

2005-2006 - at a Glance



President – Tomás Ó Slatara

Benchmarking was a key topic of discussion at county network meetings and Principals were impressed that IPPN showed leadership on this with the publication of 'Investing in School Leadership'. Professor Michael Fullan's publication 'Quality Leadership ⇔ Quality Learning-Proof beyond reasonable doubt' contained critical recommendations for school leaders, government and IPPN that will merit discussion for many years to come.

Focus on smaller schools and the role of the Teaching Principal was a priority during this period as was the strengthening of the North/South links between IPPN and the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT NI). The provision of joint professional development seminars for primary and second-level Principals and Deputy Principals was another significant development and these were delivered in co-operation with the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD).

Continuous Professional Development

Principals' Conference 2006

Theme: 'Quality Leadership ⇔ Quality Learning'

Venue: Citywest Hotel, Dublin

Attendees: Over 700 Principals attended

Date: 2nd to 4th February 2006

Speakers:

- Dr John Bowman
- Prof Michael Fullan

- Ms Mary Hanafin T.D.
- Prof John West-Burnham
- Mr Paddy Flood, National Coordinator, LDS
- Mr Fergus Finlay, CEO Barnardos.
- Tomás Ó Slatara, President IPPN
- Seán Cottrell, Director IPPN.

Deputy Principals' Conference

Theme: 'Two Heads are Better than One'

The aim of the one-day event was to set out a clear vision for the role of Deputy Principal based on current best practice and the leadership needs of schools.

Venue: Friday May 26th 2006 at the Montague Hotel, Portlaoise

Attendees: 235 Deputy Principals attended the event.

Speakers:

- Gearóid Ó Conluain, Deputy Chief Inspector
- Zita Lysaght, Deputy Principal with LDS
- Caoimhe Máirtín, President of Coláiste Mhuire Marino
- Siobhán Cartúir, Principal, Dunboyne JS, Co. Meath and LDS Associate
- Seaghan Moriarty, IPPN Technical Advisor
- Terry Allen, Principal, St Mochta's, Clonsilla, Dublin and LDS Associate



Minister Hanafin with Seán & Tomás

Professor Andy Hargreaves Seminars

Theme: 'Leadership & Sustainability'



170 Principals attended two seminars held on October 13th 2005 at the GlenRoyal Hotel, Maynooth, Co. Kildare and October 14th 2005 at the Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick.

Professor Michael Fullan Workshops

Theme: 'Leading in a Culture of Change'

Over 100 Principals attended 3 one-day workshops jointly organised by IPPN and NAPD held on

- Monday 8th May 2006 in Athlone
- Tuesday 9th May 2006 in Kilkenny
- Thursday 10th May 2006 in Maynooth.

The purpose of the workshops was to learn about the latest insights in managing change, understanding of educational change and developing capacity for leading effective schools and systemic reform.

Online Summer Course

'The Principal & The Law' - was facilitated by David Ruddy, in collaboration with IPPN and Mary Immaculate College, Limerick during the summer of 2006. 85 Principals learned about the following topics:

- Education Act 1998
- Equal status Act 2000
- Protection of Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998
- Data Protection Acts 1988-2003
- Freedom of Information Act 1997
- Education for Persons with Disabilities Bill 2003
- Education Welfare Act 2000
- Health & Safety at Work Act 2005
- Duty of Care/Negligence
- Case Law
- Admissions Policy
- Code of Discipline
- Anti-bulling Policy
- Child protection.

Challenges/Press Releases

- **Sep 2005** - Publishing of WSE reports
- **Oct 2005** – Autism Provision
- IPPN Calls for Major Shake Up of School Boards
- IPPN demands basic safety for one-teacher schools
- IPPN awards bursary for small schools initiative to school clusters in Cork & Longford
- **Nov 2005** – Ferns Report - Imperative to establish best practice and procedures in child protection
- **Dec 2005** – Principals caught in the middle – Irish Ferries Dispute/National Day of Protest
- **Jan 2006** – Pre-Conference Survey
- **Feb 2006** – Clustering of small schools essential
- Teaching Principals overloaded and undervalued
- **Mar 2006** – Early publication of the redeployment panels required
- Tributes paid to education visionary Jim Hayes on his retirement
- Benchmarking Submission – Investing in School Leadership
- **June 2006** – Journalist masquerading as a school teacher gets substitute post.

