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Principals & Deputy Principals Association Cumann Príomhoidí agus Príomhoidí Tánaisteacha

NEWSLETTER - Vol. 1.

Message from our President

Colleagues and friends it is a great honour for me as President of P.D.A. to wish you well for the academic year 2010-2011. If you are an active member of P.D.A. I would like to thank you for your involvement in the organisation. If you are not a member or a newly appointed Principal or Deputy Principal I would like to encourage you to do so for the following reasons:

- P.D.A. meets on a regional basis with a member of the National Executive serving your area and reporting to Executive meetings and the National Officers.
- P.D.A. offers professional development, in-service, collegiality and a network of experienced Principals and Deputy Principals to share concerns with.
- P.D.A. meets on a regular basis with T.U.I. which negotiates on our conditions of service with direct access to the General Secretary and staff.
- P.D.A. has a close working relationship with the General Secretary of the I.V.E.A. and the representatives of the Chief Executive Officers and the Education Officers of the V.E.C.'s.
- P.D.A. works closely with the representatives of the National Parents Association.

The past two years have been challenging for all Public Servants and our sector is no exception. We have experienced the loss of many experienced Principals, Deputy Principals and Teachers and the dismantling of our middle management structure which is so essential in our schools and colleges and the students entrusted to our care.

As we face into a new school year the priorities for P.D.A. are:

- An alleviation of the moratorium on promotional posts to allow schools/colleges to function safely, effectively and serve the needs of our students.
- Agreed Induction and Probation Procedures.
- A review of the current W.S.E. Procedures which has unduly increased the pressure/ stress of the Principal and Deputy Principal.
- A review of the arrangement proposed by the S.E.C.
- Encourage Principals and Deputy Principals to attend our Annual Conference at Mount Wolseley, Tullow, Co. Carlow on 17th -19th November 2010.



Kevin Whyte,
PDA President

NEWS UPDATE

- NCTE Grants 2010
- Latest on PDST
- NCCA - latest work
- Posts of responsibility - minor alleviation
- Further Education - latest developments

Why Be a Member of PDA?

In today's ever-changing educational landscape membership of PDA is a constant that you can rely on for support and advice in relation to your role as a Principal or Deputy Principal of a VEC School or Community College. Some of the advantages of membership are:

- networking opportunities
- professional development
- a forum to express your views
- source of up to date information
- mediation support, if requested

The position of school leadership can often be a lonely one and P.D.A. at regional level and national level are there to offer you help and support if required. We encourage you to attend regional meetings and national conference. In so doing you find we all have common problems and difficulties.

We can learn from one another and collegiality is built up.

- Access to National Bodies: The national officers of P.D.A. hold regular meetings with such bodies as the T.U.I. the CEOA, IVEA, the parents association and from time to time with other educational organisations. This access allows us to bring our policies concerns and positions to other partners in education.
- P.D.A. Support Officers: The Executive of the PDA have selected the following as support officers to members. Members who need support or advice on such issues as trade union affairs, critical incidents, bullying, employment or employer difficulties are welcome to make contact with any of the support officers in the strictest confidence.

Tom Hughes	St. Colmans Midleton	021 4631696
Martin Wallace	Castletroy College	061 330785
Mattie Kilroy	Adviser to Executive	087 6335479

Limited Alleviation of Moratorium on Filling of Posts of Responsibility

In early July the Department of Education and Skills issued Circular 0042/2010 providing for a limited alleviation of the moratorium on the filling of Posts of Responsibility. While any improvement on the existing situation must be welcomed, the level of improvement provided for is extremely disappointing. In many cases where schools have lost up to 4 or 5 Assistant Principal Posts no alleviation is provided and no provision is made for the filling of any posts at Special Duties level.

In the case of Programme Co-ordinator Posts at Assistant Principal level falling vacant after June 1st 2010 school authorities should make application to the Department of Education and Skills by Friday September 17th 2010 if they wish to be considered for some alleviation.

The additional demands made on schools in recent years has been enormous and schools were already fully stretched in meeting those demands prior to the introduction of the moratorium

PDA believes that its members are placed in an impossible position as a result of the withdrawal of entire layers of middle management.

Pension Arrangements

The Department of Education and Skills has advised that teachers retiring before December 31, 2011 will have their pension and lump sum payment calculated on the 2009 salary scale.

The Government had previously announced that public servants (including teachers) retiring before December 31, 2010 would have their pension entitlements calculated on the 2009 salary scale. As part of the Public Service Agreement (Croke Park Agreement), the Government agreed to extend this concession until December 2011. A Statutory Instrument has now been signed by the Minister for Finance extending this provision to all public servants including teachers.