### The New Zealand Principal's Experience of the School Board as Employer

Survey Report to the New Zealand Principals' Federation and the New Zealand Secondary Principals' Council

**APPENDICES** 

October 2009

**Carol Anderson** 



### **APPENDIX 1: COVERING EMAIL AND SURVEY QUESTIONS**





### Dear Principal

The New Zealand Principals' Federation and the Secondary Principals' Council of NZPPTA seek your assistance with a survey into the employment relationship that principals have with their boards.

### **Purpose**

Recently, as the twentieth anniversary of Tomorrow's Schools approaches, a number of surveys and reviews of school governance in New Zealand have been undertaken. One area that has been particularly identified in all the surveys as an area where boards still need support is in their role as the legal employer of the principal and staff.

What is not clear from the current research is exactly which aspects of their employer role boards are performing effectively and which they need support with. This survey has been designed to provide this information. It builds on previous research and has been piloted with a group of principals and adjusted, based on their feedback.

### The Survey

The most important employer role which the board must undertake is their obligations to you as their chief executive, particularly in relation to strategic direction, appraisal, and professional development and support. The survey therefore enquires in some detail about this aspect of the employment role. Other sections seek information on your views about the working relationship you have with your board and who does which employment and governance tasks in your school, as this may also impact on the employment relationship. There is a short section on stress and problems which may arise from the employment relationship.

(If your school is currently governed by a commissioner or has a limited statutory manager the survey allows for this.)

The survey takes about 20minutes. There is no need to complete the survey in one hit. You may wish to take time to think about some questions and you can simply exit the survey and then log on again later through the same link. The survey will pick up where you left off. It will not be sent until you click the SEND button on the final page.

When you are ready, please click on this link to open the survey: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Co1A5AvVUGJkrfW6uhcJKg 3d 3d

We look forward to receiving your response as soon as possible, but have allowed 4 weeks from today so that principals can do the survey when it is a little quieter in the holidays if they wish.

If you have any gueries about the survey please contact the researcher at:carol.anderson@sgsl.co.nz.

### Confidentiality

The survey has been designed to be completely anonymous. Your response cannot be traced though your email or ISP provider number. The survey does not ask you to identify yourself or your school as

it is important that principals feel free to answer honestly and in the knowledge that they cannot be identified. In the event that comments you make might inadvertently identify you or your school the researcher will take the utmost care to protect confidentiality in any reporting.

### **Report Back**

It is intended that a summary of the findings of this survey will be reported in national principal professional magazines (the NZPF magazine *New Zealand Principal* and *PPTA News*) It is hoped that it will also be useful to the Ministry of Education and the New Zealand School Trustees Association and the participating organisations, in policy development and support planning. A full copy of the report will be used by both the NZPF and PPTA to inform their advocacy work for their respective members.

### **Ernie Buutveld**

President New Zealand Principals Federation

### **Graeme Macann**

Chair Principals Council NZPPTA

### **Carol Anderson**

Researcher MA(Hons) LLB(Hons) Dip Tching School Governance Solutions Ltd

### 7. Have you received, or are you currently receiving, formal training for Principals' Experience of the School Board as Employer Diploma of Educational Management or similar level management qualification Masters of Educational Management or similar level management qualification 6. Which of the following qualifications do you have principalship, eg First Time Principals' Training 8. Your school's U grade is special school or residential school 9. Your school's decile is year 9-13 secondary school Masters Degree or higher 11. Your school is a junior high/middle school 10. Your school is a Other (please specify) O kura kaupapa maon Diploma of Teaching intermediate school senior high school Bachelors Degree Trade Certificate O integrated school O year 7-13 school O primary school O state school O erea school Yes 140 We look forward to receiving your response as soon as possible but have allowed 4 weeks from today so that principals can do the survey when it is a little quieter in the holidays if they wish. This section of the survey collects basic data about you, the type of school that you are working in, and the school's current governance arrangements. When you have completed the page click on the NEXT button to move to the following section. potentially sensitive issues, no LSP numbers are being recorded and it is therefore impossible to trace comments back to any computer or individual. It is hoped that this will encourage principals to be Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey. Its usefulness is very much dependent on There are 8 pages in the survey, You may find that some of the questions require a bit of extra time. If you need to, you can exit the survey by clicking the button in the top right hand corner. You can log on again though the link on the same computer when you have had time to reflect. The survey does not need to be done in one hit. The results will anly be forwarded when you press SEND on the 0 65-O more than 10 years O more than 10 years O 5 or more Please note that the survey is completely confidential. As a number of the questions relate to ) SS Principals' Experience of the School Board as Employer 09 5. Number of schools in which you have been a principal O 5-10 years O 5-10 years 08 4. Years as a principal in your current school 0.5 O 4-5 years O 4-5 years 45 0 61 frank with their information and comments. , O: 1. Welcome and thank you O less than 1 year O 1-3 years O less than 1 year O 1-3 years 3. Years as a principal O M your contribution and thoughts. 2. Demographics ż Or CONFIDENTIALITY Oremate 2. Aged O mate 1. I am ž O z final page. ō

