PPTA ICT Advisory Committee meeting notes 7April 2017

Notes of the ICT Advisory Committee meeting held at PPTA National Office in Wellington on 7 April 2017.

- Digital Technologies Hangarau Matihiko Curriculum Implementation Reference Group – update
- TELA and central purchasing
- 20/20 Trust – Stephen Carr
- Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) – Questions from the PPTA Senior Positions Advisory Committee
- Communities of online learning (COOLs)
- Update of Digital Communication Guidelines
- Draft Code of Professional Responsibility and Standards
- Nikki Kaye speech to the SPANZ Annual Conference
- N4L

Digital Technologies Hangarau Matihiko Curriculum Implementation Reference Group – update

Big questions remain about the resourcing for this project. PLD will be and is a big issue. There is confusion between digital fluency and digital technology. Members may find this link useful on Digital fluency:

Towards Digital Fluency (Ministry of Education website)

The next meeting of the Reference Group 20 June.

TELA and central purchasing

The committee welcomed Kirsty Farquharson and Ian MacDonald, from the Early Learning and Student Achievement team at the Ministry of Education, to the meeting. Kirsty and Ian noted that it was a good time to be having the TELA discussion as the TELA contract finishes at the end of February 2018 and work is underway to look at the future of the scheme and getting sector input about this.

There are 47,888 laptops in the scheme, which is the largest such leasing scheme in Australasia. 99% of schools are in the scheme, 27 schools do not participate in the scheme.

FAQs about the TELA scheme

Rachel asked, "How do we empower teachers to choose the right device for their subject, their learners and their own (teacher) needs?"

There was also discussion about laptop hardware and accessories: what choice teachers have and what support is available to make those choices. Many teachers

still use CDs and so need CD drives, others have preferences for a particular kind
of charger, multiple USB ports, touch screens, powerful processing power …

It was suggested that the TELA website could perhaps provide some
examples/stories of what different subject teachers might need and what TELA
device / configuration might fit that need.

Committee members believe that teachers should be offered access to training and
support when they are issued with a TELA laptop, for example they should be
shown the functionality of the TELA device, how to access / find their way around
the school system.

Issues that were raised include: infrastructure; access and security; equity; both students
and teachers have to be able to synch between/from home and school; ability and need
to use multiple devices according to task. Most – if not all – of the committee are using
multiple devices, for example TELA laptop, personal phone, iPad. They may be using
their TELA laptop to show something on screen but will be using another device to work
with students in groups and one-on-one during class.
Note: Whatever device we have - we are should be talking about learning and not the tool.
Support confidence to talk about learning pedagogy and not the device.

This was an engaging and useful discussion – the committee thanked Kirsty and Ian and
invited them back to the June meeting to discuss centralised purchasing.

20/20 Trust – Stephen Carr

The committee welcomed Stephen Carr, Executive Director of the 20/20 Trust, to the
meeting. Stephen introduced himself and talked about the history of the 20/20 Trust.

20/20 Trust programmes include:
Computers in Homes, which is in the process of being replaced and updated by an
alternative programme;
Stepping UP – free community based training for digital skills;
ICDL training (was International Computer Driving Licence, but preferred name is now
International Certificate of Digital Literacy); and
Kiwiskills – free computer training for job-seekers.

Some committee members were particularly interested in the Spark Jump programme –
"cheap, pre-paid broadband to young families without an internet connection to enhance
children's learning away from the school."

http://2020.org.nz/

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) – Questions from the PPTA Senior Positions Advisory Committee

PPTA staff member Rob Willetts joined the meeting to discuss questions about BYOD raised at a Senior Positions Advisory Committee (SPAC) meeting. The questions were grouped around Equity, professional learning and development (PLD), and 24/7 availability.

BYOD and Equity
Schools have found a variety of ways to deal with equity issues, some less successfully than others. The key is strategic thinking, planning, and implementation.
In one school all Year 9 students receive a Chromebook (funded by the school). Students can only take the Chromebook home if parents pay for insurance.
In another school it was noted that a BYOD requirement by some departments in the school and not others was troublesome – for parents and teachers as well as students.
The logistics of BYOD are also an issue, particularly charging devices. Some schools do not allow the charging of devices at school.
There was no simple solution for the issue of equity.

BYOD and Professional Learning and Development (PLD)
The committee recommended making PLD department-based and 1:1, not whole school. Schools can and should apply for PLD under digital fluency

[How can I access centrally-funded PLD?](#) (Ministry of Education website)

Also mentioned was flipped PLD and PLD of one hour a week, where school starts later one day a week.

Technology and workload - 24 hour 7 days a week teacher access
Schools should have a policy about this. It is important for leaders, teachers and students to talk about expectations and set boundaries. PPTA Branches also have a responsibility to talk with members and educate them on this issue.
A policy example from James Hargest College is shared below:

Your On-line Access to Teaching Staff at Hargest

The age of e-mail contact has had the effect of making teacher/parent and teacher/student communication much easier, and, as a result, much more frequent! Generally this has been very positive for all of us.

Whilst staff accessibility is encouraged, we have recognised the need for some guidelines in order to allow staff to "switch off" after normal work hours. (Part of being a "Good Employer").

Guidelines/Expectations

• We recognise that parents often send e-mails in evenings or weekends. (When they have time to attend to parenting issues!) However, staff are not expected to read or reply to e-mails after hours (ie during evenings, weekends or holidays).

• Staff response time will be **variable** according to their workload and teaching pressures. They are expected to acknowledge your email the next working day, and, where required, follow up with a more detailed response as soon as practicable (generally within two more days).

• Online accessibility of teachers by students follows the same guidelines, ie:
  • queries and questions may not be read or answered "after hours"
  • response times will vary
  • responses will be made as soon as practicable

James Hargest College Newsletter November 2016

The committee suggested simple tips – such as turning off your mobile phone notifications at night!

Communities of online learning (COOLs)

Tom Haig, PPTA Deputy General Secretary Policy, joined the meeting to provide an update on the Communities of Online Learning aspect of the Education Amendment (Update) Bill.

The PPTA policy on Online Schools was emailed to all committee members and is now available on the PPTA website.

PPTA position on Online Schools (PPTA website)

Update of Digital Communication Guidelines

The committee will update advice in the Digital Communications guidelines to include obtaining permission before taking student photographic images and/or publishing student work. This is in response to a letter expressing concern about schools' lack of awareness of this requirement.

Digital Communications Guide (PPTA website)

Draft Code of Professional Responsibility and Standards

Judie Alison provided an update for the committee and spoke to the draft PPTA submission. The committee asked a number of questions and made a couple of suggestions around the framing of 'social media' and digital technology.

Draft Code of Professional Responsibility and Standards for the Teaching Profession: Submission April 2017 (PPTA website)

Nikki Kaye speech to the SPANZ Annual Conference

The committee discussed Nikki Kaye's speech and acknowledged her clearly expressed interest and support of the use of digital technologies in schools and within the curriculum. They were pleased to see that her view of Communities of Online Learning appears to be one that continues to see students engaged in their local school while having other subject options more easily available and supported – much like the current VLN model.

Nikki Kaye Speech to SPANZ Annual Conference (Scoop website)

N4L

Carolyn Stuart (N4L) has been invited to the November meeting of the ICT committee.

Meeting closed at 3.50 pm

Post Script
Next meeting is **16 June**