

## Appendix 4

**Questions and Answers  
regarding the  
Proposal to Combine St Paul's School and Our Lady of Fatima School**

**Proposal**

**The proposal is to form a new school entity. Does this mean that the two component schools will effectively be disestablished, and come together under a new name?**

If this proposal were to be agreed and adopted:

- The integration agreement for St Paul's School would be cancelled (*at an appropriate time*) and the school legally closed.
- The school that is currently Our Lady of Fatima School would grow to a larger Years 1-8 school.
- This would mean that the school on the current Our Lady of Fatima site would be a different entity to that which is there now – it would build upon the best practice of St Paul's and Our Lady of Fatima Schools. It would have a new name (*presumably the same name of the yet to be determined patronal name for the new Catholic Parish of Mairehau*) and would be appropriately and fully supported by its parish - the Catholic Parish of Mairehau.

**Is this considered a merger?**

As the legislation does not allow for the merger of state integrated schools, this change is being facilitated through the above proposal. An agreement from the Ministry of Education and NZEI will allow the staffing for the new schooling entity to be based on the model of a merger. This means, if this proposal is agreed and adopted, the teaching positions will be advertised internally first and then if there are vacancies they will be advertised externally. The position of principal, if this proposal was to be adopted, would be advertised nationally.

**What is the anticipated cost of the proposal?**

If this proposal were to be agreed and adopted it would attract Ministry EDI funding of \$930,000. EDI funding is provided whenever a state or state integrated school closes or merges and is to be used to help students transition to their new school and on projects that help raise student achievement. The Proprietor would undertake a new building programme of around \$5.5 million.

**Alternatives to the proposal**

**What alternative solutions were investigated?**

The Bishop's proposal is firmly rooted in the Catholic understanding of a Catholic primary school.

A Catholic primary school is one very visible expression of Catholic life in the parish. The parish brought the Catholic primary school into being. From the parish come the

students and families which form the major part of the school community. In turn, the Catholic primary school educates and evangelises these young parishioners, as well as bringing new comers and “returning” Catholics to the parish family. Together the school and parish share a fundamental attachment to the universal Church.

From this theological understanding of a Catholic primary school the Bishop provided this proposal because the Catholic parish of Mairehau is the parish of all the students in the two schools; this is their spiritual home.

The consultation process may provide a further option/proposal for consideration of the Minister of Education and the Bishop.

**Was consideration given to re-drawing the school boundaries, and having the St Paul’s students absorbed into existing Catholic schools in the catchment area?**

Catholic primary schools are situated within a particular parish and enrol children from that parish area. The Mairehau site is the only Catholic school site owned by the Church in the newly formed Catholic parish of Mairehau (*which is made up of the former parishes of Our Lady of Fatima Parish (Mairehau), St Paul’s Parish (Dallington) and Holy Family Parish (Burwood).*)

The Bishop is not considering re-drawing the parish boundaries.

**Was consideration given by the Bishop to the purchase of the Champion Street site and retaining St Paul’s there?**

No, this is not an option. This site is not designated for a primary school – St Paul’s School is currently at the Champion Street site as a consequence of authorisation under the CERA “Order-in-Council”. The writer understands that if this land is surplus to MOE requirements, the Ministry could only dispose of it through the disposal process in the Public Works Act. This means they consult with other Crown agencies to see whether they wish to use it, and if it is not required, it would be offered to its original owners, then to Ngai Tahu, and only then come onto the public market.

## **Consultation**

**When is the consultation to take place, and what form will it take, and why is it different from the consultation undertaken by state schools?**

The Minister of Education has yet to provide written approval to the Proprietor giving support to move to the formal community consultation phase on the proposal. It is likely that this will be provided in the next few weeks.

Once approved an independent facilitator will be engaged to undertake this work. They will work with the Boards of both schools to determine how best to undertake this process. It could include meetings, surveys, email responses, an information stall at the Mairehau Church (at the conclusion of each Sunday Mass), etc.

A Catholic integrated school is owned by the Proprietor. The independence of this consultation process is ensured by the Bishop and the Ministry agreeing to the engagement of an external and independent facilitator. The Ministry will include the facilitator's consultation report in its report to the Minister, along with the Ministry's recommendation on the proposal.

### **Can the Board nominate the facilitator to be used?**

As the schools' integration agreements are between the Crown and the Proprietor, it is the Bishop (the Proprietor) and the Ministry who agree on an independent facilitator.

### **Will the full details of the consultation process, and the final recommendation of the Bishop with supporting data, be available to the community?**

The Bishop has developed his proposal and it has been supported in principle by the Minister. The consultation process will then gather feedback on it. Following this, the proposal and the feedback, along with the Ministry's recommendations will then be presented to the Minister for her consideration. The Proprietor will have also considered the consultation feedback.

Once a decision has been made, the community can access the information from the consultation.

