

A SOUTH AUCKLAND PRINCIPAL'S ASSOCIATION

Sabbatical Research

By Rex Maddren

Aims of the Research

The purpose of the research is to meet with the Waitakere Area Principal's Association in order to try and find out what makes the group so successful for its members and to see if this can be replicated in the South Auckland area for their benefit.

Education Centre

An independent Education Centre has existed in West Auckland for as long as the Principal's Association. In South Auckland we have recently lost two centres run by the university. An opportunity exists to establish an independent Education Centre for South Auckland schools similar to the West Auckland centre.

WAPA – Mission Statement

To provide collegial support, to promote professional development and

To actively develop the role of principals in the Waitakere Area.

Objectives : In the Waitakere Area.....

- 1) To be the key player in collegial and social support
- 2) To co-ordinate PD activities
- 3) To be a political voice for education in the area
- 4) Educate the public on educational matters
- 5) Promote quality education for all students in Waitakere

WAPA - Structure

6 Sub-clusters with two representatives each at Executive

Committee level

Henderson

Te Atatu

Kelston – (Kelston, New Lynn, Glen Eden, Lainghlom)

North West –(Massey, Kumeu)

South West - (Blockhouse Bay)

Waitakere Area High Schools

WAPA – Benefits (1)

Networking amongst principals.

Growth and support of leaders.

Purpose is more local – more focussed.

Local initiatives for local issues.

Access to quality speakers : national and international.

No competition, in-fighting, boundary issues.

Relationships between leaders are very strong and positive.

WAPA – Benefits (2)

Political voice.

Close links with the High Schools.

Professional Learning Groups.

Set up Trusts : 20/20 Learning
Piha Education Centre
Learning Network NZ.

Mentoring from local experts for new and first time principals.

Friends : WAPA is supportive.

WAPA – 20/20 Learning.

This is a learning initiative driven by WAPA focussing on where children in Waitakere will be by the year 2020.

It has similarities to SEMO, MEI and PAI and has some support from the Ministry of Education but it is owned and driven by the Waitakere Area Principal's Association .

To date 12 pilot schools have scoped the project.

Where the Association fits.

- NZPF - National Body
- APPA - Regional Association
- WAPA - District Association
- Local Associations - Clusters in suburbs

Vision for South Auckland

My proposal explores the opportunities that exist for a similar Association for South Auckland schools under these headings.

- Representation
- Advocacy
- Professional Development
- Collaboration
- Pastoral Care

Representation

Opportunities : Stronger representation with...

- Ministry of Education
- Other Ministries e.g Police, MSD, Health, Housing
- Local Ward Members – new council structure
- APPA, NZEI, NZPF
- Feedback to and feedback from local clusters

•Strengths

More united decision making and a greater voice
with large agencies.

Advocacy

Opportunities :

A collective voice with which we can air concerns about issues common to our district and seek remedial action. e.g. National Standards, loss of Education Centres, Truancy, Transience, GSE, Social Services etc.

Strengths

A united and credible voice on issues that impact upon South Auckland schools in particular.

Professional Development

Opportunities : Access to

- National and international speakers
- Support from our own Education Centre
- A Counties-Manukau Annual Conference
- District wide mentoring and support for principals

Strengths

Professional development tailored towards the unique needs of the area. Greater size gives more opportunity to access quality professional development.

Collaboration

Opportunities : Create the ability to

- Set up Working Action Groups on key issues
- Run district wide sporting and cultural events
- Bulk purchase services and products
- Source sponsorship and partnerships
- Develop our own local Education Centre

Strengths:

The greater size and geographic clustering makes many initiatives easier to achieve and on a greater scale.

Pastoral Care

Opportunities : To enhance ...

- Principal networking and mentoring
- Strong relationships across the district
- A sense of collective unity, support and care
- Opportunities to recognise and value the work of principals
- The ability to meet and share with principals from other clusters

•Strengths

A wider pool of local experts to support new principals and drive local initiatives which address local needs.

Education Centre

The Current Situation.

- Both the Manukau and Papakura centres have been closed
- Advisers are only available for Literacy, Numeracy and National Standards

Kohia is the nearest centre

Team Solutions is driven by MOE and University directives

Beginning teacher courses are available but tutors are external

Education Centre

The Learning Network NZ Example

- An integral part of WAPA and both support each other
- Is an independent organisation
- Provides venue, resources and PD for WAPA
- Markets itself Auckland wide
- Offers support in all curricula and with WAPA's needs in mind
- Management Committee is made up from WAPA members

Education Centre

Opportunities For South Auckland

- *Manukau, Papakura and Franklin all have councils which may leave a legacy for education in the area
- *COMET and the MIT Campus still exist
- *A sister centre relationship with Learning Network NZ may be possible
- *Sponsorship and business partnerships can be explored
- *With commitment, we can achieve this by ourselves

Possible Structure

- 6 Sub Clusters, each having two representatives on the committee
- A part-time co-ordinator (Preferably a retired principal from the area)
- Mutual membership between the association and Ed. Centre
- Open to all South Auckland principals
- A constitution based along the lines of the WAPA one which is on line
- President and Vice President elected at AGM and separate from cluster representation.

Possible Structure

Six Sub-Clusters

Manurewa

Mangere

Manukau – Papatoetoe, Otahuhu, Otara

Papakura – Papakura, Hunua

Counties – Franklin, Pukekohe, Waiuku

South Auckland High Schools

Possible Structure

Meetings Schedule

Executive Meetings x 1 per term

Regular Meetings x 1 per term

WAGs as required

Conference x 1 per year

Executive and regular full meetings will be breakfast meetings at suitable venues to be decided upon.

Where to next?

Commitment

- We need clusters to consider the proposal and commit
- A representative steering committee needs to be formed
- A timeline, constitution and initial AGM need to be planned
- We need to explore the viability of an Education Centre and seek support from schools as well as sponsors / partners

What do we need?

Resources / Partnerships

- A suitable venue for meetings
- A suitable and affordable venue for an Education Centre
- Sponsorship and business partnerships
- Income streams and suitable staff for the Education Centre
- Links with WAPA and Learning network NZ
- A committed and iconic principal to be our first president

Ideas to Consider.

- Lobbying councils and ward members for property and setup funding as a legacy to South Auckland education
- *Possibly schools would consider donating 0.1.or 0.05 of staffing for a short period of time to start things off and show our support
- *Linking with other organisations e.g. COMET, NZEI, MIT, Learning Network NZ
- *Approach the MOE for initial support for 12 to 24 months

Comments From WAPA

- Go for it!!!
- Go with the early adopters – you don't need everybody
- Create a common purpose
- Inclusion of the High schools in crucial
- An ex-principal as a paid, part-time E.O is the ideal
- We need resources to support our principals, our children
and our schools