### 5

### 4. Formal Understandings 17. If the school is receiving specialist advice under s78K of the Education 18. If the school has a limited statutory manager, please state what area The board is the legal employer of all staff in the school. It is customary for the board to delegate many aspects of this role to the principal. (If your school is currently governed by a commissioner please answer the remaining sections by replacing the word "board" with "commissioner".) 15. How many years of experience has the current board chair had as either a board member or board chair (include time on other school Principals' Experience of the School Board as Employer O city school 14. The profession of the current board chair is (s) they have been appointed to assist with. 12. The school would be described as a Act 1989 please state in what area(s). O town 3chaol 3. The Board's Role as Employer 13. The current board chair is 16. Your school is currently O do not currently have a board chair O governed by a commissioner O governed by a board O rural school O female boards). Omate

### Principals' Experience of the School Board as Employer

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		principal	board	both principal and board	neither
	appoints senior staff	00	00	00	00
	teaching staff	С	) (	) (	) (
	appoints support staff	0	0	00	00
	investigates staff disciplinary issues	0	0	) (	) (
	contacts STA for advice on employment issues	0	0	0	0
	contacts the school's	0	0	0	0
	employment issues	C	C	C	C
	Issue verbal or written	)	)	)	)
	warnings to staff makes the decision to	C	C	0	0
	suspend or dismiss	)	)	į.	
_	manages the staff	0	0	0	0
	appraisal system makes the final	C	C	C	C
	decision on	)	)	)	)
	competency issues has the final say on	C	C	C	C
	the content of the	)	)	)	)
_	principal's angual				
	agreement		(	(	(
_	ensures that the	0	0	0	0
	management/appraisal				
	process accurs				10000000
	20. Has the board	d formally re	Has the board formally recorded in the board minutes which powers i	oard minutes	which powers
_	has delegated to you.	you.			
_	O Yes				
	§ ()				
_	○ Some				
	O Dan't know/Nat sure				
	21. How familiar is your board chair with the relevant Principals'	is your board	chair with the	relevant Prin	cipals'
	Collective Agreement	nent			the second of the second
		familiar with it	Has a copy/ generally understands it	Has a copy/hasn't referred to it	has seen ty Haven't
	Olesco esta	C	C	C	С
_	Veces 1815	)	)	)	>

### incipals' Experience of the School Board as Employer

Principal's Annual Performance Agreement and Appraisal

O don't know/not sure
23. Has the annual performance agreement been signed by you and the
board chair
94 🔘
O don't know/nat sure
Onot applicable (no agreement)

The same of the sa
\$556 🔾
O no/not really
Onot applicable (no agreement)
25. Does the agreement set out the appraisal process to be followed
O yes
O ne/not really
O not applicable (no agreement)
26. Does the performance agreement record what personal professi
development volt will receive

development to mill modifie	ersonal proressional
חבאבוסטוויבוור אחת אווו וברבואב	
O yes	
•••	
not applicable (no agreement)	

	27. Does the performance agreement record what professional suppor mechanisms you will access or be provided with	
O not applicable (no agreement)	27. Does the performance agreement record w mechanisms you will access or be provided with	

