

Avondale Primary School Community Engagement Report

Submission to the Ministry of Education Proposal for Education Renewal



MENE SOLUTIONS LTD

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to capture the community engagement process and outcomes that were initiated by the Minister of Education's Rationale for Change relative to Avondale Primary School¹.

This Community Engagement report is being provided as a contractual output between Avondale Primary School Board of Trustees (BoT) and the facilitator, Chris Mene. The Minister of Education decided to grant a three-month extension to Avondale Primary School (and four other schools in the 'Aranui Cluster').

At a BoT meeting on Monday 26 November the BoT decided that it was in the best interest of the school to utilise the time extension offered by Minister Parata.

The process of engagement so far has involved a number of interviews, conversations, surveys and stakeholder workshops for parents, staff, community, students and Board Trustees.

A progress report was provided to the school in December 2012 that recorded the engagement tasks completed up to that point.

Two **recommendations** made in the previous progress report were:

1. That the BoT/Principal provide clear messages to parents, staff and wider community stakeholders by 18 December 2012 about the process to date, current situation, potential options and way forward in 2013.
2. That further engagement with parents, staff and community stakeholders take place in February 2013 to review 2012, the current situation, potential options and work towards a collective way forward.

The BoT and Principal accepted these two recommendations and provided communication out to the Avondale School community and stakeholders in December 2012.

Further engagement with the school community took place in February 2013 and this document also records the process and outcomes of that engagement.

¹ <http://shapingeducation.minedu.govt.nz/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Avondale-School-Rationale-for-Change.pdf>

2. Executive Summary

2.1 Response to current proposal

The Avondale School community:

1. Recognises the massive impact the Canterbury Earthquakes has had on Greater Christchurch, the schools and communities of Avondale, Wainoni and Aranui.
2. Acknowledges this most challenging context and the test this has been to school leadership, staff, parents and children whilst still focusing on student achievement.
3. Is pleased with the level of engagement with 122/254 families responding to the survey undertaken in September soon after the announcement.
4. Initially rejected (96%) the Ministry of Education's (MOE's) proposal of a new year 1-13 area school resulting from the closure of all five Aranui cluster schools
5. Largely (59%) reject the proposal, with a significant number (38%) acknowledging merit in a modified version and a small number (3%) supporting the adoption of the proposal.
6. Identified the importance of ensuring the school community is current with thinking from the other four schools in the 'Aranui cluster' especially with accurate factual information and neutral language e.g. 'Community Campus' as opposed to 'super school'.
7. Leadership recognises that the Avondale school dialogue is happening in the context of the broader conversation relative to the five schools in the 'Aranui cluster' and other related conversations including Burwood School and Linwood North.
8. Staff largely (95%) supports a modified version of the proposal with one (5%) respondent rejecting the proposal.
9. Staff preferred options merging two or three primary schools with the retention of choice at Intermediate level.
10. Currently has capacity for Aranui and Wainoni Primary Schools current student year 1 - 6 population should the three primary schools merge on the Avondale site.

Non-negotiable priorities for the Avondale School community are:

1. Choice of school (x4)
2. Safe/healthy/well/happy children (x3)
3. Community involvement, identity and pride (x2)
4. Walk to school ability for students, accessibility (x2)
5. Inclusive education/Education for children of all abilities (x2)
6. Genuine consultation/open communication, full disclosure and participation (x2)
7. Educational achievement/excellence and opportunities (x2)
8. Retaining teachers / Do not lose teachers/staff (x2)
9. Funding/Keeping class sizes (do not increase)
10. Eco-friendly/Sun smart / renewables
11. Early childhood/preschool facility
12. Life long skills and learning
13. Preserve Avondale school
14. Needs of children are met
15. School/community swimming pool/hall

16. School's "edible" garden
17. Outdoor space
18. Students voice

Conclusion

Avondale School, its Board, staff and community reject the MOE proposal to close our school and four others to amalgamate into one, year 1 -13 Community Campus² in Aranui.

The Avondale School community is unconvinced that such a move will in any way improve the learning outcomes for our students. It will not offer suitable levels of choice for our parents and families to choose a school they consider would best meet the needs of their children, now, and into the future.

Given that Avondale's roll remains at 330 students, it is a viable size to continue to provide improved learning options and outcomes for students.

Being located next to Chisnallwood Intermediate affords Avondale the ability to share a combined campus (1150 students) enabling a range of additional wrap around social services to be located on the shared site. The schools could remain as separate entities, and share a number of core facilities.

The Avondale School BoT recognises the vision developed through the ACTIS community led collaborative engagement process and supports this vision being considered by the Minister relative to her decision for the Aranui, Wainoni and Avondale communities.

The result from a final parent survey conducted in February reveals:

1. Rejection of the Ministers proposal (100%)
2. Endorsement of option 1 (n=84, 74%)

Preferred Option #1

Avondale remains as it is, and shares some facilities with Chisnallwood Intermediate School that adjoins it, with the possible inclusion of agreed social welfare agencies and the provision of Early Childhood Education (ECE) facilities.

3. Some support for option 2 (n=29, 26%)

Preferred Option #2

Avondale remains as it is, with the year 1-6 students of both Wainoni (n~110) and Aranui primary (n~150 students) relocated to Avondale and the year 7 and 8 students they have, relocate to Chisnallwood Intermediate. This is with the possible inclusion of agreed social welfare agencies and the provision of ECE facilities.

² The initial Ministry of Education process has been recognised widely as having been poorly managed. One aspect of this was the use of language and in particular the confusing use of terms including "Community Campus" and "Area School". For the purpose of the Avondale School engagement process and this report "Community Campus" and "Area School" have been used interchangeably.

3. Rationale for Change

The Rationale for Change³ was received by the Principal and Board of Trustees (BoT) on 12 October 2012. The rationale cites six areas that provide reasons for a merger: Land; Buildings; Indicative Ten Year Property Costs; People; Student distribution patterns and Population change.

In answering the question of why is change needed the Rationale for Change asserts that:

“A strong education network is vital for the renewal of greater Christchurch.

The extent of damage and ongoing impact of people movement in the wake of the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes mean it cannot be restored to the way it was.

We need to accept in areas that have been depopulated we will have to do things differently, which will inevitably mean some changes to services. The viability of existing individual schools and increased demand for new schools are a key consideration going forward.

The earthquakes, while devastating, have provided an opportunity beyond simply replacing what was there, to restore, consolidate and rejuvenate to provide new and improved facilities that will reshape education, improve the options and outcomes for learners, and support greater diversity and choice.

Education renewal for greater Christchurch is about meeting the needs and aspirations of children and young people. We want to ensure the approach addresses inequities and improves outcomes while prioritising action that will have a positive impact on learners in greatest need of assistance.

With the cost of renewal considerable, the ideal will be tempered by a sense of what is pragmatic and realistic. Key considerations are the practicalities of existing sites and buildings, the shifts in population distribution and concentration, the development of new communities and a changing urban infrastructure.

Innovative, cost effective, and sustainable options for organising and funding educational opportunities must be explored to provide for diversity and choice in an economically viable way.

Discussions with schools, communities and providers within learning community clusters have and will continue to be key to informing decisions around the overall future shape of each education community. Ways to enhance infrastructure and address existing property issues, improve education outcomes, and consider future governance will form part of these discussions that are running in parallel to consultation around formal proposals.”

³ <http://shapingeducation.minedu.govt.nz/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Avondale-School-Rationale-for-Change.pdf>

4. Response to the Rationale for Change

4.1 Strong Education Network

The Avondale Primary School community and other community stakeholders’:

- Accept that the ‘economic’ cost of renewal across the network will be considerable and that ideally this will be tempered by a sense of what is pragmatic and realistic.
- Understand and acknowledge key considerations, practicalities of existing sites and buildings, damage to housing, the shifts in population distribution and concentration, the development of changing urban infrastructure.
- Recognise that innovative, cost effective, and sustainable options for organising and funding educational opportunities must be explored to provide for diversity and choice in an economically viable way.
- Recognise that with a post-quake roll of 330 students the school remains viable as a single entity as it stands

Avondale Roll

On the 4th of February this year, Avondale celebrated its 50th jubilee. An occasion where the wider Avondale community was able to come together to recognise the significant contributions the school has made to the community and its children over two generations. The threat of imminent school closure does however cast a shadow over the community.

For 50 years, Avondale has been seen as the school of choice in the wider area, which includes Wainoni and Aranui. Over this time, the Avondale roll has been twice the size of both Wainoni and Aranui Primaries combined.

Our parent community has often reflected the opinion that they prefer a choice for their child’s primary education and has continued supporting Avondale School. They believe that we provide good educational and social opportunities for our students. Achievement data supports this view.

Comparative Data against other schools

The following table lists 28 other schools in the greater Christchurch area that have smaller rolls to Avondale. All listed schools will remain open.

Except for Avondale Primary School, which has been proposed to close, all other 28 schools listed will remain open with no merger or closure proposals on the table. All 28 schools are smaller than Avondale with many of them significantly so.

Of the schools listed below, just 10 have shown any roll growth between July 2009 and July 2012, with an average growth across the 10 schools of 18.7 students. If Breen’s Intermediate is excluded from this list as it is over-represented by the biggest influx of students (78), the average gain across the remaining nine schools is just 12.1 students.

Of the 18 schools listed (excluding Avondale) that have recorded a roll drop, the average number of students lost has been 33.7 students per school. The average percentage loss is 15.1%. Four schools, Bishopdale, Christchurch East, Redcliffs and Sockburn all have percentage losses ranging between 25% and 37%.

Avondale School acknowledges its significant roll reduction post quakes from 510 to 335, representing 175 students and a drop of 34%. However, the Avondale Board and the Avondale community consider that Avondale School remains enormously viable being twice the size of the average NZ primary school.

Using roll reduction as a reason for closure therefore, in the opinion of the Avondale School community, is considered contentious at best and wholly unfair at worst. The rationale of roll reduction is not supported by the table below of schools that will remain open; that have smaller rolls than Avondale, and or have equally significant (expressed as a percentage) roll reductions.

