



28 February 2022

## Board Matters

### Members only

*“He pōkeke Uenuku I tū ai - Against a dark cloud the rainbow stands out brightly”*

Ngā mihi o te tau hou – welcome back to another year of improvement, being strategic, and of working together – “in our children lies our future.”

In this edition I have a couple of updates for you on our AGM and Annual Conference 2022, and a quick overview of our recent mahi. But, first – **a big thank you!**

### Being thankful

Saying two words can make a difference especially where there are so many things to mention, so many things to be grateful for, and even more things to say “thank you” for.

In 2020, education and our ‘normal’ changed; and in 2021 the challenges and changes just kept on coming, with the year ending under the ‘traffic light system.’ Then, in 2022, schools re-opened under the ‘red-light setting’ with even more change and more adjustments to the ‘norm.’

The workload for our principals further increased, with the various staffing issues, the shortages and so many “what ifs??” Despite having only just come back to school after the Summer break that inner turmoil began to kick in again, with calls for more clarity around mask wearing, the provision of masks and ventilators and more. Right now, principals and boards are as busy as ever, working through staff leave entitlements, consistency and perceived fairness in relation to teachers’ and principals’ leave entitlements and many other issues besides. Yet here we are – we “keep on keeping on”.

At NZSTA we are well-aware of the toll these challenges have taken on our principals, and that many are close to tipping point with all the extra work. Particularly in the current climate, we would like to acknowledge the great job principals and school boards do to provide a safe place for students to learn, the amazing work you do to mitigate all of these issues and much, much more. We in the education sector have a lot to be thankful for and a lot to be grateful for. To those amazing principals who have gone above and beyond – thank you, thank you, thank you!

There is a fine line between the right of the government to set the course, the rights of boards to chart the direction of the school, and the rights of the principal to steer the school – this is what we all do. “Me mahi tahi tatou mo te ora o te katoa – working together for the wellbeing of all.”

Whilst it is clear that 2022 will continue to be challenging, our heart goes out to everyone impacted by our current situation – the fear, worry, anxiety and even anger are normal so keep yourself and others safe, take care of yourself and others and it is OK to be kind to yourself and others – nga mihi aroha kia koutou katoa.

## Conference 2022

Taking into account our current Covid situation, and the climate of uncertainty here in Aotearoa, the NZSTA Board recently met and made the decision to postpone our annual conference. It will now be held from the **7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> October** (all things going well). We will ensure our web page is updated accordingly and keep you all informed of any further updates. What will this mean for you? Not a lot for now, although this new date may impact on your school board delegation to conference given it now comes after the triennial school board elections in September 2022. Our NZSTA elections team will keep you up to date with regards to the elections. Please feel free to contact us on [feedback@nzsta.org.nz](mailto:feedback@nzsta.org.nz).

## AGM

So, what will this mean for our AGM? Under normal conditions (whatever normal looks like today) we would hold our AGM during our annual conference. However the Board also decided that, in order to try to meet our constitutional obligations, we would still hold the AGM, but online. This will now be held April 30<sup>th</sup> – more details to come. Please click [here](#) for your delegate forms including remits/notices of motion. Due to the unique circumstances for this AGM, please use the Free Vote option sparingly so your delegate is aware of your voting preferences. Again, please feel free to contact us on [feedback@nzsta.org.nz](mailto:feedback@nzsta.org.nz)

We know that our current climate of Covid, traffic light system, mask wearing, RATS (rapid antigen testing) and everything else in between is keeping us all busy – please take time to breathe and try to ‘keep the main thing the main thing.’

## Ongoing work

Here’s just a small indication of the work NZSTA is doing to support you:

- **Education and Training Act:**
  - Dispute resolution panels – not on the table yet
  - Principal Appointment Criteria – work in progress
  - Code of Conduct for School Boards – a Code of Conduct has been developed but is now sitting with the government
  - Giving Effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi – NZSTA has created online modules
  - Strengthening the right to education by confirming the right to attendance – this is an ongoing issue
  - Te Hurihanganui – a Transformative System Shift – work in progress

- Ka Hikitia – Tau Mai te Reo – work in progress
- NCEA Review
- Curriculum Progress and Achievement
- National Education Learning Priorities included as part of planning and reporting
- Workforce Strategy – being managed
- Education Service Agency – now Te Mahau
- Performance Growth Cycle – Removing Performance Reviews – work in progress
- Physical Restraint – almost there!!!

Thank you all for your patience – I am aware that there is a lot going on, so please don't ever feel you are alone in your endeavours to support our schools, our principals. Remember we are only a phone call away.

**Ngā mihi mahana kia koutou katoa**  
**Na**

Lorraine Kerr MNZM  
**President**

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