				le (no agreement)	
(	ou (	)	(	O not applicate	

### rincipals' Experience of the School Board as Employer 28. If not, has this been discussed with the board chair

) Ves

29. Does the school have an agreed principal performance management/appraisal policy	O yes	30. Have you had a written appraisal in the last year	O yes	31. If you currently have an annual performance agreement did you and	performance goals  performance goals  the appraisar one triutially  who the appraisar  would be	32. If any difficulty was experienced in reaching agreement on the above, was an independent advisor or mediator consulted	yes      no     no difficulty reaching agreement      not applicable (no agreement)	33. How happy were you with the amount of input you had into the performance agreement	O Not happy, but I did not de anything about it O Not happy, and I made sure my objections were recorded O Not applicable	34. How closely is the appraisal process set out in the agreement followed by the board tollowed pretty much to the letter  PRESSE FARE    O
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### 39. How many years have you been appraised by your current appraiser not useful at all 37. If you were appraised externally, how much did the appraisal cost 40. If you have comments or concerns about the way your appraisal 35. To what extent did the appraisal process contribute to your Principals' Experience of the School Board as Employer 38. If external, who was appointed as appraiser process was conducted please note them here. an independent consultant that I do not know well 36. Was your most recent appraisal an independent consultent that I know personally another principal that I do not know well another principal that I know personally O internal, done by a board committee very useful professional development O internal, done by the board chair O Other (please specify) O more than \$3000 Please rate 0 \$1001-\$2000 90052-100525 number of years 0 \$0-\$1000 Oexternal

not happy at all

0

0

Please rate

42. How happy are you with the way the result of the appraisal is

reported back to the board

43. What professional development specifically for principals have you received in the last year. (Please click on as many as apply to you)

Principal/Educational Leadership conferences in New Zealand

local principals' meetings

nothing in particular

Principal/Educational Leadership conferences oversess

First Time Principals course

Aspiring Poincipals course

POPC

Sabbatical/Study Leave

Other (please specify)

5. Professional Development and Support

### Principals' Experience of the School Board as Employer 41. How is the result of the appraisal process reported back to the board

Summary of the appraisal report is provided to the whole board in-committee

Calingerson reports to the board that the appraisal has been dolle

result of the appraisal process is not reported back to the board

the entire appraisal report is provided to the whole board in-committee the appraisal report or summary is provided to the board in open session

O Other (please specify)

# Principals' Experience of the School Board as Employer

sought to solve a relationship, staffing, management or legal issue arising from your role as principal. It does not refer to professional development 44. What personal professional support or advice have you accessed in the last year (you may select more than one of the sources of support). Personal professional support means personal support that you have on curriculum issues.

Please tick the organisations or people that you used and rate how helpful you found their advice and support. If you did not use an organisation please do not tick that row.

sharing problems with Onthe principals and seeking the advice and support from Ministry of Education advice and support Onthe principals advice of train Advisor (Train Advisor (Train Advisor (Train Solutions))	very neipini		not helpful at all
0 0 000	0	0	0
0 000	0	0	0
000	0	0	0
00	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
		0	0
Other (please specify)			

45. If you did not access any support, what are the reasons why you did not do so. You may tick more than one reason.

			p to the job		
			concerns about being perceived as inadeguate or not up to the job		
support		entiality	perceived as ina		
didn't feel a need for support	lack of time	concerns about confidentiality	about being	Other (please specify)	No. III

6. Legal

### Principals' Experience of the School Board as Employer

46. To the best of your knowledge how many personal grievances have been taken by staff at the school against the board in the last 3 years

O Den't know, difficult to find out

47. What have been the total legal costs (approximately) to the	y) to th
relation to personal grievances in the last 3 years? Please inclu	ise inclu
total figure both legal fees and the amounts of any settlements	lement

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18. Does your board have	1
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49. Do you have professional indemnity insurance for yourself

yes	00
)	0

O not sure

### 7. Principal - Board Working Relationships

attitude of your current board towards you (You can choose more than 50. Select the following words and phrases which best describe the one answer)

par	Ō.	professionally challenging and stimulatin	
empower	demandir	challengin	passive
sportive and empowering	supportive but demanding	ofessionally o	supportive but passive
	2	Ä	

	ging	
	controlling or micro-managing	
•	ling or m	
negative	contro	

П	appears to be focussed on removing the princi	90 00	focus	ed	80	removing	#	princi

O twice a term				
Oother				
55. In your school who usually performs the following functions	who usually	performs the fo	llowing fun	ctions
	principal (	-	both equally or together	neither/other
grives the formulation of the school vision	C	C	0	C
and goals develops the school's	C	С	С	0
strategic plan develops the school's	C	0	C	0
monitors progress	) C	) (	C	
towards school goals	) (	) (	) (	) (
evaluates learning	)	)	)	)
decides what the	C	С	C	0
principal will report to the board on	)	)	)	)
decides on financial	0	0	0	0
ensures the financial soundness of the	0	0	0	0
ensures compliance	0	0	0	0
requirements and manages risk				
drives fund-raising	0	0	0	0
deals with property	0	0	0	0
drives major building projects	0	0	0	0