Milestones

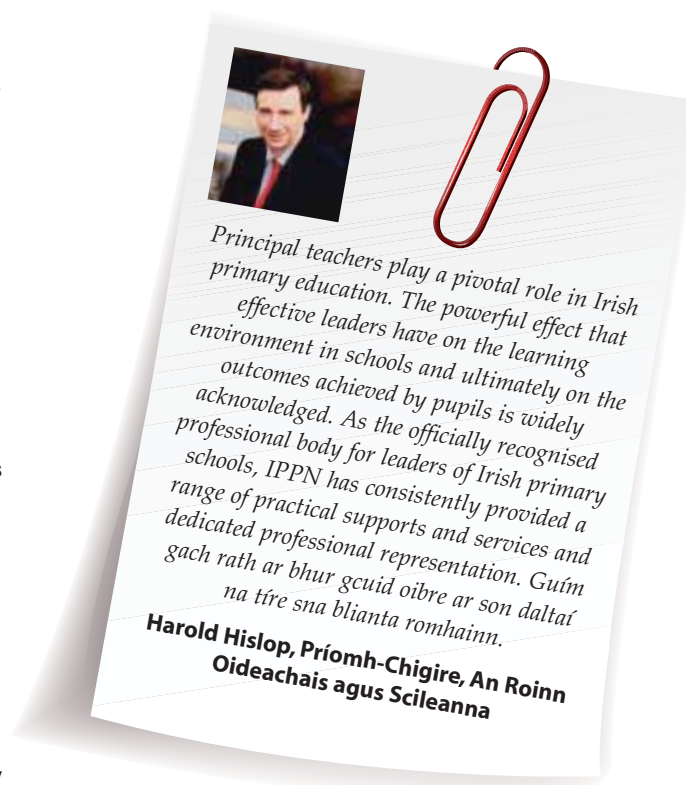
- IPPN Constitution, comprising Memorandum and Articles of Association of IPPN Limited, was formally ratified in October 2005



Dr. John Bowman, Conference Facilitator

Publications

- Investing in School Leadership – this research publication was submitted to the Public Service Benchmarking Body in June 2006
- Quality Leadership ↔ Quality Learning – Proof beyond reasonable doubt
- Principals' Information Management System (PIMS) – This 'desk diary for Principals' was first issued in July 2006
- Leadership+ Issues 28 to 33.



2006-2007 - at a Glance

President – Tomás Ó Slatara

The publication of 'Giorraíonn Beirt Bóthar: Distributing Leadership - Deputy Principals' was another milestone for IPPN as also was the publication of 'Ciall Ceannaithe – Sound Advice and Borrowed Wisdom for aspiring and newly appointed Principals'. The challenges and opportunities presented by the cultural diversity in our schools was a priority for discussion at IPPN and North/South conferences as well as county network meetings.

Research on school governance was initiated with the co-operation of the management bodies. The underfunding and lack of planning by government for IT provision in our schools was highlighted as also was the need for a national database for all the children in our schools.

Continuous Professional Development

Education Awards

Date: 28th October 2006

Venue: Royal Hospital, Kilmainham

Founding IPPN President, Jim Hayes, was given an Education Award in recognition of his contribution to the professional development and support of school leaders since IPPN's formation in 2000.

Dean Fink Seminar

Theme: 'Leadership for Mortals'

Date: Wed, 18th Oct 2006

Venue: Castleknock Hotel & Country Club, Dublin

55 Principals attended the seminar to hear internationally acclaimed educationalist, and inspirational facilitator, Dr Dean Fink, address the topic of leadership challenges.

North/South Conference

Theme: 'Cultural Diversity in Schools - Challenges and Opportunities'

Date: Sunday 26th to Tuesday 28th November, 2006

Venue: Armagh City Hotel, Armagh City

Speakers:

- Dessie Hamilton, National President NAHT (UK)
- Will Haire, Permanent Secretary, Department of Education Northern Ireland

- Frank Wyse, Assistant Secretary General, Department of Education and Science
- Neil Downing, Principal of Dungannon Primary School
- Marcella Ó Conluain, Deputy Principal St Joseph's Primary School Dundalk
- Mary Yarr, the Southern Education and Library Board
- Barbara Simpson, Integrate Ireland Language and Training
- Tomás Ó Slatara, IPPN President
- Seán Cottrell, Director IPPN.

