

PPTA ICT Advisory Committee meeting notes 16 June 2017

Notes of the ICT Advisory Committee meeting held at PPTA National Office in Wellington on 16 June 2017

- Ministry of Education – Centralised purchasing and TELA
- School Library Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (SLANZA)
- Digital Technologies curriculum
- University of Auckland STEM project
- Updating PPTA Digital Communications resource
- Next meeting 20 November 2017

Ministry of Education – Centralised purchasing and TELA

The committee were pleased to welcome Kirsty Farquharson and Ian MacDonald from the Ministry of Education to discuss centralised purchasing and give the committee an update on the teacher laptop scheme (TELA)

The Ministry centrally purchase for schools a small range of hardware, the internet connection (N4L), and minimal software. The Ministry also fund the ICT helpdesk – The Connected Learning Advisory - and the VLN video conferencing suite.

[The Connected Learning Advisory](#)

Plagiarism detection software

Plagiarism detection software has been a hot topic in the committee. Some schools can afford software like Turnitin while others resort to using free online tools. It is essential that every school uses the same plagiarism-detection software because it evens the playing field. Especially as detecting plagiarism is required by NZQA.

Teach students to collaborate not copy.

How many schools are using plagiarism detection software?

Another issues that came up in this space is the way NZQA manages digital submission of assessments and the NZQA process when they suspect plagiarism.

Back-up of data

The committee also observed that secure and safe back-up of school data is essential – and that this is another service where central provision should be considered.

Kirsty (MoE) talked about the balance that the Ministry has to manage between the autonomy of the self-governing schools framework while recognising that some things are better managed via a collective system level view.

TELA laptops for teachers and principals

The current contract ends February 2018. The Ministry has put out a request for proposals which included a request for information on different types and ranges of devices. The contract will be to the same service levels. The Ministry is asking “is there another way of doing this that might work better?”

The Ministry is setting up a group of stakeholders to look at the proposals – pros and cons. The Ministry have invited representatives from the PPTA ICT Advisory Committee to be part of this group.

[FAQs about the TELA scheme](#)

Funding of TELA laptops for teachers

Some boards of trustees still do not pay the laptop lease contribution, which means teachers have to pay for a tool that is essential to their work.

Some boards are also asking teachers to pay for software required by the school which is beyond the TELA base offering.

The PPTA ICT Advisory Committee has discussed at length the unfairness of some teachers in some schools having to pay for an essential work tool, their laptop.

The use of digital technologies in the classroom has been shown to be a catalyst for learning for many students - and schools and teachers should have fair and equitable access to the tools they need to take our classrooms into the future.

We strongly recommend that Boards provide TELA laptops and required software for their teachers at no financial cost to the teacher.

School Library Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (SLANZA)

SLANZA Executive member Clare Forrest was invited to talk with the committee about SLANZA and some of their current concerns including:

- There is no government or education mandate that there must be a school library in a school. So when money or space is tight – the school library is often used as a classroom. This is despite evidence that the school library is a valuable resource for teaching and learning –

[Why school libraries matter](#)

- School librarians are keen to support the whole school including teacher professional learning groups.
- Ask your school librarian to help you learn to use EPIC - Through EPIC schools can access databases containing curriculum related content from thousands of up-to-date, full text international and New Zealand magazines, newspapers, biographies, substantial reference works, images, e-books, multi-media resources and much more.

[EPIC](#)

- School libraries are often a good place to access new technology.
- School librarians can teach school students and staff online searching skills and information literacy.
- Issues around the changed National Library lending service for schools. Many schools are struggling with this.

[School loans](#)

John recommended Lynda.com - Try accessing it through your school library

[Lynda.com "To help you learn the skills you need to achieve your full potential."](#)

The committee are very supportive of school library services and also noted that school libraries are often the place where students go to feel safe. Having a school library in a school/community 'hub' is just as important as having health services.

The committee will continue to invite a SLANZA executive representative to a meeting each year and hope we can work together on some issues.

Digital Technologies curriculum

PPTA representatives on the Digital Technologies curriculum working groups, John Creighton and Judie Alison, gave the committee an overview of the work being done. The Change and Enablement group are meeting fortnightly and being asked to review materials as they are produced. Timelines are tight, the workload is high and there are issues with language – it varies from the language teachers are familiar with and the language of the NZ curriculum.

Concern was also expressed that there is a feeling that the Minister may not realise what a large amount of professional learning and development (PLD) will be required to implement the changes. Change takes time.

There needs to be an evaluation project running alongside the implementation.

The draft curriculum is now available for submissions/comment.

[Strengthening Digital Technologies Hangarau Matihiko in the curriculum - consultation](#)

University of Auckland STEM project

Carolyn Stuart updated the committee on the University of Auckland STEM Project – this project is an initiative to increase the number of secondary school students successfully completing NCEA studies in STEM subjects beginning with Mathematics and Physics.

The project is achieving this by making online courses (STEM Courses) available to students, teachers and schools, particularly in the schools that find it difficult to recruit and retain experienced teachers for the STEM subjects. They have a MOU with FarNet to assist with support for those schools and teachers in firstly registering their students with the UOA and helping with any technical issues.

It is currently being offered to all secondary schools and kura in Tai Tokerau who are mainly low decile schools with the intention of rolling it out across the country or where the need may be.

[STEM online NZ: Project overview](#)

Graham Aitken (University of Auckland) has accepted an invitation to the November meeting of the Committee.

Updating PPTA Digital Communications resource

[PPTA Digital Communication guide](#) (2014)

Two additional sections Publishing Student Work, and Photographing / Filming Students in the Classroom and at School will be added to the guidelines.

The committee requested that an addition be made to the advice on Photographing / Filming Students in the Classroom and at School to include some advice for schools regarding parents sharing photographs of other students.

This issue was discussed in a NZ Herald news article:

[Social media warning to parents from school](#)

Next meeting

Monday 20 November 2017, at PPTA National Office Wellington

Get in touch

If you want more information, or wish to raise an issue with the committee contact ict@ppta.org.nz