School MOE No	School	Roll July 2009	Roll July 2010	Roll July 2011	Roll July 2012	% of Avondale July 2012 roll	Increase / Decrease 2009-2012	% Gain / Loss
3286	Avondale	510	488	367	335		-175	-34%
3271	Addington	191	199	209	223	66%	+32	17%
3288	Bamford	109	115	82	87	26%	-22	-20%
3293	Bishopdale	159	157	124	120	36%	-39	-25%
3299	Breens Int	172	206	237	250	74%	+78	45%
3317	ChCh East	274	298	227	188	56%	-86	-31%
3327	Diamond Harbour	120	113	115	110	33%	-10	-8%
3354	Governors Bay	78	76	67	69	21%	-9	-12%
3370	Harewood	180	182	180	182	54%	+2	1%
3371	Heathcote Valley	260	277	252	247	73%	-13	-5%
3380	Hornby Primary	161	149	151	143	43%	-18	-11%
3385	Isleworth	220	211	215	214	64%	-6	-3%

3415	Linwood North	183	198	151	139	41%	-44	-24%
3418	Little River	79	86	80	85	25%	+6	8%
3429	Marshland	190	204	210	202	60%	+12	6%
3449	Northcote	155	149	136	137	40%	-18	-12%
3466	Papanui	163	182	186	182	54%	+19	12%
3470	Parkview	344	343	346	288	86%	-56	-16%
3483	Redcliffs	400	396	284	254	76%	-146	-37%
3485	Riccarton	216	205	167	190	57%	-26	-12%
3492	Rowley	103	113	108	104	31%	+1	1%
3493	Roydvale	306	312	322	298	89%	-8	-3%
3504	Shirley Primary	254	238	216	256	76%	+2	1%
3505	Sockburn	184	157	153	131	39%	-53	-29%
3512	Spreydon	297	317	277	285	85%	-12	-4%
3577	Wairakei	253	238	221	233	75%	-20	-8%
3581	Waltham	151	136	125	131	39%	-20	-13%
3588	West Spreydon	174	187	190	198	59%	+24	14%
3591	Wharenui	148	151	148	159	47%	+11	7%

4.2 Integrated Recovery and Transition

The Avondale Primary School community and other community stakeholders' prefer:

- To stay engaged in dialogue to ensure the best learning and life outcomes for children and families are achieved through meaningful dialogue.
- Enhancement of current education (including Early Childhood Education), health and social service provision.
- That the Avondale school site be considered as a suitable site for continuing education in and for the wider Aranui Cluster.

4.3 Physical infrastructure

The Avondale Primary School community and other community stakeholders':

- Prefer new and improved Modern Learning Environment (MLE) buildings that would provide an opportunity for enhanced learning and choice for future generations of learners at Avondale.
- Recognise that the school already has a block of six classrooms that it considers to be MLE's having been built in 2005. These have proved to be fully functional and child centered learning environments whilst conforming to MOE building and funding requirements of the current day.
- Note that, even with the removal of four surplus relocatable classrooms, Avondale still has the capacity to absorb both the Wainoni and Aranui primary year 1-6 rolls with potentially their year 7 and 8 students transferring to Chisnallwood Intermediate

Avondale Earthquake Damage

At the "Rationale for Change" meeting with MOE personnel and consulting engineers on the 12th October, 2012; discussions were held and technical engineering data was presented to the Avondale Principal, Board Chair and one other parent Trustee.

Avondale school shares and understands the view that:

"Schools would be expensive to remediate, particularly where they have relatively small rolls. For example, Aranui school - which is full but has just 149 learners - would cost \$4 million to remediate . . . For example, Wainoni school has just 92 learners and less than 30% utilization. (MOE Rationale for change, pg. 2)

However, in the opinion of Avondale School, neither factor (small roll size or extreme under utilization) as mentioned for both Wainoni and Aranui primary schools are applicable to Avondale primary"

Discussions were held around the state of the buildings and earthquake damage:

"Most buildings on the Avondale school site have suffered some degree of earthquake damage. This covers a spectrum from minor cracking to wall linings and ceilings to grinding out and repointing brickwork. Some buildings will also require earthquake

strengthening.

Detailed Engineering Evaluations (DEEs conducted in September 2012 and given to Avondale school on Monday 4th March 2013. These reports confirm the exact scale of this work with the executive summary recommending minor non-structural and structural repairs and strengthening. Buildings on site have also been flagged for weather tightness remediation. (MOE Rationale for change, pg. 2)" However the DEE has not made any mention of weather tightness. (DEE March 2013)

The consulting engineer when pressed for an overall summary of the extent of the building damage to Avondale School on a 1 to 10 scale; as he had described the damage in his presentation with words such as minor and superficial, noted that the damage was a 1 or a 2. Avondale School is particularly concerned that the Ministry has considered that our minimal damage warrants inclusion as part of its Rationale for Change.

We note that schools' that remain open (including the 28 as listed above) have similar or even more significant damage. We are aware that the DEE report may well identify that our 1960's brick clad buildings need some form of strengthening. However, this would also apply to the vast majority of such buildings across the country that were built in the same era.

The fact remains that with the intensity of the massive 7.2 earthquake and the numerous aftershocks that exceeded magnitude 6, only three brick veneer walls cracked and all have easily been repaired. Equally, we know that our new 2005 block of six classrooms has been potentially identified for weather tightness issues. However, MOE property personnel have reliably informed Avondale School, that all buildings, constructed after 1994 have been identified as potentially having weather tightness issues across the country. This has been done as a "desk-top" exercise and in no way can it be considered to reflect the actual condition of any recently constructed building. It would require an accurate DEE assessment report to determine actual weather tightness requirements and any potential cost remediation for our new buildings and any others around the country.

We believe that our new classrooms built in 2005 (see picture below) maximized the MOE's funding schedule of the day, to provide 21st century learning environments and will serve as good baseline assets moving into the future.



4.4 Land

The inclusion in the MOE's Rationale for Change document states that the surrounding land is predominately CERA technical category 3 (TC3) *"Preliminary assessments suggest geotechnical considerations are likely to be a factor when undertaking development at this site. Significant foundation engineering is likely to be required"*.

Again, the Avondale Board cannot dispute the suggestion that foundation strengthening to meet new geotechnical categories for any subsequent new buildings is highly likely. However, these conditions exist throughout the wider Eastern suburbs with the majority of the land that hasn't been "Red-zoned" as being classified as either TC2 or TC3.

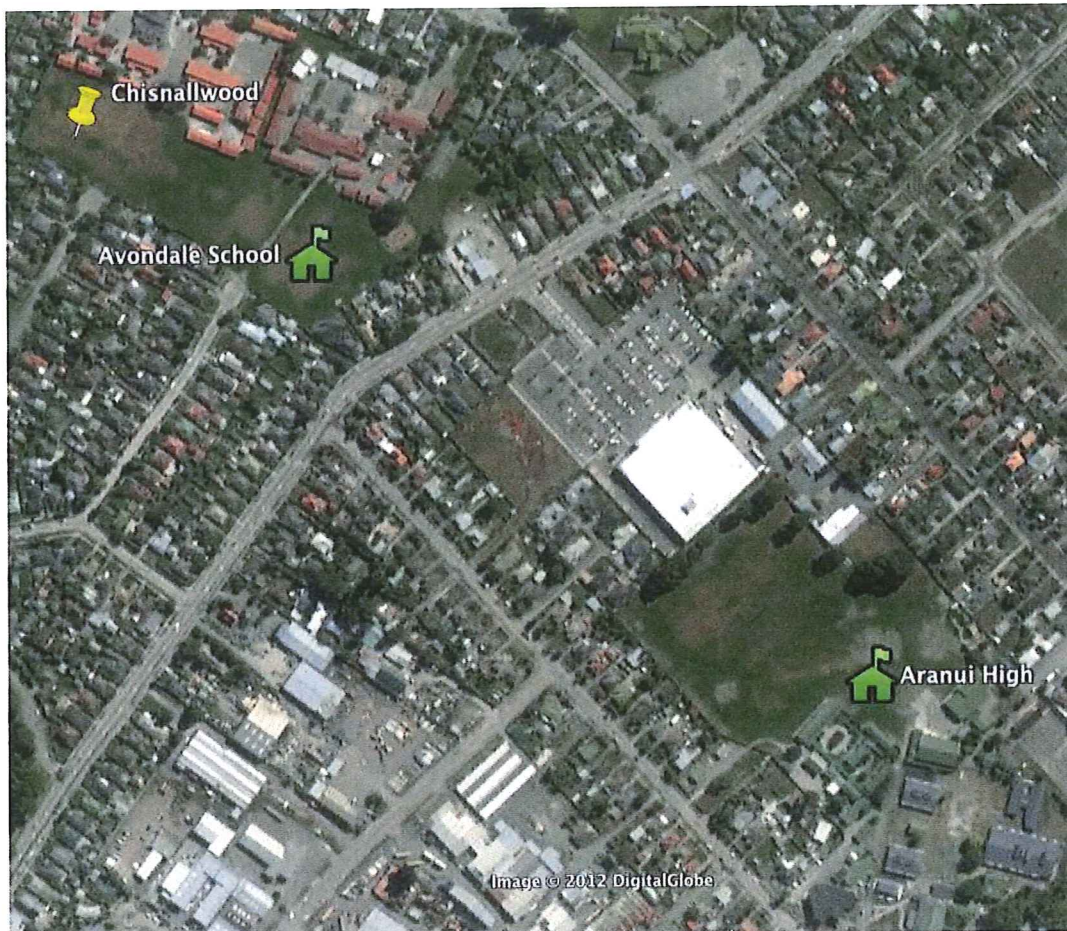
These conditions therefore would need to be of paramount consideration for the proposed MOE's new Area school. A review of the wider Aranui area against available geotechnical data, would indicate that very few sites of a size to accommodate an Area school would have any different soil profiles to that which already exists at Avondale school. In fact, viewing satellite pictures taken just days after the February 22, 2011 major quake, shows substantial liquefaction evidence in two suggested Area school sites, being Wainoni Park and Aranui High school. Both these areas received quite extensive liquefaction events in comparison to Avondale school.

Consequently, until such time as specific geotechnical drilling is done across all local school sites and potential future school sites, land stability can only be considered to be speculative and should not be a contributing factor towards Avondale school's closure.

The fact that Avondale school buildings and the land that it sits on came through all the major quake events with minimal damage would suggest that the site remains an ideal location for a school.



In an effort to provide alternate viable solutions to the tabled MOE Area school proposal, Avondale urges the Minister to consider the proximity of Aranui High School with the combined sites of Avondale and Chisnallwood, which would lead to opportunities for an expanded campus environment and yet utilise the existing infrastructure of the three schools. Strategic purchasing of some boundary properties would allow direct access routes between sites. Distance between sites is less than 500 metres.



A close-up view of the Chisnallwood Intermediate and Avondale primary schools existing shared site is provided (next page). Peak combined capacity with existing infrastructure pre-quake and before Chisnallwood zoning, was 1450 students. A current combined campus would total approximately 1150 students.

It is Avondale school's contention that the current location and roll size of both Avondale and Chisnallwood Intermediate on their shared site, is highly suggestive of a combined campus, offering the same (if not more) projected potential learning outcomes and amenities that an Area School could offer with an expected smaller roll of @ 800 - 900 students.