Meetings were held with Caitriona Ruane, Minister for Education DENI, Margaret Ritchie, MLP. A further meeting was held with Conor Lenihan (Minister for Inclusion).

Following the Conference, 24 Principals from Ireland were hosted by Principals in Northern Ireland for three days as they participated in an historic first ever 'IPPN/NAHT North-South Leadership Initiative' designed to explore the challenges and opportunities presented by the ever-increasing cultural diversity in our schools. The visits were funded by NcompasS through its Thematic Grants scheme which is supported by the extension to the EU Peace II Programme. Additional funding and support was also provided by the Department of Education (Northern Ireland) and the North South Co-operation Unit of the Department of Education and Science.



In photograph taken outside Inagh NS, Co. Clare were Margaret Cooney (Ennis), Gregory Hanna (Down), Declan White (Down), Michael Madine (Down), Sheila McCarthy (Portroe), Stephen Cherry (Down), Anne Quinn (Inagh) and Pat Meagher (Youghalarra). Missing from the photo is Pat O' Malley (Cahir)

Principals' Conference 2007

Theme: 'Changing Ireland'
Venue: Ireland's National Event Centre (INEC)
Killarney, 25th to 27th January 2007

Facilitator: Terry Prone

Speakers:

- Emily Logan, Ombudsman for Children
- Sorina Selaru
- Paddy Flood
- David McWilliams
- Emily O'Reilly, Ombudsman
- Minister for Education & Science, Mary Hanafin, TD.
On Friday 26th January the Minister announced that she was granting Designated Status to IPPN.



Emily O'Reilly, Ombudsman



Terry Prone,
Conference Facilitator

Deputy Principals' Conference 2007

Theme: 'Distributed Leadership – Empowering the Deputy Principal'

Date: Tuesday 15th May 2007

Venue: Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Over 260 Deputy Principals attended the event to hear Jim Spillane lead a workshop entitled 'Empowering the Deputy Principal'. Jim is Professor in Learning and Organisational Change at Northwestern University, Illinois, a native of Bantry, a graduate of St Pat's College and Michigan State University and a leading expert on Distributed Leadership in Education.

Challenges/Press Releases

- **Nov 2006** – DEIS Survey
- ICT in Schools
- How much is a child's primary education worth? – 77c a day?
- **Dec 2006** – School Finances
- **Jan 2007** – Pre-Conference Survey
- A 'dunce' in the Knowledge Society?
- Some Schools Shirking Enrolment Responsibilities
- Newcomer Children - a fair deal for all?
- Cattle more important than children?
- **Feb 2007** - Teacher induction and probation – failure rate?
- Cheaper holidays and full school attendance not mutually exclusive.

- **Mar 2007** - 5,000 primary school children to lose access to psychological service
- **Apr 2007** – ESRI – Growing Up in Ireland longitudinal survey
- School Governance (Update May 2010).

Milestones

- IPPN awarded 'charitable status' on 5th March 2007
- IPPN granted 'designated status' by Minister Mary Hanafin at Conference 2007.
- IPPN President invited to speak at NAPD National Conference on October 14th 2006.

Publications

- Giorraíonn Beirt Bóthar: Distributing Leadership – Deputy Principals
- Ciall Ceannaithe for Aspiring and Newly-appointed Principals
- Principals' Information Management System (PIMS)
- Leadership+ issues 34 to 39.



Cé nár tháinig IPPN ar an saol go dtí casadh an chéid, is fathach é cheana féin le méid a thionchair! Its presence on the Irish educational landscape has transformed it forever- comhgháirdeachas. It has become a crucially important 'voice' for school leaders and leadership at the policy-making table, and continues to have a seismic impact on the confidence, competence and capabilities of those who labour in the primary vineyard. Is mó go mór fós a bheidh tábhacht na cinneachta sin amach anseo. Bíodh misneach, samhlaíocht is cruthaitheacht breise fós agaibh agus sibh ag cosaint, ag cruthú is ag cothú an bhun oideachais.

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