

Appendix 6.

From:
Sent: Tuesday, 1 July 2014 9:54 a.m.
To: Chris Bryant;
Subject: Fwd: St Francis of Assisi Integrated Primary School - Mairehau Christchurch

Dear Chris and
I got your contact details from Mike Nolan CEO and I would like to share my views with you. I'm not looking to be identified just heard. We are not all bigots.
Thanks

----- Original Message -----

Subject: St Francis of Assisi Integrated Primary School - Mairehau Christchurch

Date: Tue, 01 Jul 2014 09:41:34 +1200

From:

To: hckia.parata@national.org.nz, h.parata@ministers.govt.nz

Dear Minister Parata

St Francis of Assisi – New Integrated Primary School Mairehau Christchurch

My interest in this school is as a staff member of Our Lady of Fatima. I have worked at the school as a ' ' for years.

I was not surprised to hear the Bishop's decision to close both schools and start afresh. Anyone reading the Conciliator Yvonne Preece's report can be in no doubt why he took this course of action. I am fairly confident my comments have been shared towards the conclusion of her report and I totally stand by them now. I have dared to have a different view to my colleagues and suffered the consequences.

My observations are that there has been a lot of mischief making, misinformation and people working on their own agenda. Our staffroom has not been a comfortable place for anyone who dared to think outside the box. The staff proposal was a farce.

The majority of staff at Our Lady of Fatima appear not to have taken on board the information, documents or opportunities to discuss the proposal at any meetings made available to us over the consultation period.

They are still harping on about the "illegality" of the decision without being able to provide any legal opinion to back this up. Our parents are unaware of Yvonne's report, as our Board of Trustees has chosen not to make it available on our website despite requesting it under the Official Information Act. St Paul's have it on their site. As the Fatima Staff chose not to engage in the process, it beggars belief that they can act as the victims when they were the makers of their own destiny. The new sign outside the building is just what you would expect to happen on a building project.

Involving the Press will only backfire and make us look even more foolish and uncaring. A media campaign targeting Bishop Barry Jones and personal attacks on Mike Nolan, Catholic Education Office, are now on the agenda.

I'm ashamed at the way we have treated St Paul's. Not a good look for a Catholic School. They have always behaved with dignity and yet they have lost so much, their school and church and also had to move school sites twice. They are to be admired.

I am in favour of the new school. I see it as an exciting development for the future of the parish and its one school. The Bishop has said "one Parish, one School" and now it can happen. He is building a fabulous new school for our children, existing pupils and those to come. They should be our focus.

I am just writing to you to ensure that you are aware of my views. I know that different opinions will be presented to the Ministry as the "OLOF Staff" submission over the next few days. There are only two dissenters and it is hard to be one of them without personal stress .

The sooner you can sign off this process the better.

I have sent copies of this email to Bishop Barry Jones, Chris Bryant and

Thanks for reading.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 July 2014 4:09 p.m.
To: Hekia Parata (MIN); Hekia Parata (MIN)
Subject: Support for Proposed Closure of Our Lady of Fatima & St Paul's Catholic Schools, Christchurch

E1.20645

Minister,

Please find attached a letter of support for the proposed closure of Our Lady of Fatima & St Paul's Catholic Schools in Christchurch.

As a permanent member of staff at Our Lady of Fatima School, I currently attending this school and member of the St Francis of Assisi Parish I feel directly writing to you will allow my voice to be heard as it has been smothered by my fellow colleagues, current Principal and some Board of Trustee members.

Kind regards



Letter of Support Hon Hekia Parata

Christchurch 8083

Minister of Education
Private Bag 18041
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Dear Minister Parata

RE: Support of Closure of both Our Lady of Fatima School and St Paul's School

I am writing this letter to you in support of the proposed decision by Bishop Jones to close both Our Lady of Fatima School and St Paul's School. I am a permanent staff member of Our Lady of Fatima School and the new St Francis of Assisi Catholic School. I have served as a permanent member of staff at this school for . . . years service in the education profession. I am also an active member of the parish community.

I am extremely disappointed in the manner and actions of my colleagues, leadership team and some of the Board of Trustees at Our Lady of Fatima School. I am a minority voice who has been made to feel disloyal to my colleagues and leader. I have been excluded by these individuals as I have openly shared my opinions and agreement of the vision for 'one parish, one school'. My opinions are not being recognised or conveyed to the appropriate individuals as documentation by Our Lady of Fatima School and Board states 'all staff', this is based on the Principal's belief that a majority rules. Hence my direct letter of support to you Minister.

I strongly feel that the report by facilitator, Yvonne Preece, is a true reflection of happenings that have occurred since the original announcement took place. On a daily basis I am subject to offensive criticism and 'corridor conversations' which are disrespectful to the Catholic character of our school, myself, Father Simon, Mike Nolan and Bishop Jones. These conversations are proving destructive to any forward thinking about the proposed changes to schooling within the Parish.

Based on the majority of staff and leadership members actions at Our Lady of Fatima School I feel the only option for the students within our parish boundaries is to establish a new school with a fresh perspective, positive outlook, future focused, change ready staff in all facets - teachers, support staff, leadership and Board of Trustees. While I believe change must occur soon rather than later, in the interest of student hauora/well being I feel this change should be implemented at the start of term 1, 2016, with leadership roles, especially that of a new principal and an interim Board of Trustees established as soon as possible.

I remain committed to my role in both the school and parish community and feel a need to persevere through these challenging times for the good of our students and Catholic faith.

May the Ministry consultation process into the cancellation of the integration agreement and time frame for change be a successful one that has minimal impact on students' learning within this challenging environment.

Yours respectfully