4.5 People

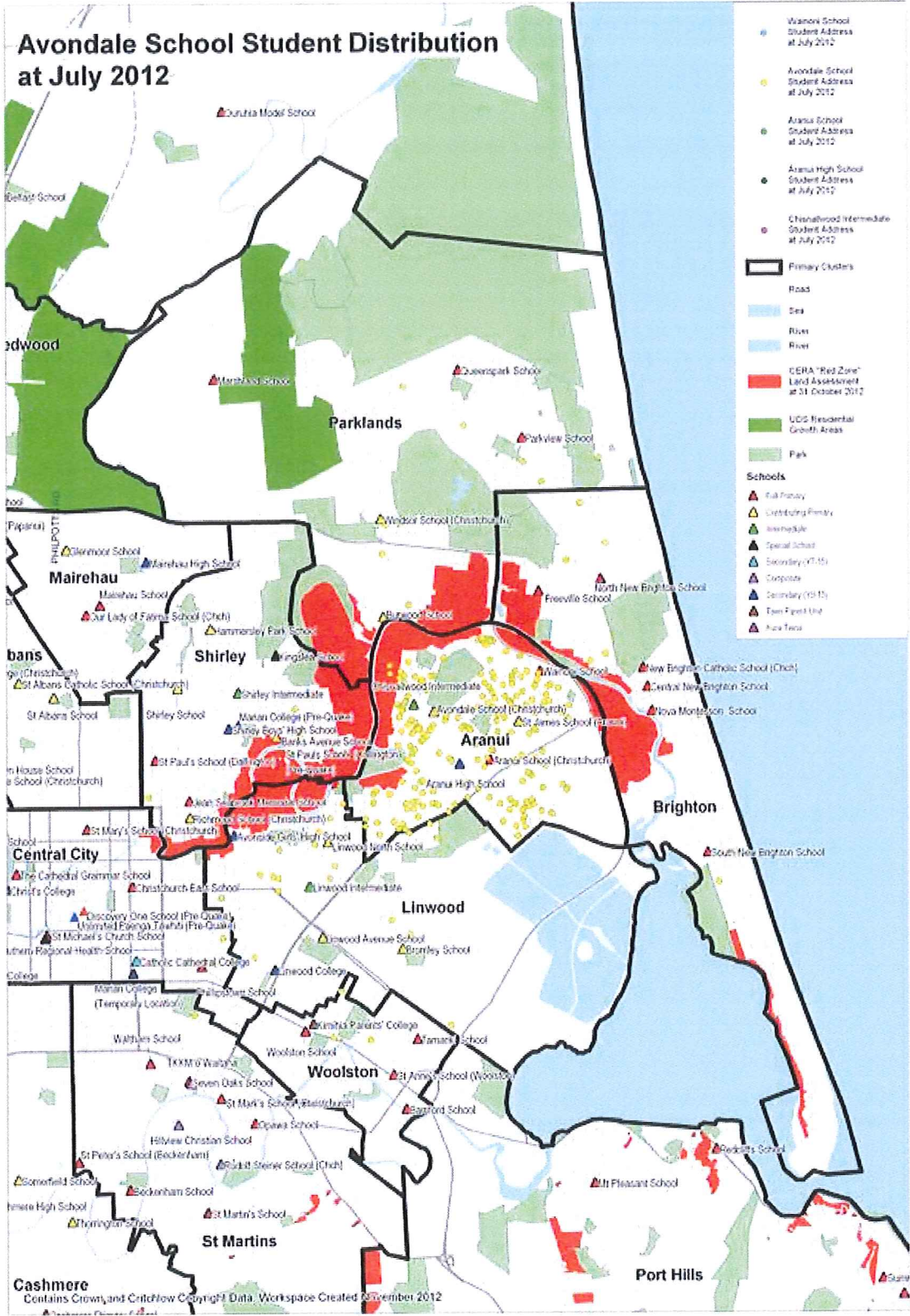
The Avondale area has had a significant loss in population post quake but it would now appear our 1st July 2012 roll numbers have stabilized in the 320-340 range. The school expects to have an increasing roll over time, once rebuilds are completed. Avondale had a “Red-zone” of 638 homes. In July 2011 this involved 21 Avondale students. By July 2012 there was just one student located in our “Red” zone. Consequently, there is not expected to be further negative roll impact from “Red” zone effects.

Avondale School is a local school serving a local community with a significant identity and culture. The social, cultural and community wellbeing of the Avondale School community is intricately linked to the local area and these considerations must be weighed strongly.

Educational outcomes must be balanced with achieving positive life outcomes and this requires integrated thinking and decision-making.

The latest information on Avondale School Student Distribution at July 2012 (next page) shows the catchment of students as well as proximity to other primary schools including Aranui, Wainoni, Burwood and Linwood North.

Avondale School Student Distribution at July 2012



Avondale Primary School Community Engagement Report | 12/3/2012

4.6 Teaching and Learning

Avondale School has a documented and recognised approach to education that is addressing inequities and improving outcomes while prioritising actions that will have a positive impact on learners in greatest need of assistance.

Avondale School is committed to ongoing dialogue with other schools within and across its learning community cluster. It is committed to ongoing partnerships with government agencies, community organisations and providers that the school considers to be critical to both successful learning and community outcomes.

Student Achievement

Although student achievement has not been given by the Ministry as a reason for closure or merger as part of the “Rationale for Change”, numerous subsequent Ministry communiqués have indicated that new schools will have the ability to provide enhanced learning opportunities for its students due to (presumably) the provision of enhanced facilities because of enlarged campuses. Avondale School prides itself on its student achievement results for a decile 2 school.

We acknowledge that many of our students do not commence their primary schooling with high levels of literacy or numeracy. We have the data that shows that our teaching is making a difference and that we continue, through “value-added” learning to close the gaps. The Avondale staff and school Board do not consider that allowing our students to go to an Area school will in any way enhance the learning opportunities that they currently enjoy at our school.

The school holds a complete set of achievement data and is more than willing to share this in its entirety to the MOE. Captured in Appendix 1 is a snapshot of some representative pieces of achievement data illustrating gains made between Assessment 1, February 2012, and Assessment 2, September 2012. We are particularly proud of the achievement levels of our Maori students who number 25% of our student cohort.

We believe that our data will stand up to scrutiny and that it is likely to exceed the achievement levels of the other primary schools in the Aranui cluster. This, for our parent community, is a very compelling reason for Avondale School not to close or merge with other schools. It has been one of the paramount reasons why they enrolled their child at Avondale in the first place and not other primary schools. They have chosen Avondale and they feel very strongly about having the freedom of educational choice.

4.7 Future Governance

Avondale School is open to exploring future governance models that will contribute to more integrated leadership, leading to better outcomes for students and their families.

5. Avondale Primary School Community Background

Avondale Primary School is a year 1-6 state co-educational primary school situated in Avondale with a decile 2 rating. The school has established a reputation for providing quality education for all its pupils and attending to the needs of students with special needs or abilities in the area.

Significant achievement gains⁴ have been made by the students given that many pupils enrol with a narrow range of experiences and opportunities, necessitating special programmes to provide the foundation skills for learning. As a school we have a prime focus on literacy and numeracy.

⁴ <http://ero.govt.nz/index.php/Early-Childhood-School-Reports/School-Reports/Avondale-School-Christchurch-11-11-2010/About-The-School>

6. Community Engagement

6.1 A principled approach

The engagement process designed and adopted for this school community was based on the best practice community development and International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) principles⁵ and practice.

6.2 Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority CERA Recovery Strategy

The Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) have developed a Recovery Strategy⁶ providing a vision, goals and a road map for ensuring the success of greater Christchurch for recovery and future leadership in earthquake resilience. The Recovery Strategy Vision is:

“Greater Christchurch recovers and progresses as a place to be proud of an attractive and vibrant place to live, work, visit and invest mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri ā muri ake nei for us and out children after us. The community is at the heart of the vision and the success of recovery”

The Recovery Strategy / Mahere Hauanutanga has Community at the centre of its model surrounded by five interrelated aspects. These are economic, built, natural, cultural and social. Weaving all of these recovery components together is leadership and integration.

CERA Community Engagement Framework

The CERA has also developed its Community engagement framework based on the IAP2 framework⁷ that asserts that:

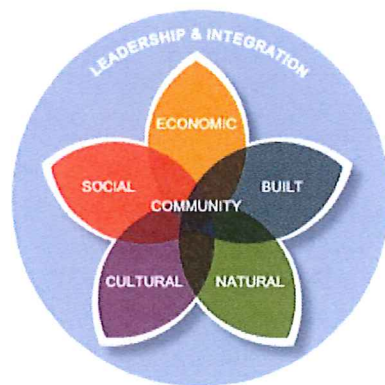
“We are committed to moving as far and as often as possible towards the level of empowerment.”

Further to this CERA clearly states in its Community engagement strategy to the people of Canterbury⁸:

“Our goal is to enable you and your communities to participate in decision making around the rebuilding and revitalisation of greater Christchurch.”

CERA Recovery Principles

Section 2 of the Recovery Strategy states the guiding principles that underpin the recovery strategy in Canterbury and Avondale Primary School concurs with these principles.



⁵ <http://www.iap2.org/associations/4748/files/spectrum.pdf>

⁶ <http://cera.govt.nz/recovery-strategy/overview>

⁷ <http://cera.govt.nz/sites/cera.govt.nz/files/common/cera-community-engagement-framework.pdf>

⁸ <http://cera.govt.nz/sites/cera.govt.nz/files/common/cera-community-engagement-strategy.pdf>

Avondale Primary School understands that:

“These principles, along with normal public sector requirements and obligations, will provide guidance at a strategic level. CERA, its strategic partners and other government agencies will refer to them as they plan and implement recovery activities together”⁹.

These Recovery principles are:

- **Work together**
Recovery is a collaborative effort. It is essential to have constructive relationships between the private sector, NGOs, local and central government agencies, and the wider community.
- **Take an integrated approach**
Links between different recovery initiatives will be identified so that together they achieve the greatest benefits.
- **Look to the future**
Development and recovery initiatives will be undertaken in a sustainable manner. They will meet the needs of future generations, taking into account climate change and the need to reduce risk from natural hazards. They will also ensure community safety and wellbeing now and in the future. If the process of repair reveals a way of enriching people’s quality of life, that opportunity will be taken.
- **Promote efficiency**
Resources will be used wisely so that the recovery is timely and affordable, and delivers value for money
- **Use the best available information**
A wide range of information, including spatial information, will be collected and shared. This information will help decision-making, improve transparency, promote best practices and enable the public to participate in the recovery effectively.
- **Care about each other**
Recovery initiatives will take account of people’s psychological, physical, spiritual and social needs. They will promote equitable outcomes and connected communities and recognise diversity.
- **Innovate**
Creative, cultural and resourceful solutions to recovery issues will be encouraged.
- **Aim for balanced decision-making**
Decisions will balance action and certainty with risk. They will consider the need for positive action, speedy responses and certainty; and the risk of short-term economic, environmental and social hardship and of compromising long-term objectives.
- **Keep it simple**
Communication must be clear and stick to the facts. It must give land owners, residents and businesses the information they need.

