
From:
Sent: Tuesday, 1 July 2014 10:02 p.m.
To: Hekia Parata
Subject: Our Lady of Fatima - Christchurch

E1.20596

Dear Ms Parata

I am writing to you and your party expressing my huge concern in regards to Bishop Barry's recent suggestion to you as the Education Minister to close my children's school Our Lady of Fatima, in order to start a new and bigger school on our site with St Paul's School.

The whole process of consultation has not only been seriously flawed when it comes to the needs of all the children but now the latest suggestion from Bishop Barry would lead to all Staff members losing their jobs.

The Staff have been the only reason why my two children still currently attend Our Lady of Fatima. To think they will not be there to support my children through the new changes ahead is beyond words. Our children have been through so much already due to the changes the Bishop seems to just make happen, and most of the time unbeknown to the Staff and Community. Not to mention what I perceive would be a total waste of taxpayers money in terms of the redundancies that would be required.

I strongly urge your party to direct the Bishop towards a much better solution as this latest suggestion will not only destroy the new school's ever chance of getting off to a good start but greatly upset the lives of the Staff and Community further.

Yours faithfully

Dear Bishop Jones

I am writing to you to express my feelings about your decision to close both Our Lady of Fatima and St Paul's schools.

I want to tell you about some of the real people on our staff and their real lives and the real effects the needless loss of their jobs will have on them.

Some of our families live in the Flockton Basin. Many of our families have been red zoned or have had rebuilds. Some are still battling with their insurers. Everyone in our community has suffered in some way.

For all of these people Our Lady of Fatima school is where they receive love and compassion and stability.

We know that many of the staff and families from St Paul's have also been red zoned and suffered, but they are not the only ones.

From the moment this awful process began the staff and community of Our Lady of Fatima have been treated with disrespect and contempt. Everything has been geared towards what St Paul's should have and we have been expected to fall into line as if we have no rights or feelings whatsoever. St Paul's lost their school in an earthquake - we are losing our school from the signature of a Bishop. St Paul's lost their parish priest - we also lost our beloved Father Paul. St Paul's will lose their name and culture - so will we and yet no consideration has been given to us at all. We are regarded as an impediment!

Yvonne Preccc says in her report that the Bishop wished the consultation to be genuine. I do not accept this. You said you had a vision of the two schools merging on the one site and nothing was ever going to change your mind. When you came to speak to the staff at Our Lady of Fatima you even agreed that you had sacked the Our Lady of Fatima proprietors and replaced them with four people from St Paul's in order to push the merger.

Yet the merger is illegal. Why would you expect the staff of your schools to vote on an option that is illegal and can be overturned by any member of the public complaining to the auditor general even after the new school is built and a new principal appointed? And again why would you ask your staff to vote on an option that would cause the loss of jobs for 19 people at Our Lady of Fatima and an unknown number at St Pauls?

A perfectly workable option was available and sanctioned by the NZEI and the Ministry which would have preserved all jobs from both schools. St Paul's staff objected and felt they would not be equals or would not receive management units. Are they better off with no jobs at all? Of course they could have received management units - there will be many more available in a large school and they would have been treated with great respect.

I find it repulsive that a million dollars of tax payer money will be paid out in redundancies that are not necessary and then a whole new staff will be appointed to do the same job as those who have been made redundant.

Yvonne Preece's report is insulting to the staff of Our Lady of Fatima and contains omissions. All the way through the report we read about how St Paul's will agree to whatever the Bishop wants and Our Lady of Fatima staff are made out to be selfish and unconciliatory. St Paul's refused to meet with the NZEI rep to find out what all the options for them could be and refused to meet with Yvonne Preece during round three. They also refused to meet with our staff to discuss our joint options but none of this is mentioned.

Throughout this whole 21 month consultation we have respected our board's request not to go to the media and they are still asking us not to do this. However many on the staff would like to have this whole sorry saga out in the news which would be highly embarrassing for all concerned. Many of our staff would also like to legally challenge this decision and the defamatory aspects of the Preece report.

A Bishop is expected to provide pastoral care for his people - I do not believe you have done this. My husband and I have been Catholics all our lives. We have had children who have been brought up as Catholics and We have always contributed to planned giving and been ' and I used to be on . Now I am struggling with my faith and am so consumed with anger I can no longer attend my parish church at Our Lady of Fatima but have to go elsewhere, I also worry about whether I should receive Holy Communion when I am so full of rage and bitterness.

One of the major premises of your report has been your belief that there should be only one parish, one school yet throughout the city we have numerous examples of two schools, one parish - St Alban's Catholic and St Patrick's Bryndwyr, New Brighton Catholic and St James's, Aranui, St Annes's Woolston and Star of the Sea - just to name a few. Are we to see all of them close down and be rebuilt as one entity or does it just suit you to push this belief as it supports your purpose to close down two flourishing schools?

Finally, at no stage has any consideration been given to the children of these two schools and their families and how this decision will affect them. A new entity could have opened in 2016 with many staff from both schools on site to welcome the children and smooth their transition. Instead they will be faced with not only new buildings and new students and a much larger school but a totally new staff as well.

What a sad and sorry process this has been! I believe it will take many years before all the anger, bitterness and frustration from this process results in the wonderful new school entity that you are hoping for.

I have not seen any Gospel values or examples of Jesus's teachings demonstrated in this flawed process.

Our Lady of Fatima School

From: [HekiaParata.MP@parliament.govt.nz] on behalf of Office of Hekia Parata
Sent: Monday, 23 June 2014 10:42 a.m.
To:
Subject: FW: Proposed closure of Our Lady of Fatima School

E1.20497

From: Teacher . [mailto:
Sent: Wednesday, 18 June 2014 7:49 p.m.
To: Office of Hekia Parata
Subject: Proposed closure of Our Lady of Fatima School

Dear Minister Parata

I am writing to thank you for allowing the staff of Our Lady of Fatima school to consult with Ministry staff before you make your final decision regarding the closure of St Paul's and Our Lady of Fatima schools. We are looking forward to presenting our case to an unbiased facilitator and a consultation that will be genuine and not have a predetermined outcome as was the case with our consultation with the Bishop. We are concerned that taxpayer money could be paid out for redundancies only to have staff reemployed to do the same job on the same site but just in an enlarged school. NZEI have assured us that the small number of teachers who will come across with St Paul's can be legally employed in the larger school which seems a preferable option to all staff from both schools losing their jobs.

I look forward to us being able to present our case to you.

Many thanks

Our Lady of Fatima School

Christchurch