

**AREA SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER 2009/01**

## **Area school paid union meetings September 2009**

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13 August 2009

Dear area school members,

On 15 June the combined NZEI and PPTA Area Schools Advisory Committee (ASAC) met to discuss the claims development process for next year's Area School Teachers Collective Agreement (ASTCA) negotiations. The Advisory Committee is made up of the following members;

### **PPTA**

Katrina Wickham	Whangamata Area School
Brian Harrison	Executive representative
Alec Campbell	Maniopoto Area School
John Lee	Taipa Area School
Bruce Anink	Amuri Area School

### **NZEI**

Rose Grant	Tolaga Bay Area School
Hariata Samuels	TKKM o Mangere
Paul Munnerley	Hurunui College
Robyn Hamilton	Bethlehem College

### **2010 Claim development processes and timeframes**

The area school teachers' collective agreement (ASTCA) will expire on 30 June 2010, as will the primary and secondary teachers' collective agreements. The major factors that always contribute to shaping area school claims are:

- 1) Primary and secondary settlement based claims
- 2) Area school specific claims.

### **Primary and secondary teachers' bargaining**

NZEI and PPTA are currently beginning the claims development process for next year's bargaining round. The settlements of the primary and secondary agreements have a major influence on the area school claims as they establish the major provisions and entitlements that the unions and the government have agreed. Each union can make quite different claims and it is important for area schools that an overview of the final settlement each union has achieved is considered when deciding the final claim for area school members. This means that we must look to conclude the bargaining for both the primary and secondary teachers' collective agreements before we get into the bargaining

of the ASTCA. This timeline definitely worked to the benefit of area schools teachers in the 2007 settlement.

### **Area school specific and outstanding claims**

Next year the unions will undergo consultation processes with members in area schools to determine the area school specific issues that are most important to members. The Area Schools Advisory Committee will decide the method of consultation and will then analyse feedback from members and use this and the primary and secondary settlement packages to shape the area school claim. It is probable that paid union meetings will be held to discuss and endorse the proposed ASTCA claims.

However this round is likely to be very different from the last two rounds of negotiations in 2004 and 2007. We are in very different economic and political times and it is for this reason that the Executives of both NZEI and PPTA have agreed that area schools will be asked to hold paid union meetings in early September to be briefed on the industrial, economic and political factors that are likely to have a major influence on next year's bargaining. PPTA secondary and area branch chairs are also being invited to attend the regional meetings being held at this time for branch chairs of schools covered by the STCA, and NZEI is holding cluster meetings with primary school members in August to discuss the negotiations for the PTCA next year.

### **Issues for the next CA round**

At its meeting the Area Schools Advisory Committee held an initial discussion of some of the issues that may impact on bargaining next year, including;

- The likely term of the agreement – a 3 year term may not be the most advantageous for members in the current environment.
- How will the proposed reductions in staffing budgets in 2011 impact on area schools?
- Other budget cuts that will impact are the grants to support gifted and talented programmes, environmental sustainability programmes and the cutting of ACE programmes which are so integral to small communities
- Indications from government is that there may be little - or no - money on the table in its offer
- The need for ways to recruit young, well qualified teachers into area schools
- Ability of engaging in bargaining as early as possible.

The meeting spent considerable time discussing how best to involve area school members with the overall claims process. It was understood and accepted that the actual claims development for this agreement must follow the settlement of the two major teacher agreements in order to build on the outcomes of primary and secondary bargaining and incorporate as many of the benefits and provisions as possible from those settlements.

However it was seen as crucial that area school members do not get the impression their agreement is in any way seen by the unions as being of less importance. The early stages of the claims development processes for both unions are meetings which aim to set the scene and provide crucial information to members on the direction of the new government and its approach to the recession. It was agreed that we should extend this process to area school members.

Accordingly, both union executives met in early August and have endorsed the process agreeing to area school teacher paid union meetings in early September.

## Process for area school paid union meetings (PUMs) September 2009

- PPTA will invite area school branch chairs to their regional branch chair training meetings in term 3. NZEI is holding cluster meetings with primary school members in August to discuss the negotiations for the PTCA next year.
- Both unions will write to area school representatives asking them to organise their PUMs to be held in the last three weeks of term. This will include sending their principals the official paid union notice letter which is attached to this newsletter.

**NB: This letter must be given to principals 14 days before the date of the paid union meeting.**

- The unions will distribute PUM presentation/information packs by late August. The meetings will be co-facilitated by the NZEI worksite representative and the PPTA branch chair. The unions will provide their respective representatives with the resources to carry this out.
- Following their PUMs, area school members will send their feedback in to both unions.
- The next meeting of the area schools advisory committee in October will analyse these results and consider next steps to keep area school members informed and involved.
- The specific claims meetings for the ASTCA will proceed in 2010.

If you have any questions please contact your union.



Jane Benefield  
for NZPPTA

Ph: (04) 913 4241  
Fax: (04) 382 8763  
[jbenefield@ppta.org.nz](mailto:jbenefield@ppta.org.nz)

**New Zealand Post Primary  
Teachers' Association**  
PO Box 2119, Wellington  
Tel (04) 384 9964  
Fax (04) 382 8763



Kevin Burrows  
for NZEI Te Riu Roa

Ph: (04) 382 2708  
Fax: (04) 384 9401  
[Kevin.burrows@nzei.org.nz](mailto:Kevin.burrows@nzei.org.nz)

**New Zealand Education Institute**  
PO Box 466, Wellington  
Tel (04) 384 9689  
Fax (04) 384 9401

**The Chairperson  
Board of Trustees**

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13 August 2009

Dear Colleague

**Paid Union Meetings**


The Executives of the Post Primary Teachers' Association Te Wehengarua and the New Zealand Education Institute Te Riu Roa have directed members to attend a round of paid union meetings held under Section 26 of the Employment Relations Act 2000.

The Executives wish to discuss with members a range of professional and industrial issues that are of importance to their members and to the sector, and we seek your co-operation in managing this.

The meeting which will affect your staff will be held on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_, and will involve all teachers who are members of either PPTA or NZEI. However, some members will make themselves available for supervision of students, as per Section 26 (3), should this be required in exceptional circumstances. All efforts will be made to minimise disruption.

On request a register of those attending will be provided to the Board after the meeting.

Yours faithfully



Jane Benefield  
PPTA Advisory Officer



Kevin Burrows  
NZEI Executive Officer