⁹ <http://cera.govt.nz/recovery-strategy/overview/read-the-recovery-strategy/section-2-guiding-principles>

6.3 Office of the Auditor General

In October 2012 The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) presented a Parliamentary paper¹⁰ on the roles, responsibilities, and funding of public entities after the Canterbury earthquakes. In this paper it highlights the importance of collaborating effectively (Page 9). The OAG states that:

“The United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as well as other state and national audit offices, have separately studied efforts to recover from natural disasters. Their work has identified some factors that contribute to effective recovery. These factors include:

- Public confidence and trust, gained through being transparent and communicating openly;
- Clear relationships between different levels of government to manage risks of duplicating work and lacking co-ordination; and
- Recovery authorities having a strong focus on gaining and maintaining cohesion, co-ordination, and consensus.”

The OAG goes on to state:

“For Canterbury to recover successfully, public entities must work collaboratively. Experience from other international natural disasters has shown how important it is to properly co-ordinate and govern how the public sector responds. If collaborating fails, recovery efforts can be hampered, causing delays and in the end poor outcomes for affected communities.”

The community engagement approach for the Avondale School community of interest has been drawn from the inclusive and participatory principles identified and endorsed by IAP2, CERA and the OAG. This process has been designed to ensure the best outcomes for Avondale Primary School and wider school community.

¹⁰ <http://www.oag.govt.nz/2012/canterbury/2012/canterbury/docs/canterbury.pdf> ISBN 978-0-478-38388-1 (online)

7. Consultation

7.1 Legal Definition of Consultation

Avondale Primary School and its community accept there are legal definitions of consultation¹¹ where Chief Judge Goddard restated (at pp 455-456) several propositions as a guide to employers and employees.

“(3) If there is a proposal to make a change, and such change requires to be preceded by consultation, it must not be made until after consultation with those required to be consulted. They ‘must know what is proposed before they can be expected to give their views’...

“(5) The requirement for consultation is never to be treated perfunctorily or as a mere formality. The person or body to be consulted must be given a reasonably ample and sufficient opportunity to express views or to point to problems or difficulties...

“(6) Consultation must be allowed sufficient time...

“(7) Genuine effort must be made to accommodate the views of those being consulted; consultation is to be a reality, not a charade...

“(9) Consulting involves the statement of a proposal not yet finally decided upon, listening to what others have to say, considering their responses, and then deciding what will be done...”

Avondale Primary School and wider network of community stakeholders acknowledge and thank the Minister of Education for the reassurance that this is a genuine consultation.

7.2 Engagement Process

The process of engagement consisted of numerous informal conversations, several school and community meetings, two surveys, meeting with Minister Hekia Parata and one future focused school workshop for parents and staff.

The process is consistent with the Ministry of Education's Information for School Reorganisation provided to consultant Facilitators¹².

¹¹ The views in *Wellington International Airport* [1993] 1 NZLR 671 (CA) were adopted by Goddard CJ in *Communication and Energy Workers Union v Telecom NZ Ltd* [1993] 2 ERNZ 429, an application for an interim injunction.

¹² Provided to consultant facilitators at two workshops in November 2012.

7.3 An invitation to participate

From September 2012 - March 2013 parents and wider school community stakeholders were invited to several opportunities to share thoughts and feelings about the proposed closure.

The school community of interest was identified as any person who has a past or current interest in the school. Prospective students and parents were also welcome.

Key stakeholders identified were:

1. Past and current students
2. Past and current parents
3. Local education leaders
4. Community providers and leaders
5. Board of Trustees

Below is a timeline of these engagement opportunities including keeping the school community informed, consultation through surveys, involvement through workshops and partnership with key stakeholders particularly the other four schools in the Aranui Cluster.

These opportunities were:

1.	5th September, 2012	Community informed through Principal's Newsletter
2.	14th September, 2012	Parent and staff consultation through a community survey to understand initial thoughts about proposal
3.	15th October, 2012	Aranui Cluster Senior Leaders Meeting
4.	16th October, 2012	Canterbury Primary Principals Association Christchurch Principals meeting
5.	23 October, 2012	Cluster Senior Leaders Meeting
6.	24th October, 2012	Community informed through Principal's Newsletter
7.	31st October, 2012	Avondale Community meeting
8.	1st November, 2012	Cluster Community meeting
9.	2nd November, 2012	Aranui Cluster Senior Leaders Meeting
10.	6th November, 2012	Minister of Educations visit
11.	7th November, 2012	Community informed through Principal's Newsletter
12.	7th November, 2012	Avondale School community workshop
13.	9th November, 2012	Aranui Cluster Senior Leaders Meeting
14.	15th November, 2012	Cluster Community meeting
15.	23rd November, 2012	Aranui Cluster Senior Leaders Meeting
16.	26th November, 2012	Avondale BoT meeting
17.	28th November, 2012	Community informed through Principal's Newsletter

18.	11th December, 2012	Community informed through Principal's Newsletter
19.	20th February, 2013	Community informed through Principal's Newsletter
20.	21st February, 2013	Avondale BoT meeting
21.	25th February, 2013	Parent and staff consultation through a community survey to validate school BoT submission

In addition to the school community engagement opportunities Avondale school leadership also engaged with the Ministry of Education and advisory staff throughout the course of the engagement period.

These included:

1.	27th September, 2012	MOE Meeting - Shaping Education,
2.	15th October, 2012	MOE Rationale for Change Meeting
3.	21 November, 2012	Karen Sewell meeting with principal
4.	14th February, 2013	Karen Sewell meeting with principal

The Principals Newsletters are included as Appendix 2.

8. School and Community Surveys

Two surveys were conducted for parents and staff of Avondale School and both surveys asked the same questions.

8.1 Parent survey responses

Below is a summary of parent survey responses. More detail can be found in Appendix 3.

Summary:

1. Avondale School is pleased with the level of engagement with 122/254 families responding to the survey.
2. The survey was undertaken in September soon after the announcement.
3. The parents of Avondale, largely (59%) reject the proposal, with a significant number (38%) acknowledging merit in a modified version and a small number (3%) supporting the adoption of the proposal.
4. The importance of ensuring school community is kept up to date with the thinking from the other four schools in the 'Aranui cluster' especially with accurate factual information and neutral language Example 'Community Campus' as opposed to 'super school', was identified.
5. Avondale School leadership recognises that the Avondale dialogue is happening in the context of the broader conversation happening relative to the five schools in the 'Aranui cluster' and other related conversations including Burwood School and Linwood North.
6. A second survey was undertaken in February 2013 to validate the BoT's submission. This showed that 74% of the parents surveyed favoured Option 1; (retain Avondale Primary School and 36% favoured Option 2; (Merge two other primary schools onto the Avondale site). There were "0" respondents favouring the year 1-13 Area school.

8.2 Staff survey responses

Below is a summary of staff survey responses. More detail can be found in Appendix 4.

Summary:

1. A total of 18/27 staff responses were obtained
2. The staff of Avondale largely (95%) supports a modified version of the proposal with one (5%) respondent rejecting the proposal.
3. Of the modifications multiple staff preferred options merging two or three primary schools with the retention of choice at Intermediate level.
4. Avondale School currently has capacity for Aranui and Wainoni Primary Schools current student population should the three primary schools merge.

8.3 Parent and staff workshop

This workshop was hosted by the Principal and was supported by parents, staff and community members. The purpose of the workshop was to engage school community stakeholders in a dialogue looking forward 50 years to determine what would be most important for learners and their families.

This dialogue was framed by the current reality for the school and identified options, preferences and non-negotiable elements for the school community.

These notes were harvested from a parent and staff workshop at Avondale School on Wednesday 7 November from 7 - 9.15pm. Parents, staff and community members attended the visit.

The school principal Mark Scown hosted the visit that was also attended by a number of Ministry of Education officials. Officials attended to support the Minister, take notes, provide information and answer questions.

Below is a summary of the “non negotiable priorities” validated by the workshop participants:

Summary

Participation & Culture

1. Students voice
2. Community involvement, identity and pride (x2)
3. Eco-friendly/Sun smart / renewables
4. Genuine consultation / open communication, full disclosure and participation (x2)

Geographic

5. Walk to school, accessibility (x2)
6. Choice of school x4
7. Preserve Avondale school

Teaching & Learning

8. Retaining teachers / Do not lose teachers/staff (x2)
9. Life long skills and learning
10. Needs of children are met
11. Safe/healthy/well/happy children (x3)
12. Funding / Keeping class sizes (do not increase)
13. Educational achievement/excellence and opportunities (x2)
14. Early childhood/preschool facility
15. Inclusive education / Education for children of all abilities (x2)

Facilities and greenspace

16. Outdoor space
17. The school's edible garden
18. School/community swimming pool/hall

8.4 Visit by Minister Parata

These notes were harvested from Minister Hekia Parata's visit to Avondale School on Tuesday 6 November 2012 from 10 -11am. 60 parents, staff and community members attended the mid morning visit.

The school principal, Mark Scown hosted the visit that was also attended by a number of Ministry of Education officials. Officials attended to support the Minister, take notes, provide information and answer questions.

The Principal's address to Minister Parata is attached as Appendix 5.

Concerns & Issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What we don't know 2. The process of engagement 3. Time Frames (2016) 4. The future of our tamariki 5. Please extend the consultation timeframe for our 'five' Aranui schools beyond 7th Dec 6. Genuine consultation process 7. We're struggling day by day" at present 8. Assurance that our children would get a better education (other benefits) from a Y1 - 13 school, and needs being met 9. Younger children seeing teen/adolescent behavior (negative) 10. Person history 11. Family & community 12. History/Identity 13. Sense of place and connection 14. "This is what community is really about" 15. The right for <u>parent choice</u> 16. Wainoni Park Site 17. Traffic Congestion 18. No decision on a site (emphasized) 19. We want the best for our children 20. We want them to be <u>safe</u>, not bullied 21. Can you ensure safer larger schools 22. Protected roll size
Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the reasoning? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Land, Buildings (new classrooms), b. People/Population c. Financial \$9.6B in vote educ, 20%) - d. Rationale Document - Towards or successful integrated cluster school, best spend of vote digital literacy 2. What is the evidence? 3. Data & Information 4. Damage minor & superficial 5. What assurances can be provided? 6. Have you considered what we are all dealing with here? 7. Parents, Teachers, Students 8. Can we extend the timeline? Questioning the timing 9. Is there an agenda to close intermediate schools & introduce charter schools?