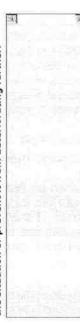
grafts leaves me to decide how and when goals should be achieved gives me clear direction board meetings are structured and focus on governance issues  53. How long is the average board meeting
O 1:2 hours
) 1-2 hours
( 2.3 maurs
)

### 56. How often, outside board or committee meetings do the principal and The first set of questions (58-60) on this page relate to your experiences with your current board. The second set of questions(61-65) relate to experiences with previous boards. very stressful If relationships with your current and past boards have always been positive you will not need to answer this section. Please go to the bottom of this page and press NEXT. 58. Overall, how would you rate the relationship between yourself and 57. Are you happy with the frequency of contact with the board chair incipals' Experience of the School Board as Employer board chair meet together or have phone or email contact 0 0 8. When relationships are problematic regular contact mostly initiated by the board chair regular contact, mostly initiated by me generally once a fortnight at a set time regular contact, initiated by either party not stressful generally once a week at a set time would like it to be more the current board wantd like it to be less Seldom or never The relationship is O once a month Opecasionally

## Principals' Experience of the School Board as Employer

contributing to the problem. Please select any of the following phrases 59. If CURRENT relationships with the board are problematic or more stressful than you would like them to be, what do you believe is frequent questioning or criticism of management decisions by board members over-involvement of the board in day to day management of the school the expectations maybe realistic but I do not feel able to meet them board promises to attend to matters but doesn't follow through disruptive, demanding or antagonistic board members unrealistic performance expectations from the board lack of clarity about what the board requires of me division or dysfunction amongst board members problems with the student representative personality conflict with the board chair mistakes or misjudgments on my part problems with the staff representative which may apply. Other/Comments

60. What kind of intervention do you believe would be helpful to improve the situation or prevent it from deteriorating further.



### PREVIOUS board what do you believe contributed to the problem. Please 62. If you have experienced conflict or stressful relationships with a rincipals' Experience of the School Board as Employer frequent questioning or criticism of management decisions by board members select any of the following phrases which may apply. over-involvement of the board in day to day management of the school expectations may be reasonable but I sld not feel able to meet them The situation was so unpleasant that I resigned / got another Job board promised to attend to matters but didn't follow through O The individual(s) who were causing difficulties left the board disruptive, demanding or antagonistic board members unrealistic performance expectations from the board lack of clanity about what the board required of me 63. How was the problem resolved division or dysfunction amongst board members I was actively pressured to leave and resigned problems with the student representative We managed to rupair the relationship personality conflict with the board chair problems with the staff representative mistakes or misjudgments on my part There was a change of board chair Other (please specify) O I was dismissed Other/Comments

### you sought advice from please tick how helpful you found that advice. If 67. If you have any further comments you would like to make about the board-principal employment relationship please feel free to write them seek support and advice from during that process. For each party that 66. What other support or assistance would you like to have received. 65. If you resigned under pressure or were dismissed, whom did you you did not use a party or organisation please do not tick that row. Principals' Experience of the School Board as Employer not very helpful 0 000 Thank you for taking the time to respond to this survey. 0 lawyer paid for by me counselfor(s) paid for counsellor(s) paid for by EAP or the board ndemnity insurance 9. Thank you Principals (Adviser friends and family awyer paid for by Team Solutions) other principals professional here. by me the board what other parties or organizations did you receive advice or 64. If you managed to repair the relationship or resolve the issue with 0 rincipals' Experience of the School Board as Employer 00 0000000 0 0 00

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assistance from and how helpful was it.

NZSTA Industrial NZSTA Heipline

Board Training

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adviser/consultant or

ndependent

professional indemnity awyer paid for by me

nturance

Principals Adviser Team Solutions) awyer paid for by rincipals/staff/friends)

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mediator (paid for by

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ndependent

### **APPENDIX 2: REPRESENTATIVENESS OF SURVEY**

Comparison of survey respondent group with data for national cohort of principals

