

Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviour



LETTER from the RTLB Principals' Working Group

Work on the RTLB Transformation is well underway. We will continue to keep you informed of any changes that will affect your school. More information can be found on TKI at: <http://rtlb.tki.org.nz/Transforming-RTLb-service>

Dear Colleagues

A number of you have highlighted concerns you have regarding the RTLB Transformation following the distribution of the RTLB newsletter earlier this week. As your representatives on the RTLB Transformation Principals' Working Group, we feel it is important to contact you directly and provide the latest information.

The transformation of the RTLB service was announced by Minister Tolley in late September 2010 at the RTLB annual conference. You will have received a letter from the Ministry informing you of this last October. The Minister referred to the ERO 2009 review of RTLB clusters recommendations as guiding the key design changes. These were:

- keeping the service school-based was seen as important but a need for fewer clusters was identified
- reducing the number of clusters was seen as a way to help reduce variability in practice and encourage better coordination of local services
- targeting resources and funding to where they could make the most difference along with a clearer accountability for how they are used.

It is important to note that the RTLB Transformation is not designed to reduce the total number of RTLB across New Zealand. Moreover, individual RTLB will not have to move from where they currently work, except where the RTLB resource has been captured or used as a special class teacher by a school. It is important that RTLB are located in RTLB satellite schools across a cluster to remain close to the schools that they are servicing across a geographical area.

To provide advice to help shape the details of these changes, the Ministry approached our education groups to provide nominations for the Principals' Working Group. The nominations were considered by the Ministry. Over the page are the names and positions of those of us representing the different education groups. Each representative is happy to be contacted by members of their respective groups.

As a group, we have met once last year and twice this year to work on the details of the transformation so the design can be completed by July this year. This deadline was set so the remainder of 2011 could be used to appoint the Lead Schools, Cluster Managers and RTLB Practice Leaders. This will be a priority so that the new clusters will be ready and operational at the beginning of 2012.

At these working group meetings, we had to keep in mind the parameters for the change as set by the Minister and pragmatic factors whilst designing the changes. This will enable the successful implementation of the transformation.

We are putting forward our views to the Ministry and shaping the design work to be cognisant of these factors as we work through the details. It is important to note there are a number of things that are still unknown. These include employment issues that the Ministry is working through with the unions in a separate process.

In December, we discussed the issues regarding the changes announced by the Minister. This included shifting resources to areas with identified needs and designing the structure to significantly improve the service. Read our full message from the December meeting: <http://rtlb.tki.org.nz/Transforming-RTLB-service/Principals-Working-Group/December-2010-meeting>

In February we discussed the factors that would influence the RTLb resource reallocation formulae and the principles behind having an average cluster size of around 20 RTLb. Read our full message from the February meeting: <http://rtlb.tki.org.nz/Transforming-RTLB-service/Principals-Working-Group/February-2011-meeting>

Our March meeting was held yesterday where we discussed details of the new governance and management structure that, includes:

- cluster make-up and boundaries
- roles and responsibilities of the Lead School Boards of Trustees, Principal, Cluster Manager, and RTLb Practice Leaders
- roles and requirements for RTLb satellite schools
- the process for Lead School appointments
- processes for Cluster Manager appointments.

Our full message from this meeting will be available next week on TKI and we will email you a copy of the message if requested.

As we did at previous meetings, we have asked our Ministry colleagues to revise the draft details of the new governance and management structure following our feedback. The proposed details will be made available on TKI over the next few weeks. A new set of frequently asked questions will also be developed and posted on TKI.

Our group is meeting again on May 11 and 12.

Early next week, the list of schools that will be in each proposed new cluster will be available on the RTLb TKI website <http://rtlb.tki.org.nz/Transforming-RTLB-service>. We understand that the Ministry will be organising regional meetings in June where we will share the completed findings. There will be an opportunity for some schools on a cluster boundary edge to raise any important local effects that need to be considered before the designs are finalised in July.

Yours sincerely,

The RTLb Principals' Working Group

Representative Members of the RTLB Principals' Working Group

Organisation	Name	School	Type	Decile	Additional Information
PPTA – SPC	Allan Vester	Edgewater College	Secondary (Year 7-15)	4	
NZPF	Brent Caldwell	Wakari School	Contributing	8	Host principal for 3 RTLB & 2 SLS
NZEI Principals Council	Charles Oliver	Wanganui Intermediate School	Intermediate	4	Host school for Intermediate/ Secondary RTLB cluster
NZSTA	James Le Marquand	Arohanui Special School	Special School	5	
Alternative Education	Kate Shevland	Orewa College	Secondary (Year 7-15)	9	
SPANZ	Michael Williams	Pakuranga College	Secondary (Year 7-15)	8	
NZPF	Phil Palfrey	Manurewa East School	Contributing	2	Host principal of 6 RTLB
NZAIMS	Phil Tappenden	Kirkwood Intermediate	Intermediate	7	Experience as RTLB cluster convenor
Pasifika Principals	Tone Kolose	Wymondley Road School	Contributing	1	Host principal of SLS
NZEI observer	Susan Elliot	-	-	-	