Positives/ opportunities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avondale is open to dialogue with schools 2. Empower our community together 3. Ensuring good value spend into education 4. Focus on raising our student achievement 5. MP "What would the Avondale community prefer?" 6. Pegasus achievement cluster (7 schools) 7. MP What timeline will ensure we get the best response from Avondale (my words) 8. Not about the size 9. International evidence <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Teacher Quality & practice b. Class size (not school size) c. Campus Management 10. Pedagogy, Future Learning 11. Schools and community leaders working together for our children 12. Avondale would stay for at least the next five years
Way forward	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blue Skies thinking on what education in Christchurch might look like 2. Collaborative & transparent process needed 3. Our Aranui Cluster is diverse, unique and time is required to get this right
Mark Scown (10.00 - 10.25am)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Backstory & our current reality at Avondale & eastern Christchurch 2. The impact on our wellbeing 3. Our local ministry people are fantastic 4. School Survey 5. Need for rationalization 96% "NO" to area school 6. Overview of current situation
Minister Parata (10.25 -	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Genuine proposal 2. 21st Century environment & practice 3. No prejudgment 4. Visit to get a sense

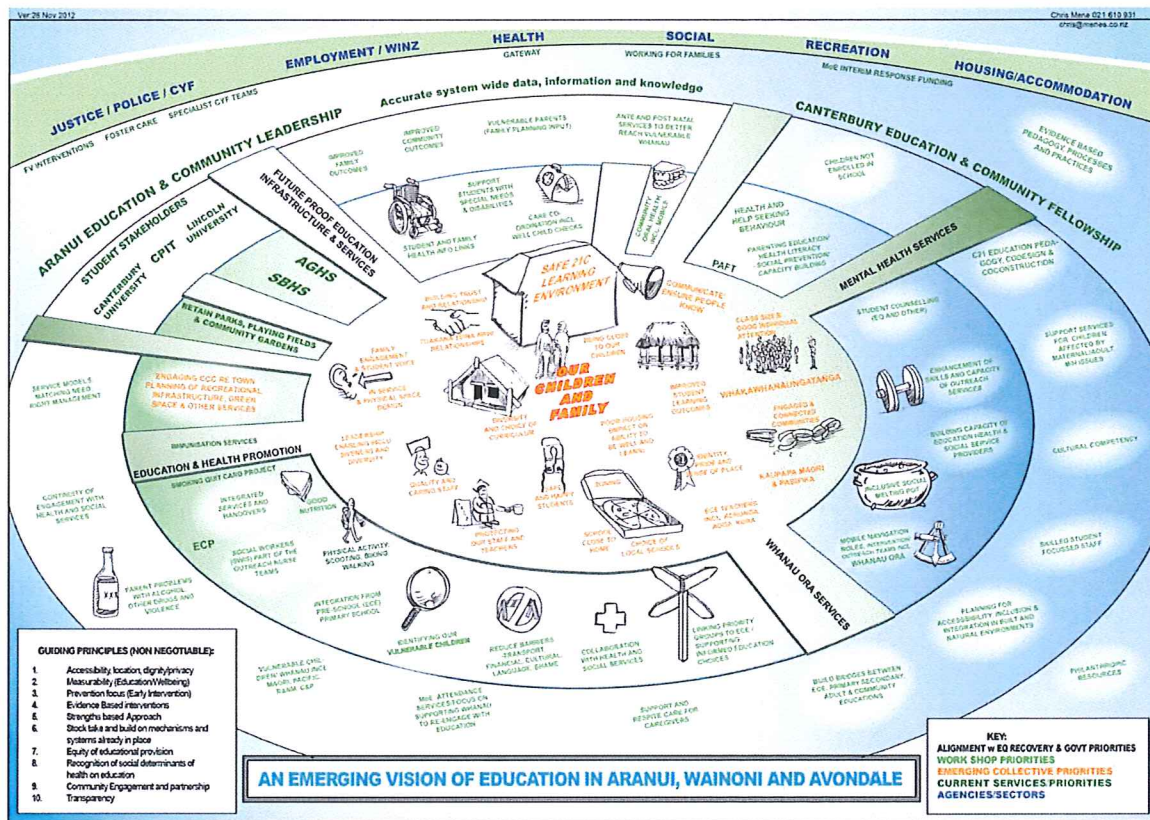
8.5 ACTIS Community Engagement

Notable mention is made of the Aranui Community Trust Incorporated Society (ACTIS) who were proactive in being a catalyst to bring together the Aranui community with the five schools in two community workshops. These workshops provided the opportunity for open dialogue and included stakeholders from the following domains:

1. Early Childhood Education
2. Social services
3. Health services (CDHB, General Practice, Public health and Community Pharmacy)
4. Community Mental health / Alcohol and Other Drug sector
5. Local Government (Elected members, Library management and staff)
6. Youth work
7. Maori and Iwi representatives
8. Pasifika community leaders
9. Recreation

One output from this dialogue included a shared vision for Aranui, Wainoni and Avondale that ACTIS has shared publicly. This included the AFFIRM community event in December 2012 which was the largest community event in Aranui last year.

The Avondale School BoT recognises this vision as a meaningful output that has come out of a community led collaborative engagement process. It supports this vision being considered by the Minister relative to her decision for the Aranui, Wainoni and Avondale communities.



8.6 Avondale Residents Association support

Local community support has also been clear for Avondale School. This has extended to a written endorsement by the Avondale Residents Association (ARA). This letter of endorsement articulates the anticipated positive and negative effects of Avondale School being closed. This letter is attached as Appendix 6.

The ARA emphasizes that:

"The local community have firmly stated on numerous questionnaires, meetings and discussions that they want to stay where they are. The schools have both indicated they are keen to work collaboratively with shared resources, buildings, staff etc to further enhance educational opportunities in Avondale.

To use the earthquakes as an excuse to experiment with our eastern suburbs children's education is abhorrent. Our children have been through enough with many of their friends being forced to leave Avondale. Avondale is a very divided community with over 600 household being red zoned leaving the remaining approx 1100 to pick up the pieces and rebuild their homes, community and lives. The constant 'rock' of Avondale School has done a superb job of assisting these young citizens to adjust and needs to be retained as is where is."

8.7 Initial alternate proposals

On 18 October 2012 a thought starter was shared with staff to stimulate thinking about alternative options (Appendix 7). These options were stimulated through collaborative thinking between the five school principals, BoT Chairs and two school facilitators.

The basis was to provide a viable solution to the MoE proposal with a goal of aiming for a consensus around what the preferred way forward would look like.

The basis identified future population trends and greater certainty of Housing New Zealand homes in the Avondale School catchment.

MoE Proposal	All Close and replaced by year 1-13 Area school on a new site after the end of 2017
Alternate 1	High School and Intermediate remain; with Wainoni and Aranui primaries merging on Avondale site with additional amenities, including ECE and social service hubs being provided. Year 7 & 8's would be sent to Chisnallwood Intermediate
Alternate 2	High School and Intermediate remain; with Avondale, Wainoni and Aranui primaries merging on a new site with additional amenities, including ECE and social service hubs being provided. Whether a full primary or contributing school would need further consideration.
Alternate 3	High School becomes year 11-13 + academy education facility with adult links through polytech and or Trades Chisnallwood Intermediate becomes year 7 to 10 taking over Avondale school site All three Primary schools merge on a new site
Alternate 4	Aranui High, Wainoni and Aranui Primary merge on one site with additional amenities, including ECE and social service hubs being provided and Chisnallwood and Avondale merge in their existing location

These options were shared at a community meeting hosted by the principal on Thursday 7 November 2012.

Parent views endorsed proposals allowing the retention of the Avondale school site.

9. Likely impact of closure

9.1 What closure would mean for the school and its community

Closure would mean many different things to different stakeholders and the diverse feedback in the workshops and surveys reveals the breadth of opinion and thinking both in the Avondale community and the wider cluster. Students, staff, parents and the community have raised a number of concerns relative to this process, uncertainties and the current impact on students and community of this proposal.

9.2 School closure and the overall plan

It is not yet clear for our learning community cluster how the proposed closure of our school would fit into the overall plan for our learning community cluster in the short, medium or long term or the lack of educational research that promotes the advantages of an urban, low decile, Area school.

This is the same situation for the network as a whole because it is unclear how the schools closure will fit into the overall plan for the network. Initial thinking is that the school BoT wishes to remain engaged in this process.

10. Response to current proposal

The Avondale School community:

1. Recognises the massive impact the Canterbury Earthquakes has had on Greater Christchurch, the schools and communities of Avondale, Wainoni and Aranui.
2. Acknowledges this most challenging context and the test this has been to school leadership, staff, parents and children whilst still focusing on student achievement.
3. Is pleased with the level of engagement with 122/254 families responding to the survey undertaken in September soon after the announcement.
4. Initially rejected (96%) the Ministry of Education's (MOE's) proposal of a new year 1-13 area school resulting from the closure of all five Aranui cluster schools
5. Identified the importance of ensuring the school community is current with thinking from the other four schools in the 'Aranui cluster' especially with accurate factual information and neutral language e.g. 'Community Campus' as opposed to 'super school'.
6. Leadership recognises that the Avondale school dialogue is happening in the context of the broader conversation relative to the five schools in the 'Aranui cluster' and other related conversations including Burwood School and Linwood North.
7. Staff largely (95%) supports a modified version of the proposal with one (5%) respondent rejecting the proposal.
8. Staff preferred options merging two or three primary schools with the retention of choice at Intermediate level.
9. Currently has capacity for Aranui and Wainoni Primary Schools current student year 1 - 6 population should the three primary schools merge on the Avondale site.

Non-negotiable priorities for the Avondale School community are:

1. Choice of school (x4)
2. Safe/healthy/well/happy children (x3)
3. Community involvement, identity and pride (x2)
4. Walk to school ability for students, accessibility (x2)
5. Inclusive education/Education for children of all abilities (x2)
6. Genuine consultation/open communication, full disclosure and participation (x2)
7. Educational achievement/excellence and opportunities (x2)
8. Retaining teachers / Do not lose teachers/staff (x2)
9. Funding/Keeping class sizes (do not increase)
10. Eco-friendly/Sun smart / renewables
11. Early childhood/preschool facility
12. Life long skills and learning
13. Preserve Avondale school
14. Needs of children are met
15. School/community swimming pool/hall
16. School's "edible" garden
17. Outdoor space
18. Students voice

Conclusion

Avondale School, its Board, staff and community reject the MOE proposal to close our school and four others to amalgamate into one, year 1 -13 Community Campus in Aranui.