## **Staffing**

### **What is the plan for school staffing? Are all jobs in the existing schools to be disestablished and the positions in the new school advertised?**

As the legislation does not allow for the merger of state integrated schools, this change is being facilitated through the above proposal. An agreement from the Ministry of Education and NZEI will allow the staffing for the new schooling entity to be based on the model of a merger. This means, if this proposal is agreed and adopted, the teaching positions will be advertised internally first and then if there are vacancies they will be advertised externally. The position of principal, if this proposal was to be adopted, would be advertised nationally.

### **Will voluntary redundancies be considered?**

This would be a matter to be discussed and determined according to the terms of the appropriate Collective Agreement.

### **What is the plan for the Board of Trustees, given that the proposed new school entity will begin between board elections?**

It is proposed that the Board of Trustees of St Paul's School would govern its school through to the date that the integration agreement is cancelled and the Proprietor closes the school. About 12 months before this date the Proprietor and the Ministry, along with the Boards of both schools, will begin implementing the transition. It is expected that it would see the Board of Trustees of Our Lady of Fatima School establish a Transition Committee or similar sub-committee of the board which would

include representation from the Board of St Paul's School. This however is a decision for the Board of Our Lady of Fatima School to make in its role as the school's governing body.

**How can the implementation be completed for the 2015 school year, when there will not have been a full BOT term completed?**

The Board of St Paul's School would govern that school until the date of the cancellation of its integration agreement and closure of the school. The Board of Our Lady of Fatima School would continue to govern through until 3 months after the new school entity comes into existence. At this point the new school entity would hold elections to ensure its Board reflects its larger community.

**Buildings/Grounds**

**Which existing buildings will be retained?**

If this proposal is approved, all school buildings on the Our Lady of Fatima School site will be retained.

**What new buildings will need to be built and where would they be situated?**

Options for the provision of property at the new school entity have been developed and will be provided at the opening of the community (school & parish) consultation.

**Is there a plan to supply a school of this size with a hall? The existing hall could not cater for the increased roll.**

Yes. A new hall/multipurpose space of around 400m<sup>2</sup> would be required to be provided.

**What steps will be taken to avoid disruption and ensure safety to the students and staff as new building takes place?**

If this proposal were to be agreed and adopted the law would require all professional health and safety requirements to be met during the construction of the additional property on the current Our Lady of Fatima School site.

**How long is this building phase expected to take, and when will it commence?**

If this proposal were to be agreed and adopted, the construction phase would be approximately 12-18 months. It is not possible to provide a timeframe for commencement at this stage as this is only a proposal at this point.

**What are the future plans for Good Shepard House, OLOF Church, the Presbytery, and the hall/church given that these are all at the entrance to the school? Obviously, deconstruction/construction at the main entrance would have a major impact on access to and from the school grounds.**

This is yet to be determined by the Bishop.

At this point the Bishop is seeking advice from his various strategic planning and advisory bodies in relation to the Mairehau parish (and all parishes throughout the Diocese).

## **School Roll**

**What is the projected school roll in 2015? How has this figure been determined, given that families are still moving out of the area as zoning and EQC/insurance claims are settled, and the feedback we are getting that some families will not want to send their children to a larger school?**

If this proposal were to be agreed and adopted the new school entity would have a maximum roll of 550 students. The current maximum roll of Our Lady of Fatima School is 275 students and the current maximum roll of St Paul's School is 295 students.

**The Draft Renewal Plan consultation feedback was against larger schools. Why has this feedback been ignored?**

While a primary school of 550 students would be considered large in Christchurch, it would be considered a medium sized school within the New Zealand primary school context. There are many very successful primary schools of this size and in this proposal it is considered to be an appropriate option.

## **Traffic**

**What will be done to mitigate the risk to the students and school community, given that Innes Road is a main traffic route? The current heavy traffic issue will in all likelihood be compounded by the proposed increase in size of the nearby Mairehau Primary school.**

All City Council traffic requirements will be adhered to.

**Will school buses be provided for the new school, given the much wider geographical catchment of students?**

If this proposal were to be agreed and adopted the new school entity will be the permanent school. Currently transport for St Paul's students to its temporary site at Champion Street has kindly been provided by the Ministry of Education to support the largely "red zoned" families as they work through a myriad of matters.

If a student meets the Ministry's school transport policy requirements transport would be provided ...

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/NZEducation/EducationPolicies/Schools/SchoolOperations/SchoolTransport/SchoolTransportFactsheets.aspx>

## **Miscellaneous**

**What efforts will be made for the school to maintain its GreenGold enviroschool status?**

This would be a matter for any new Board and staff of the new school entity to determine.

**How will the different school uniforms (maroon vs blue) be accommodated, as there can be a significant cost to outfitting a child for school.**

This would be a matter for any new Board of the new school entity to determine. The Board may decide that any current uniform a student has purchased would be able to be worn should the proposal for a new school entity be agreed and adopted.

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