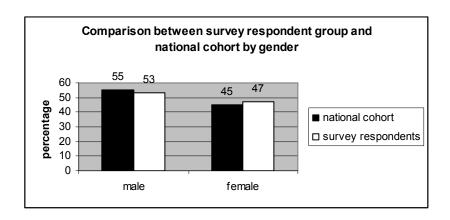


Figure 1

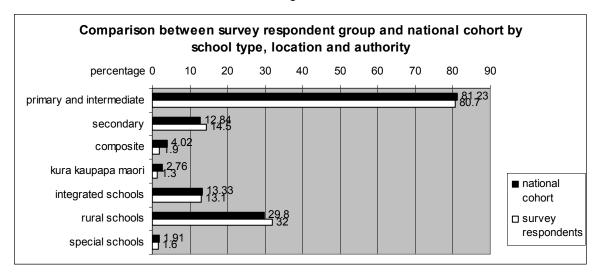


Figure 2

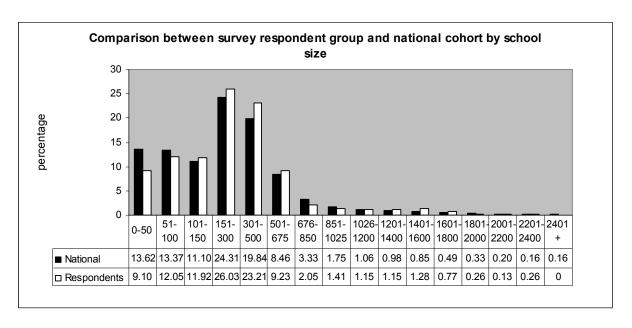


Figure 3

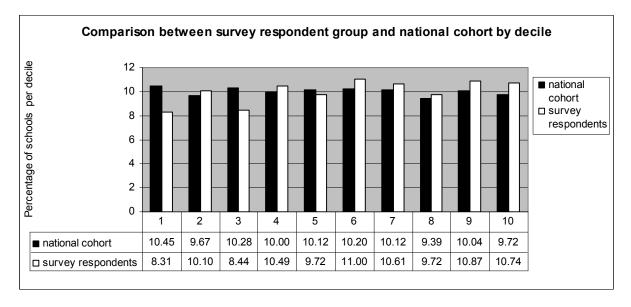


Figure 4

### **APPENDIX 3: U GRADES**

1.	U-GRADE	2.	Roll size
3.	1	4.	1-50
5.	2	6.	51-100
7.	3	8.	101-150
9.	4	10.	151-300
11.	5	12.	301-500
13.	6	14.	501-675
15.	7	16.	676-850
17.	8	18.	851-1025
19.	9	20.	1026-1200
21.	10	22.	1201-1400
23.	11	24.	1401-1600
25.	12	26.	1601-1800
27.	13	28.	1801-2000
29.	14	30.	2001-2,200
31.	15	32.	2,201-2,400
33.	16	34.	2,401+

### APPENDIX 4: SOME APPROXIMATE CALCULATIONS OF BOARD RUNNING COSTS

	School size	Student numbers	No of school boards	Cost to govern: includes annual payments to trustees, at an estimated cost \$3500 per board, but does not include cost of NZSTA support, and training and other forms of board support, including school support advisers and independent consultants.	Cost of governance per student
Group A (approx 50% of students)	Up to 500 students	376,683	2043	\$7,150,000	\$18.98
Group B (approx 50% of students)	More than 500 students	374,845	439	\$1,536,500	\$4.09
	School size	Student numbers	No of school boards	Cost to govern: includes annual payments to trustees, at an estimated cost \$3500 per board, but does not include cost of NZSTA support, and training and other forms of board support, including school support advisers and independent consultants.	
Group A	Up to 300 students	204,698	1594	\$5,579,000	\$27.25
Group B	More than 300 students	547,019	889	\$3,111,500	\$5.60

	School size	Student numbers	No of school boards	Cost to govern: includes annual payments to trustees, at an estimated cost \$3500 per board, but does not include cost of NZSTA support, and training and other forms of board support, including school support advisers and independent consultants.	Cost of governance per student
Group A	Up to 150 students	73,667	987	\$3,454,000	\$46.88
Group B	More than 150 students	678,200	1473	\$5,155,500	\$7.60

### **APPENDIX 5: STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

**Table 1**: Comparison of mean rating scores at p < 0.05 (all independent samples t-tests unless stated) for Questions 34, 35, 39, 42 (no differences found) and 58

Eta squared was used to calculate the effect sizes.