The Avondale School community is unconvinced that such a move will in any way improve the learning outcomes for our students. It will not offer suitable levels of choice for our parents and families to choose a school they consider would best meet the needs of their children, now, and into the future.

Given that Avondale's roll remains at 330 students, it is a viable size to continue to provide improved options and outcomes for students.

Being located next to Chisnallwood Intermediate affords Avondale the ability to share a combined campus (1150 students) enabling a range of additional wrap around social services to be located on the shared site. The schools could remain as separate entities, and share a number of core facilities.

The Avondale School BoT recognises the vision developed through the ACTIS community led collaborative engagement process and supports this vision being considered by the Minister relative to her decision for the Aranui, Wainoni and Avondale communities.

The result from a final parent survey conducted in February is attached as Appendix 8 and reveals:

1. Rejection of the Ministers proposal (100%)
2. Endorsement of option 1 (n=84, 74%)

Preferred Option #1

Avondale remains as it is, and shares some facilities with Chisnallwood Intermediate School that adjoins it, with the possible inclusion of agreed social welfare agencies and the provision of Early Childhood Education (ECE) facilities.

3. Some support for option 2 (n=29, 26%)

Preferred Option #2

Avondale remains as it is, with the year 1-6 students of both Wainoni (n~110) and Aranui primary (n~150 students) relocated to Avondale and the year 7 and 8 students they have, relocate to Chisnallwood Intermediate. This is with the possible inclusion of agreed social welfare agencies and the provision of ECE facilities.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Achievement Data 2012

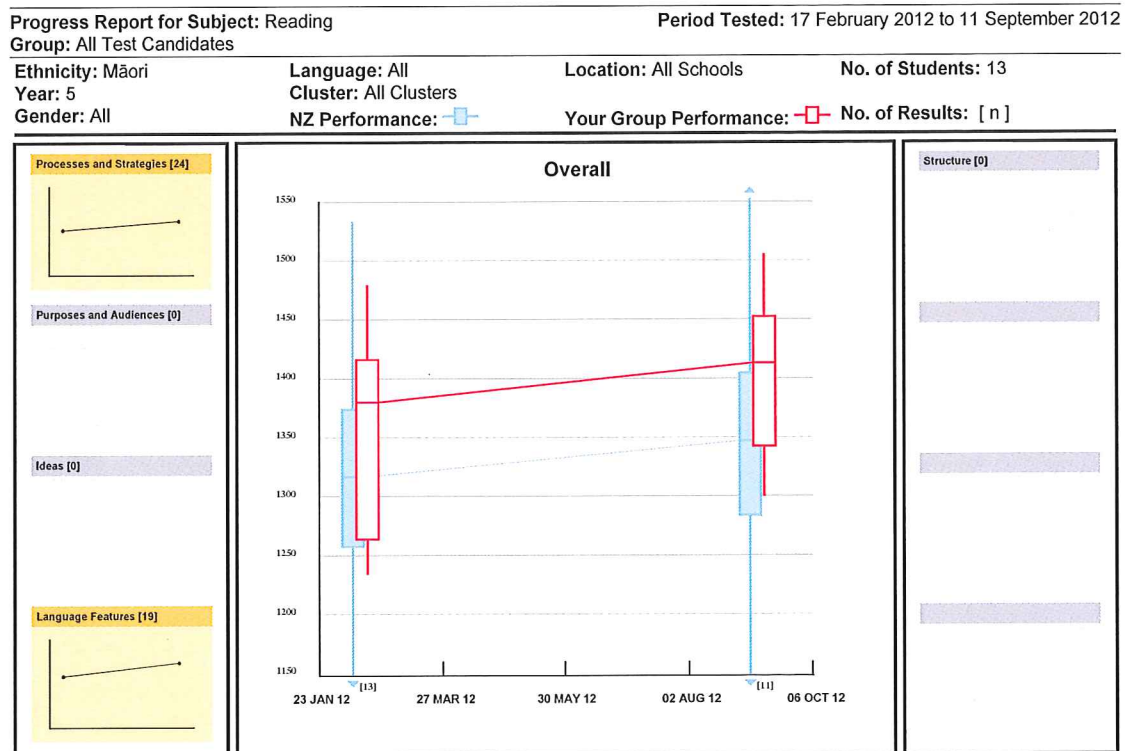
Avondale Primary School – Snapshot Achievement Data 2012

Avondale Primary School has, and continues to do so, work very hard with its student learners to lift their achievement levels. The reality is that a disproportionate number of our students enter our school as five year olds with little meaningful ECE experiences and little preparedness for formal learning, particularly in literacy and numeracy. This is reflective of our decile two school community. However, as educators we have accepted this challenge.

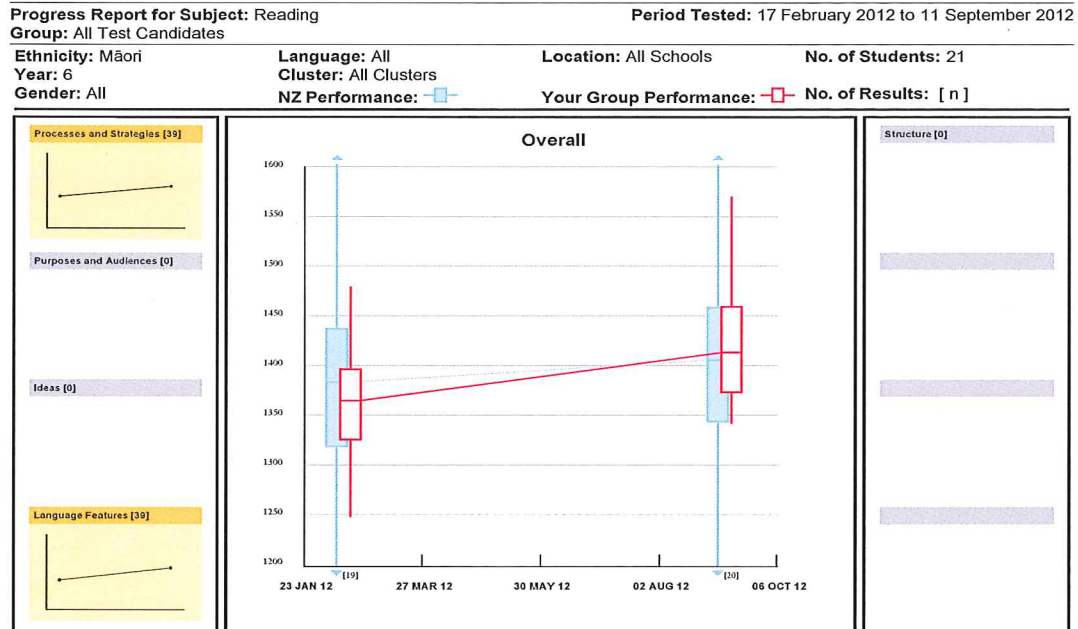
The school holds a complete set of achievement data and is more than willing to share this in its entirety to the MOE. Captured below are just some representative pieces of achievement data illustrating gains made between Assessment 1, February 2012, and Assessment 2, September 2012. We are particularly proud of the achievement levels of our Maori students who number 25% of our student cohort.

All show gains made over a 6 month period, against normed national test criteria. In some cases where the SMS assessment tool generates it, the national normed range is also shown.

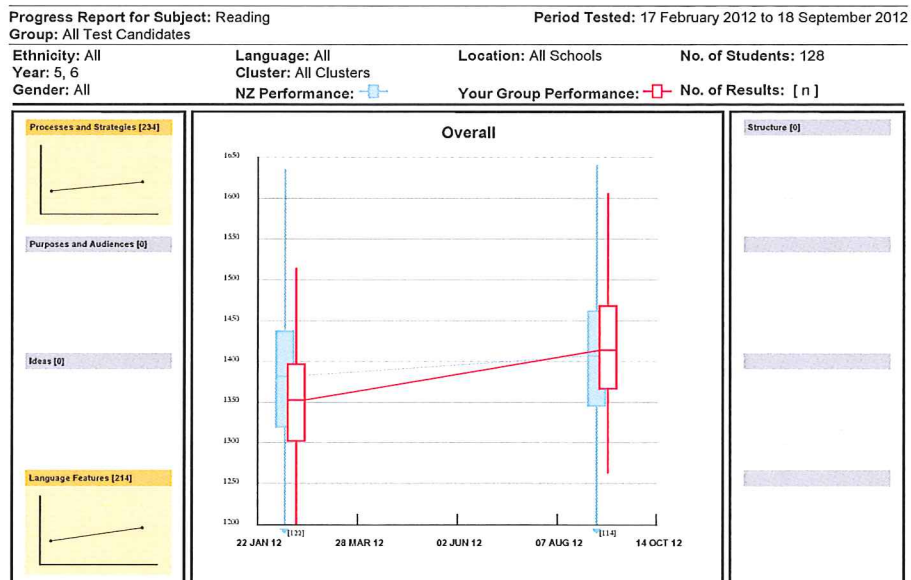
Sample Data – Year 5 Maori – Reading (e-asTTle)



Sample Data – Year 6 Maori – Reading (e-asTTle)



Sample Data – Year 5 & 6 All Students – Reading (e-asTTle)



Mathematics Sample Data - NZCER Box and Whisker Y4 comparison T1/T3 2012

Year Group Progress Report

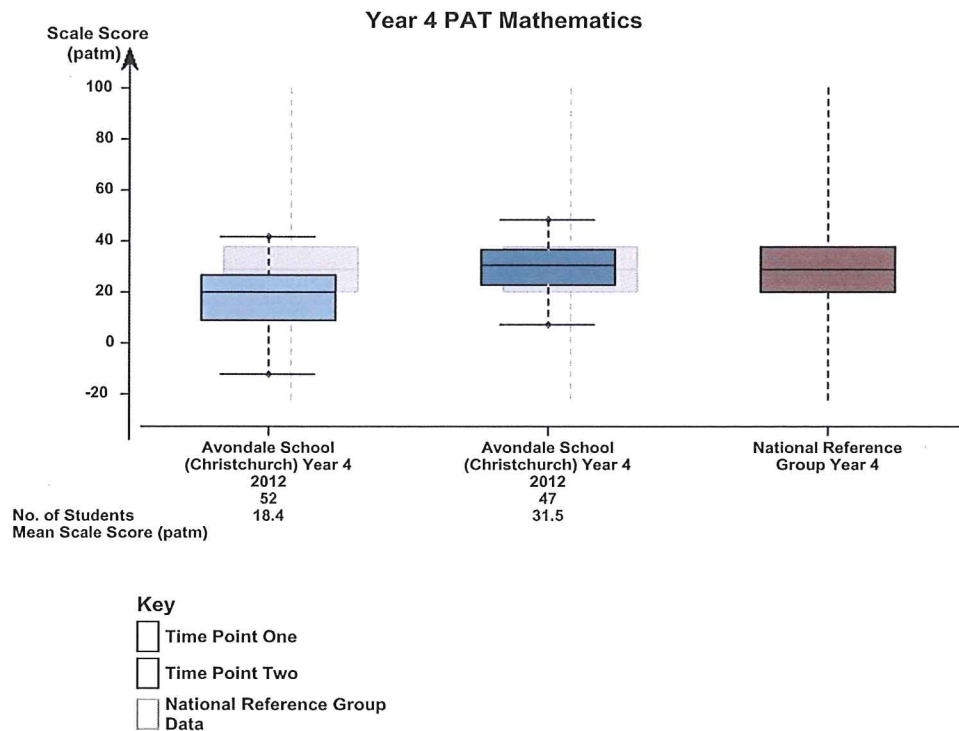
Progressive Achievement Test of Mathematics

