



Office of Hon Hekia Parata

Minister of Education
Minister of Pacific Island Affairs



8 MAY 2013

Bishop Barry Jones
Bishop of Christchurch
Catholic Diocese of Christchurch
PO Box 4544
CHRISTCHURCH 8140

Tēnā koe Bishop Jones

Thank you for your letter of 25 March 2013 and accompanying documentation about your plans to combine St Paul's and Our Lady of Fatima Schools.

I understand the initial consultation on your proposed merger of St Paul's and Our Lady of Fatima Schools has not resulted in the unanimous support you hoped for.

You have asked me to consider:

- a) An agreement to the provision of a new state integrated full primary school entity (to be named St Francis of Assisi Catholic School) with a maximum roll of 495 students, situated on the St Francis of Assisi Parish site at 370 Innes Road, Mairehau.
- b) An agreement to engage in a further round of community consultation as to which of the three options the community would see as its preferred option for implementing the provision of the new state integrated school entity, St Francis of Assisi Catholic School.

The three options for developing this provision are:

- Option 1: Cancel the integration agreements for both current schools and establish a new state integrated school on the current Our Lady of Fatima School site. I note that all positions at both schools would be terminated and positions at the new school would be advertised nationally.
- Option 2: Cancel the integration agreement and close St Paul's School and increase the maximum roll of Our Lady of Fatima School and re-name the larger school. I note that in this proposal the staff of St Paul's School would lose their positions and the new positions at Our Lady of Fatima School would be advertised nationally.
- Option 3: Cancel the integration agreement and close St Paul's School and increase the maximum roll of Our Lady of Fatima School and manage the staffing of the larger Our Lady of Fatima School as a merger (with the staff from both schools having first option of equivalent positions in the 'new schooling entity' and the principal's position being advertised

While I can agree in principle to increased provision of state integrated schooling on the current Our Lady of Fatima School site, each of the Options above require a different legal process and each must therefore run its course before a final decision is made.

As Proprietor you will be aware of the two stage process for integration of a new school as it is prescribed in the Private Schools Conditional Integration Act 1975. You will also be aware that a change to a school's maximum roll, or a school's name and site plan (as would be necessary for Options 2 and 3 above) all have legislative processes which would need to be completed.

I trust that my agreement in principle to the new schooling provision is sufficient at this stage of the process and wish you well with the next round of consultation on the three options above.

Should your staff wish to present this letter to the Boards of the two schools personally and to have a Ministry representative join with them at these meetings, they should contact Kathryn Palmer, the Acting Regional Manager in the Ministry's Christchurch office (phone 03 378 7360), who will be able to discuss the details.

Thank you for informing me of the progress so far.

Heoi anō



Hon Hekia Parata
Minister of Education