Question	Principal characteristics	School characteristics	Cost of appraisal
Q34. BOT follows appraisal process as set out in agreement (1=followed 4 = not followed)			Appraisal cost (\$1000-\$2000) mean (1.43) rated lower than appraisal cost (\$0-\$1000) (1.63) [1-way anova test]. The magnitude of the difference was small (eta squared = 0.018)
(lower mean is more positive)			
Q35. The appraisal process contributes to Principal prof. dev. (1= very useful 4 = not useful at all)  (lower mean is more positive)	Lower mean rating if principal is below 55 years old (mean = 1.85 compared to 1.99). The magnitude of the difference was very small (eta squared = 0.006)  Lower mean rating if principal has been in role for less than 10 years (mean = 1.82 compared to 2.00). The magnitude of the difference was very small (eta squared = 0.010)  Lower mean rating if principal has		
	completed the First-time Principal Programme (mean = 1.80 compared to 1.96). The magnitude of the difference was very small (eta squared = 0.008)  Lower mean rating if principal is female (mean = 1.82 compared to 1.98). The magnitude of the difference was very small (eta squared = 0.009)		
Q39. Number of years the principal has been appraised by their current appraiser (range = 0 to 19 years)	Higher mean rating if principal is 50 yrs or older (mean = 2.38 compared to 1.85). The magnitude of the difference was small (eta squared = 0.016)  Higher mean rating if principal is 55 yrs or older (mean = 2.49 compared to 2.01). The magnitude of the difference was small (eta squared = 0.011).  Higher mean rating if principal has been in role for 10 or more years (mean = 2.66 compared to 1.76). The magnitude of the difference was small to moderate (eta squared = 0.043)  Higher mean rating if principal has not completed the First-time Principal Programme (mean = 2.51 compared to 1.65). The magnitude of the difference was moderate (eta squared = 0.050)  Higher mean rating if principal is male (mean = 2.40 compared to 1.90). The magnitude of the	Higher mean rating if school is decile 5 or below (2.32 compared to 1.99). The magnitude of the difference was very small (eta squared = 0.006)  Lower mean rating if school is U3 or smaller (1.88 compared to 2.30). The magnitude of the difference was moderately large (eta squared = 0.10)	

	difference was small (eta squared = 0.015)		
Q58. Principal does not find relationship with BOT stressful (1= not stressful 4 = very stressful) (lower mean is more positive)		Lower mean rating for town schools (1.29) over rural schools (1.45) [1-way anova test]. The magnitude of the difference was very small (eta squared = 0.008)	Lower mean rating if less than \$3000 spent [1-way anova test] (Mean = 1.92 for \$3000+ vs 1.41, 1.40, 1.32 respectively for other lower categories). The magnitude of the difference was small (eta squared = 0.025)

**Table 2**: Comparison of mean rating scores at p < 0.05 (all independent samples t-tests unless stated) for Question 44 – quality of external help

Eta squared was used to calculate the effect sizes.

Question	Principal characteristics	School characteristics	Cost of appraisal (no differences)
Q44a. sharing problems with other principals and seeking their advice			,
Q44b. advice and support from Ministry of Education (1= very helpful 4 = not helpful at all) (lower mean is more positive)	Lower mean rating if principal is below 50 years old (mean = 2.09 compared to 2.31). The magnitude of the difference was small (eta squared = 0.019)  Lower mean rating if principal is below 55 years old (mean = 2.15 compared to 2.36). The magnitude of the difference was small (eta squared = 0.011).  Lower mean rating if principal has been in role for less than 10 years (mean = 2.09 compared to 2.39). The magnitude of the difference was small (eta squared = 0.026)  Lower mean rating if principal has completed the First-time Principal Programme (mean = 2.06 compared to 2.33). The magnitude of the difference was small (eta squared = 0.020)  Lower mean rating if principal is female (mean = 2.08 compared to 2.32). The magnitude of the difference was small (eta squared = 0.016)	Lower mean rating if school is U3 or smaller (2.02 compared to 2.31). The magnitude of the difference was small (eta squared = 0.023)  Lower mean rating for rural schools (2.06) over city schools (2.33) [1-way anova test]. The magnitude of the difference was small (eta squared = 0.017)	
Q44c. advice and support from Principals' Federation or SPANZ	No differences found		
Q44d. advice and support from NZEI or PPTA	No differences found		
Q44e. advice and support from NZSTA (1= very helpful 4 = not helpful at all) (lower mean is more positive)	Lower mean rating if principal has been in role for less than 10 years (mean = 1.50 compared to 1.83). The magnitude of the difference was small to moderate (eta squared = 0.041)  Lower mean rating if principal has completed the First-time Principal Programme (mean = 1.53 compared to 1.71). The magnitude of the difference was very small (eta squared = 0.013).  Lower mean rating if principal is female	Lower mean rating if school is decile 5 or less (1.56 compared to 1.70). The magnitude of the difference was very small (eta squared = 0.009)	

