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Ministry of Education
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Friday 6 June 2014

Special Education Review- Consultation Response

The Rolleston Secondary School Establishment Board of Trustees has prepared this response to the current proposal for special schools co-location and where satellites could be located.

In preparing for this submission members of the Board have visited Waitaha School, referred to the public consultation material as part of the Ministry's process to establish this school in the Rolleston community, attended a public consultation meeting and read the extensive Education reports. The Board wishes to note its concerns that this proposal was not part of the initial consultation that took place with the wider consultation around education provision within the Rolleston community. In addition to that the Board considers that the current timeframe was too short and inadequate for due consultation and consideration of the views of the community to be ascertained in this secondary round.

As a recently formed Board, members are mindful of the significant impact that this proposal has on our school and the community. We are already engaged in visioning what a master plan would look like for our school, and the mandated yet unspecified special education provision has been of concern. There has not been sufficient time for the understanding of the requirements and implications, viewing of successful models, and depth of analysis to give this due diligence to this proposal.

Submission- Rolleston Secondary School Establishment Board of Trustees

Based on the information to date the Board recommends:

1. The establishment of one satellite unit for special schooling is located on the Rolleston Secondary School site, not the two proposed.
2. The establishment of satellite units for special schooling are located on the West Rolleston Primary School site, the number of which is to be determined by the West Rolleston Primary School Establishment Board of Trustees.

On the basis that:

- a) The students are the same age provision range as each school (year 0-8 and year 9-13) - based on the students actual age.
- b) The base school is Waitaha and its remains on its existing site.
- c) The Ministry of Education resources Waitaha to relevant code compliance and special education standards including any necessary capital upgrades as required for future continuation.

Therefore the Board does not endorse the establishment of a base school at the Rolleston Secondary School.

The Board decision is to ensure:

- a) The inclusion of special needs students best able to cope with the busier environment of the Rolleston Secondary School therefore reducing the impacts within family units, security risks and the need for fencing which is against our NOR requirements.
- b) The freedom of parental choice in determining what type of educational provision best meets the needs of their child.
- c) The absolute health, safety and wellness of all students, staff and community at all times.
- d) The need for a realistic property (land) area. The land area for Rolleston Secondary School is approx. 6 Ha and for co-location of a base school this could take up to 2 Ha therefore restricting the overall provision for the students and the assets, including meeting their recreational needs.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Jackie Freeman
Chairperson
Establishment Board of Trustees
Rolleston Secondary School