Briefing Note: Hawke’s Bay Primary Principals Association Annual Conference

To: Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education

Date: 10 July 2019
Priority: Medium

Security Level: In Confidence
METIS No: 1198435

Draster: Grace Darkins

Key Contact: Joana Johnston

Messaging seen by Communications team: No

Round Robin: No

Purpose of paper

The briefing provides a letter for the Prime Minister to send to the Hawke’s Bay Principals Association. The Prime Minister was invited to speak at the Association’s annual conference but is unable to attend. Your office requested this letter be accompanied by a briefing, describing issues the Association may want to raise with officials and the Government at this time.

Summary

- The Prime Minister received a request from Maurice Rehu, president of the Hawke’s Bay Primary Principals Association (HBPPA), to attend the HBPPA annual conference being held in Taupo on 28 – 30 August 2019.

- Due to her unavailability, your office has requested that a letter (Annex 1) be drafted on her behalf, which may be read aloud at the conference.

- At the request of your office, this briefing also includes information on issues the Association is likely to want to raise with officials and the Government at this time.
Proactive release

Agree that this briefing will **not** be proactively released at this time as it concerns a conference that is yet to be held.

Agree to provide this briefing and the letter attached to the Prime Minister’s Office.

Joana Johnston  
**Acting Deputy Secretary**  
**Strategy Planning and Governance**  
10/07/2019

Agree  Disagree

Hon Chris Hipkins  
**Minister of Education**  
16/7/19
Background

1. The Prime Minister received a request from Maurice Rehu, president of the Hawke's Bay Primary Principals Association (HBPPA), to attend the HBPPA annual conference being held in Taupo between 28 – 30 August 2019. The theme for the conference is ‘Manaakitanga in Leadership’.

2. Due to the Prime Minister's inability to attend, Annex 1 provides a letter to the HBPPA, which may be read aloud at the conference. The letter gives her apologies and provides information about the exciting Education Work Programme underway. It acknowledges feedback that was heard through the Kōrero Mātauranga and expresses that the Prime Minister looks forward to Hawke's Bay principals continuing to engage with this work.

3. The following section provides information on issues the Association is likely to want to raise with officials and the Government at this time, at the request of your office.

Issues that may be priorities for the HBPPA

4. The following issues are likely to be front of mind for many principals across New Zealand.

   **Primary Principals' Collective Agreement**

   Following the rejection of the Ministry of Education's latest collective agreement in June, primary and intermediate principals who are NZEI Te Riu Roa members have voted to stop communication with the Ministry and cease participation in any Ministry-led work groups, taskforces or meetings. The Ministry continues to negotiate with NZEI in good faith.

   **Teacher supply**

   Many principals have ongoing concerns with teacher supply.

   Prior to Budget 2019, the Government invested around $40 million in a variety of initiatives to increase the number of teachers in schools. The Budget announced the investment of an additional $95 million. This will support an increase of 2,480 teachers in New Zealand schools by 2023.

   2018 Ministry data shows more people are training to be teachers, more teachers are entering the workforce and more teachers are staying in the profession.

   **Teacher workload**

   Many principals have ongoing concerns with teacher workload.

   We have set up a Joint Taskforce with sector representatives, to identify changes to compliance and administration activities, and remove wasted effort. The Taskforce used a structured lean and waste-reduction approach, worked closely with principals and education agencies, including the Ministry, and identified 14 opportunities with the greatest potential to reduce workload. Action plans are in place for 13 of these. Nine have been implemented, and are already showing results.

   The Ministry is also developing new online services to speed up the process for schools to apply for funds and grants, such as for Learning Support, and centrally-funded Professional Learning and Development.
The future of Communities of Learning | Kāhui Ako

After the recent announcement that the new teachers pay offer will be part-funded from unspent funding previously allocated for Communities of Learning | Kāhui Ako, principals are likely to want to know what this means for the future of Kāhui Ako. While no new Kāhui Ako will be approved, at this stage, schools and early learning services can still join, withdraw or move between existing Kāhui Ako, as was previously the case.

Extension of the School Donation Scheme to decile 8-10 schools

Following the Budget 2019 announcement that $150 per child will be provided to every decile 1-7 school that agrees not to ask families for donations, some principals from decile 8-10 schools have expressed that they are feeling "short changed."

The Government’s position is that they had to start somewhere, and so started with the schools that were least likely to be able to raise funds from their communities. The ultimate goal is to ensure cost is not a barrier to participation in education.

Release of the final Tomorrow’s Schools Review Report

Many principals are anticipating the release of the final Tomorrow's Schools Review Report, which you received on 2 July and could mean big changes to governance, management and administration in the school system.

Once Cabinet has had the opportunity to consider the final Report, decisions will be made about its public release.