A photograph of two Muppet puppets, Statler and Waldorf, sitting on a red balcony railing. They are both wearing dark suits and have their characteristic grumpy expressions. The background shows red curtains and a gold rope.

Statler (Hamish) and Waldorf (Leo), a monthly vent from the balcony.....

(often referred to as a bit of dribble from two crusty old principals)

Welcome back Principals! Hamish and I hope that this months rant and update finds you safe, dry, brimmed full of energy and with your teams already well into the learning grove.

That said, for many of you the reality will probably be more akin to dealing with storm damage, trying to finalize staffing, induction for new families, first Board meetings, consultation, data collection, launching into new projects and potentially trying to avoid advertised gang brawls, or Endeavour Schools case a 2.59pm lockdown!

Before we launch into this weeks Rant, Hamish and I did want to take a moment to acknowledge all the communities, schools and families who have been sorely impacted by the cyclone. We are thinking about you and our prayers and best wishes go out to you all.

What's a Principal Worth?

PUMS for Principals-Offer

The militant side of me was delighted when late last term the Principals collectively and overwhelmingly rejected the Ministry's offer to settle our Collective Agreement bargaining. I think we are finally (amen) now in a position after being beaten up for years, missing out in previous campaigns and generally feeling a little under valued, that we are collectively prepared to fight. The Ministry has made a new offer which we are set to vote on in the near future. My earnest advice as a crusty old, long serving educator to all principals is that **before** you say yes, you consider:

- Is a \$4000 one off U Grade incentive going to make your lives better? For those of you who are math challenged, \$4000 minus tax isn't \$4000.
- **Secondary were offered \$6000.** Do they work harder?
- What does the offer look like in regards to the current % increase in inflation?
- Will it factor in inflation over the next three years, as it is realistic to consider once we are done, we can't go back.
- Just because the MOE state that this is their best offer, does this mean we have to accept it.
- Is it worth a little more short term pain and loss, for some longer term affirmation and remediation.

Does the offer make you feel valued or add appeal to the role?

Curriculum Rollout- The Ongoing Saga.....

We'd like to think in most cases that within the MOE most things are planned rationally and carefully. That said, the current curriculum rollout still has me a little perplexed around; the speed of roll out, fractured nature of resource release, the limited access to curriculum advisers (who are amazing), the pause around some of the associated progressions and a general lack of clarity after 3 years of what things **should** look like in schools today. As mentioned in previous rants, we love the intent, focus areas and potential but there seems to be a massive amount of work needing to be done before we see it being effectively actualised in schools.

We were pleased to read the second paragraph pictured below in the recent **Principal Matters** mailing that highlighted how 'ambitious' the current approach was and that as schools **we need to be very mindful of our context, load on our people and carefully consider how we proceed**. Remember we are self governing, we get to choose.

A timely reminder not to get caught up in doing everything, as opposed to doing one or two things really well. Hamish and I do feel like hypocrites for waxing on around this, as our teams would probably argue that going slowly and patiently is not our forte.

Pou Rua - NZ Curriculum refresh - Te Mataiaho

Heidi Hayward, Karen Brisco, Jen Rodgers, Blair Dravitski

General statement of focus:

Our focus is to ensure that principals are supported with sufficient professional learning to enable our education sector to transition from the NZC to Te Mataiaho. We are conscious of the considerable changes afoot right now and our priority will be advocating for the Ministry to provide appropriate information, training and resources to support principals through the implementation of Te Mataiaho, while being mindful of the wellbeing of tumuaki and staff.

Introduction to the work:

The timeline for the rollout of the refreshed NZ Curriculum is ambitious and, while we support the mahi, we are concerned that the workload could overwhelm our schools. NZPF will be closely monitoring the rollout and listening to our colleagues to ensure that it does not cause overload. We welcome members' feedback to any pou member.



Criminal Caught After Cutting Off 37 Man Buns In One Day, Claims He "Was Doing The Lord's Work"

February 10, 2023 Bonine



2K 2K SHARES

Los Angeles, CA- Craig Ledbetter (33), has been placed into custody after reports came in from all over Downtown Los Angeles that a man had been seen running up to other men and cutting off their "Man Buns".

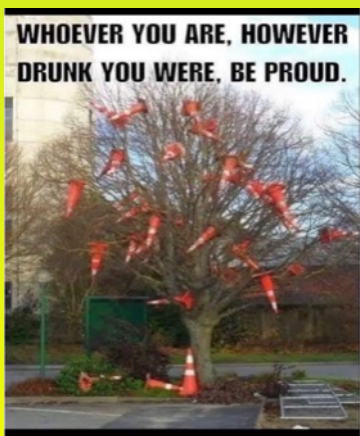
Hope on the Horizon

As blokes who does spend a lot of time whining about bureaucracy, the Ministry, the Labour government's and lots of other things, we did want a moment in this months rant and strategic moan to acknowledge a few good things. Pom poms out.....

1. Late last term the Ministry of Education appointed new Principal Leaders Liaison Officers to serve as a conduit between schools and the Ministry. These individuals will support principals across the motu sound off, rant, seek clarity and generally assist us to navigate the turbulent waters we face. It is important to note that all the appointments are current, experienced principals with cool heads and great connections.

The Waikato is very lucky in that Nesan Govender has been appointed to assist. For those of you who don't know Nesan, he has a raft of large and small school experience, has helped establish CoL, worked internationally, served on the WPC and enjoyed great success as an educationalist in a range of roles. Despite being short, owning a questionable passport, having quirky sense of humour and now going to the dark side and working for the MOE, he is a top bloke. Nesan has indicated he is now available to assist or talk, should you wish to take up this offer of support.

Nesan.Govender@education.govt.nz



2. MOE Emergency Fund -Storm Damage

It is worth noting that the MOE team in the Waikato have set up an emergency fund that can be accessed fairly quickly to address immediate needs. **This fund can be sourced in negotiation with your MOE Property Adviser** and the process is not arduous. I have talked to several principals who have waxed on about receiving and an initial \$2000, quickly followed by another \$10,000. This is a great step from the MOE, as most of you will be aware this would normally fall under R&M or insurance.

With a Lens Towards Cultural Sustaining Practice:

Worth Reading:

<https://e-tangata.co.nz/reflection/s/dial-a-maori-and-other-mistakes-pakeha-make/>

Worth Viewing: (Waikato Histories Doco)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgZT0_8Hpw0&t=2099s

Reminder if you have anything worth sharing, moaning about please email Hamish or Leo. If you are upset, want to complain about us or disagree with statements made, please email someone else on the committee.