is keen to continue to have our views on any matters that are of concern to Trustees so please use our Web site: www.wwsta.org.nz to give us your feedback and thoughts.

Remember; change only happens when people share ideas and opinions.

Useful Articles

Here are some useful articles that make good reading. As the files are too large to include in this newsletter we're happy to email them to you at your request.

What makes a great teacher

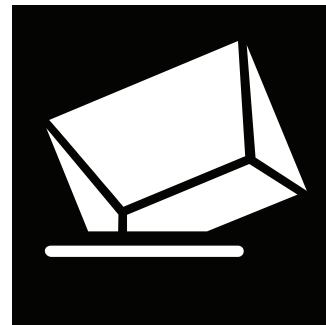
(The Atlantic)

How the Worlds best performing School Systems come out on top

(McKinsey & Co.).

New Board Chairperson?

If your Board Chairperson has changed recently please let us know so our records can be updated.



WWSTA

Annual General Meeting

We are planning to hold our

AGM

on WEDNESDAY 16 June 2010

at the Angus Inn, Lower Hutt

commencing at 7.15pm.

Please mark the date in your diary now as it will be an event not to be missed.

We are hoping to have the Minister of Education, Anne Tolley, as quest speaker.

A detailed programme will go out within the first few weeks of the second term.



Contact Numbers

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