All Year 4 (Reference Group Used: Year 4)

Filtered by All Gender, All Ethnicity, Full Cohort, 2012 Term 1, 2012 Term 3

	Number of Students	Mean Scale Score (patm)	Standard Deviation Scale Score (patm)	Median (patm)	Lower Quartile (patm)	Upper Quartile (patm)	Lowest Score (patm)	Highest Score (patm)	Mean Stanine
Time 1	52	18.4 (30.6)	15.5 (12.8)	21.65 (30.6)	10.9 (22)	28.6 (39.2)	-17.4	43.2	3.4 (5.0)
Time 2	47	31.5 (30.6)	10.6 (12.8)	32.4 (30.6)	24.8 (22)	38.2 (39.2)	9.2	59	5.1 (5.0)

Numbers in brackets provide statistics for all students in the national reference group.



Mathematics Sample Data - NZCER Box and Whisker Y6 comparison T1/T3 2012

Year Group Progress Report

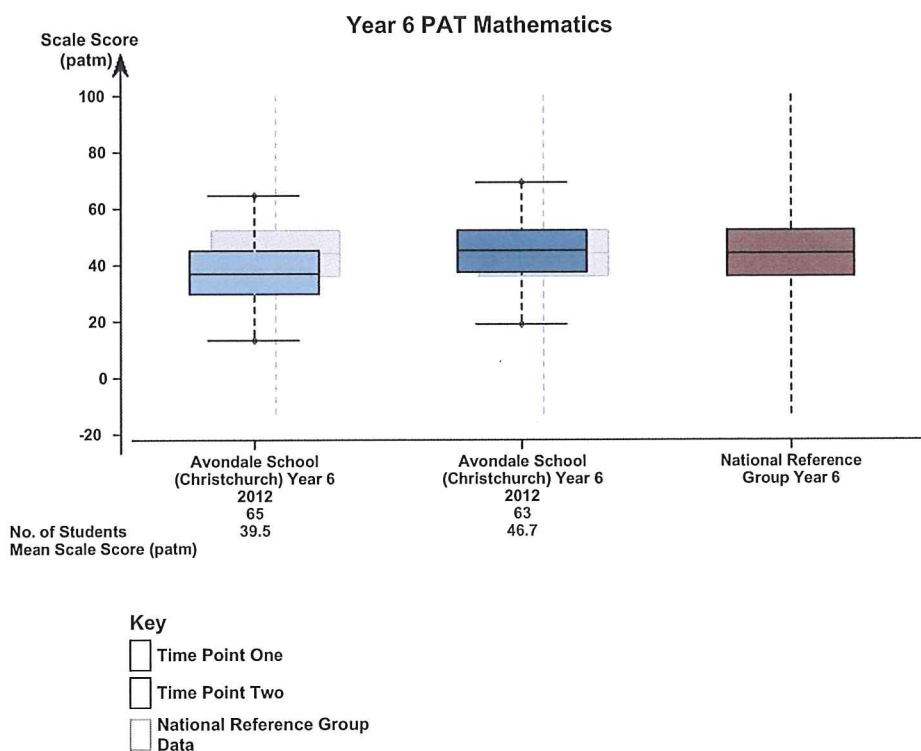
Progressive Achievement Test of Mathematics

All Year 6 (Reference Group Used: Year 6)

Filtered by All Gender, All Ethnicity, Full Cohort, 2012 Term 1, 2012 Term 3

	Number of Students	Mean Scale Score (patm)	Standard Deviation Scale Score (patm)	Median (patm)	Lower Quartile (patm)	Upper Quartile (patm)	Lowest Score (patm)	Highest Score (patm)	Mean Stanine
Time 1	65	39.5 (45.1)	11.1 (11.7)	37.9 (45.1)	30.9 (37.2)	46.1 (53)	14.9	65.2	4.2 (5.0)
Time 2	63	46.7 (45.1)	13.7 (11.7)	46.1 (45.1)	38.6 (37.2)	53 (53)	14.9	87.7	5.1 (5.0)

Numbers in brackets provide statistics for all students in the national reference group.



Year Group Progress Report

STAR (2nd Edition)

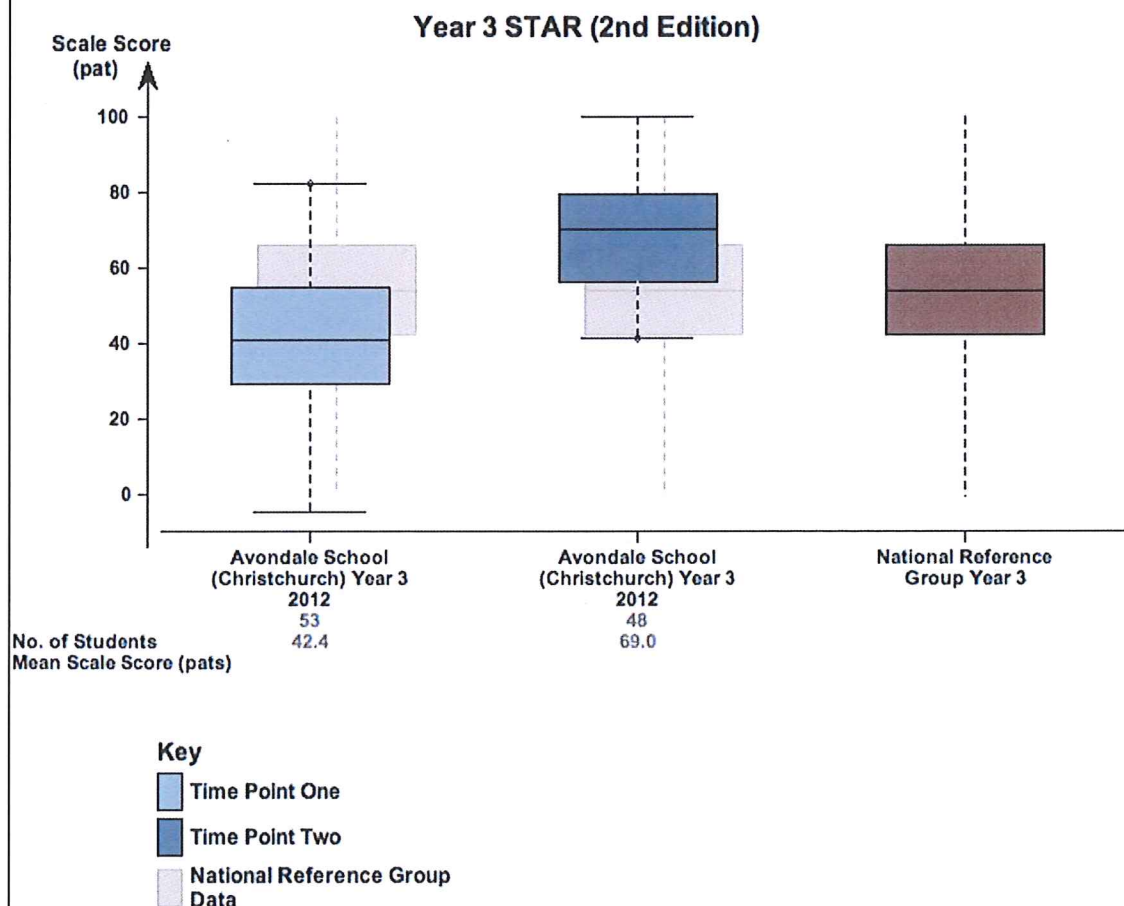
All Year 3 (Reference Group Used: Year 3)

Filters

Filtered by All Gender, All Ethnicity, Full Cohort, 2012 Term 1, 2012 Term 3

	Number of Students	Mean Scale Score (pats)	Standard Deviation Scale Score (pats)	Median (pats)	Lower Quartile (pats)	Upper Quartile (pats)	Lowest Score (pats)	Highest Score (pats)	Mean Stanine
Time 1	53	42.4 (53.8)	17.4 (17.7)	40.8 (53.8)	29.3 (41.9)	54.5 (65.7)	-4.8	82	3.7 (5.0)
Time 2	48	69.0 (53.8)	14.1 (17.7)	69.9 (53.8)	56 (41.9)	79.3 (65.7)	41.2	100.1	6.6 (5.0)

Numbers in brackets provide statistics for all students in the national reference group.