	(mean = 1.46 compared to 1.79). The magnitude of the difference was small to moderate (eta squared = 0.046)		
Q44f. advice and support from Principals' Advisor (Team Solutions) (1= very helpful	Lower mean rating if principal is below 50 years old (mean = 1.99 compared to 2.24). The magnitude of the difference was small (eta squared = 0.014)	Lower mean rating if school is U3 or smaller (1.79 compared to 2.34). The magnitude of the difference was moderate (eta squared = 0.067)	
4 = not helpful at all)	Lower mean rating if principal has been in role for less than 10 years (mean = 1.99	Lower mean rating for rural schools (1.91) over city schools (2.35) [1-way	
(lower mean is more positive)	compared to 2.35). The magnitude of the difference was small (eta squared = 0.025)	anova test]. The magnitude of the difference was small (eta squared = 0.036)	
	Lower mean rating if principal has completed the First-time Principal Programme (mean = 1.96 compared to 2.28). The magnitude of the difference was small (eta squared = 0.023).		
	Lower mean rating if principal is female (mean = 1.81 compared to 2.40). The magnitude of the difference was moderate (eta squared = 0.079)		

**Table 3**: Comparison of mean rating scores at p < 0.05 (all independent samples t-tests unless stated) for Question 52 – principals' perception of their BOT

Eta squared was used to calculate the effect sizes.

Question	Principal characteristics	School characteristics	Cost of appraisal (no differences)
Q52a. The BOT has an agreed vision for the school (1=yes; 2=usually; 3=not really; 4=no) (lower mean is more positive)	Lower mean rating if principal is female (mean = 1.30 compared to 1.42). The magnitude of the difference was very small (eta squared = 0.009)	Lower mean rating if school is U4 or larger (1.32 compared to 1.44). The magnitude of the difference was very small (eta squared = 0.006)  Lower mean rating if school is State Integrated rather than State (1.24 compared to 1.38). The magnitude of the difference was very small (eta squared = 0.008)  Lower mean rating for city schools (1.29) over rural schools (1.44) [1-way anova test]. The magnitude of the difference was very small (eta	
Q52b. The BOT works systematically towards achieving its vision (1=yes; 2=usually; 3=not really; 4=no) (lower mean is more positive)		squared = 0.011)  Lower mean rating if school is U4 or larger (1.70 compared to 1.85). The magnitude of the difference was very small (eta squared = 0.009)  Lower mean rating for city schools (1.66) over rural schools (1.82) [1-way anova test]. The magnitude of the difference was very small (eta squared = 0.010)  Lower mean rating if school is decile 6 or higher (1.68 compared to 1.82). The magnitude of the difference was very small (eta squared = 0.007)	
Q52c. The BOT works cooperatively with the Principal to achieve its goals (1=yes; 2=usually; 3=not really; 4=no)		Lower mean rating if school is U4 or larger (1.38 compared to 1.52). The magnitude of the difference was very small (eta squared = 0.008)	

(lower mean is more positive)			
Q52d. The BOT leaves the Principal to decide how and when goals should be achieved			
Q52e. The BOT gives the Principal clear direction (1=yes; 2=usually; 3=not really; 4=no)		Lower mean rating if school is U4 or larger (2.11 compared to 2.30). The magnitude of the difference was small (eta squared = 0.011)  Lower mean rating if school is decile	
(lower mean is more positive)		6 or higher (2.06 compared to 2.29). The magnitude of the difference was small (eta squared = 0.019)	
Q52f. The BOT meetings are structured and focus on governance issues (1=yes; 2=usually; 3=not really; 4=no)	Lower mean rating if principal is 55 years or older (mean = 1.55 compared to 1.69). The magnitude of the difference was very small (eta squared = 0.009)	Lower mean rating if school is U4 or larger (1.58 compared to 1.79). The magnitude of the difference was small (eta squared = 0.019)  Lower mean rating for city schools (1.56) over rural schools (1.75) [1-	
(lower mean is more positive)		way anova test]. The magnitude of the difference was very small (eta squared = 0.008)	