Year Group Progress Report

STAR (2nd Edition)

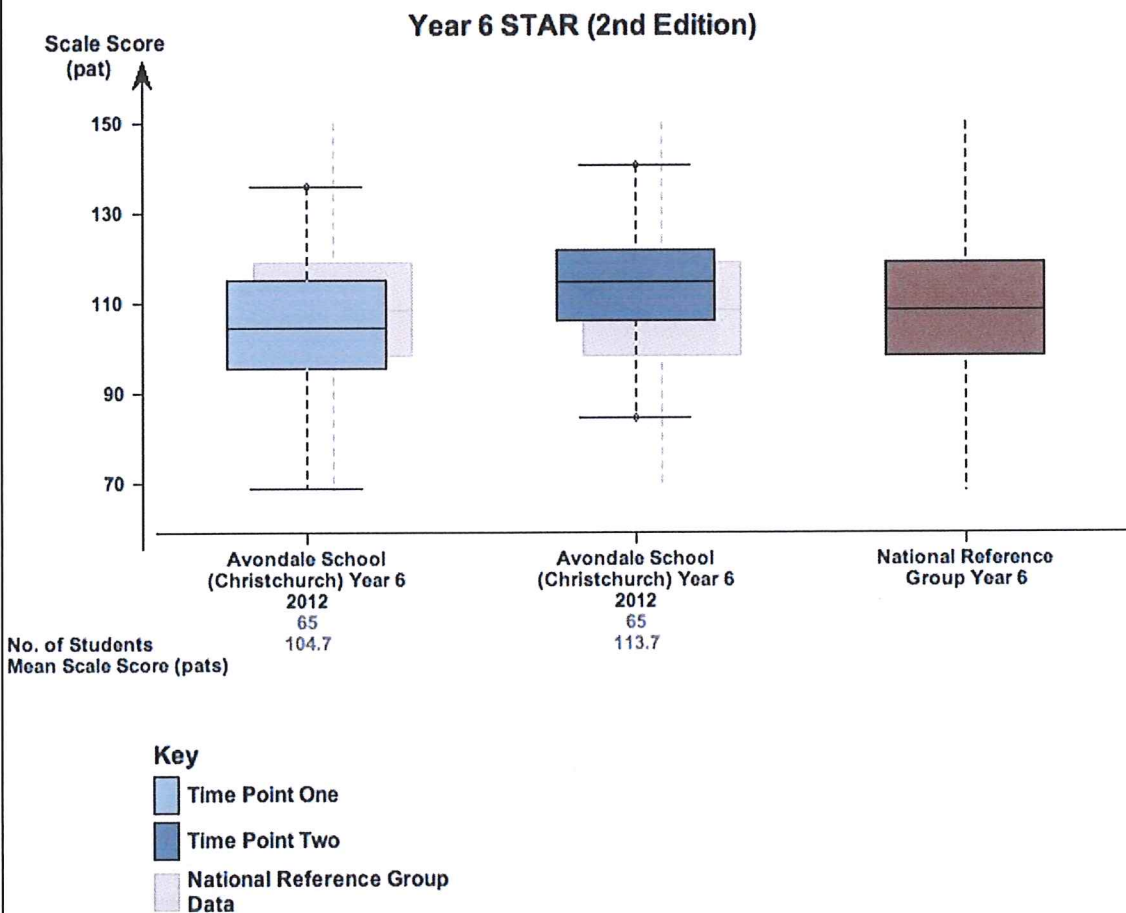
All Year 6 (Reference Group Used: Year 6)

Filters

Filtered by All Gender, All Ethnicity, Full Cohort, 2012 Term 1, 2012 Term 3

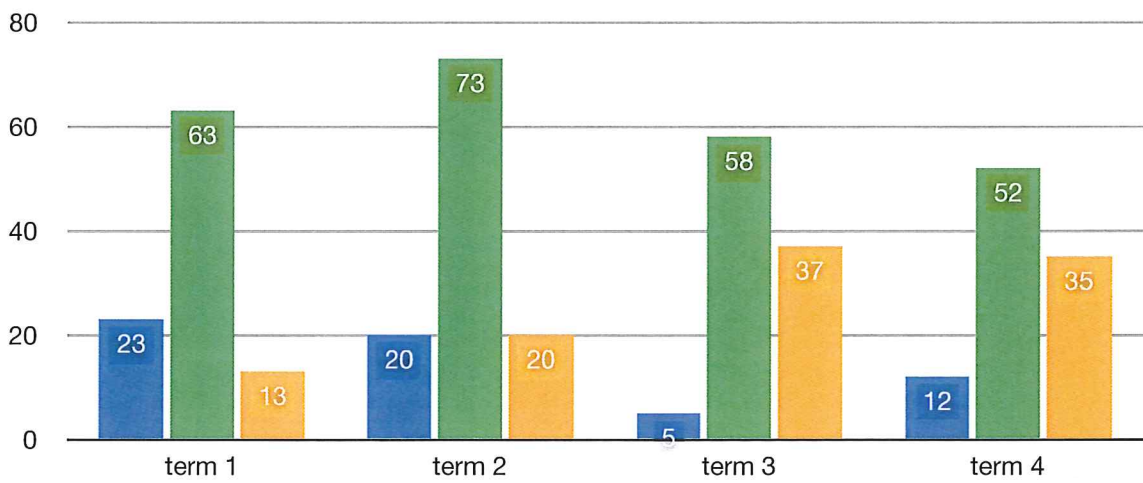
	Number of Students	Mean Scale Score (pats)	Standard Deviation Scale Score (pats)	Median (pats)	Lower Quartile (pats)	Upper Quartile (pats)	Lowest Score (pats)	Highest Score (pats)	Mean Stanine
Time 1	65	104.7 (109)	13.9 (15)	104.8 (109)	96 (98.9)	115.3 (119.1)	69.9	136	4.5 (5.0)
Time 2	65	113.7 (109)	12.2 (15)	115 (109)	106.7 (98.9)	122.1 (119.1)	85.3	140.7	5.7 (5.0)

Numbers in brackets provide statistics for all students in the national reference group.



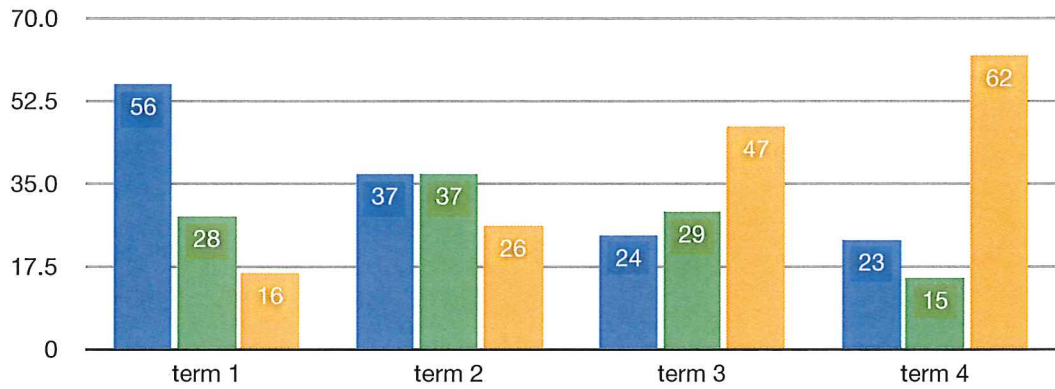
Year 1 Reading Wedge data – Terms 1 - 4, 2012

- Below (blue)
- At (Green)
- Above (Yellow)



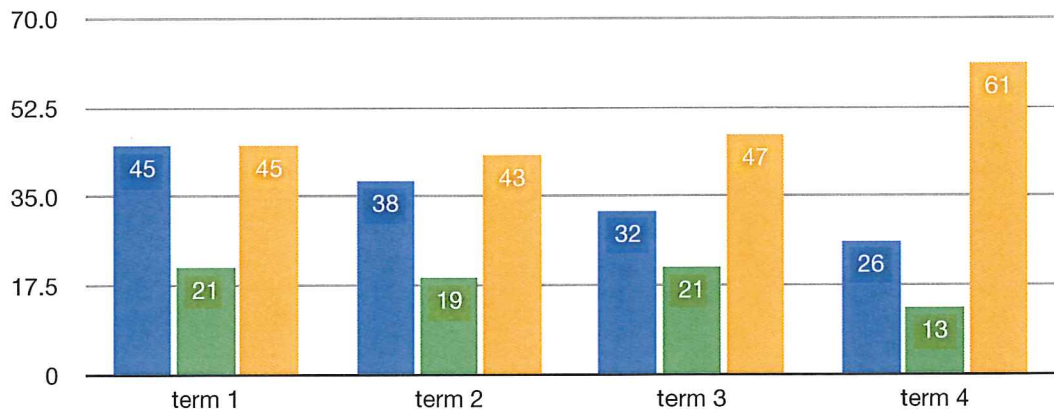
Year 2 Reading Wedge data – Terms 1 - 4, 2012

- Below (blue)
- At (Green)
- Above (Yellow)



Year 3 Reading Wedge data – Terms 1 - 4, 2012

- Below (blue)
- At (Green)
- Above (Yellow)



Appendix 2 – Principals newsletters

Principal's Newsletter 5th September, 2012

Our school roll remains static on just under 340 students which is 34% down on our pre-quake years. Regretfully Avondale's "Red" zone effect has had us slowly losing more students since last year and our 1st July roll return that we submit to the Ministry of Education was a further 27 down on July 2011. The MOE has informally signalled to us that we will have to reduce the number of teachers at Avondale from the beginning of 2013 by at least 1 position. This is a hugely stressful time for teachers as we will have to go through this redeployment exercise in term 4, just as we had to do 12 months ago.

All schools are also awaiting the Minister of Education's announcement on the future of greater Christchurch schooling. We now expect this overdue announcement by mid September. We anticipate that Avondale will be safe because of its size, condition and location; but there may well be schools named for either closure or merger if they have very small rolls or are badly damaged or located in areas where there are a large number of "Red" zone dwellings.

Meanwhile, we still await an indication from MOE property division as to when we will have concrete and asphalt areas repaired. We like so many of you out there are in a state of limbo with parts of our lives in a holding pattern. But we keep smiling and we carry on doing what we do best and that is educating children.

Principal's Newsletter 24th October, 2012

Since my last newsletter on the last day of term 3 regarding the Ministry of Education's School renewal proposal for Avondale and the other four schools in the Aranui cluster there have been a number of developments. Firstly, a letter sent to the Minister of Education requesting an extension to our December 7th deadline due to the complexity and scope of the task facing our cluster and signed by all five principal's has been politely rejected. This fight has now been taken on by the collective might of the Canterbury Principal's Association on behalf of all 38 affected schools.

Just last week, all affected schools were summonsed to one on one meetings with MOE property personnel and consulting engineers to explain the Ministry's "Rationale for change". The presented document, predominately focused on property and infrastructure as well as the cluster depopulation issues. Whilst the local MOE people were friendly and welcoming and willing to listen, for me, their rationale for change did not in any way justify our closure or justify a merger. By their own admission, our property damage was minimal and that the excessive multi-million dollar figure tabled was an acknowledgement that this was generated by structural strengthening and weather tightness provisions. Both of these categories will ultimately be applicable to every school across the nation and it is not solely a Christchurch problem.

Whilst we could acknowledge that there has been a significant depopulation of most schools in the five school cluster totaling 500 students, some schools, such as Avondale as I stated to them, still have a significant roll size and remain totally viable as stand alone educational institutions as they are. These facts fly in the face of the MOE's "rationale for change".

The emerging issues for our school and its community is to be able to gain a consensus view about what suitable schooling options could exist in our wider cluster community and what existing facilities can we preserve or enhance. A number of alternate options are being developed at this time so that the community can respond to them. The Board is about to appoint a school facilitator to assist us. The MOE is granting each affected school \$5000 to support this.

We need your community support and ideas now as we go into the first round of formal consultation and your attendance at any or all of the following three meetings would be hugely helpful.

Next Wednesday (31 Oct) the PTA are holding a community BBQ between 5pm and 7pm. I would like to propose that if you could get to school a little earlier at 4:15 then we could have a 45 minute consultation meeting in the hall where I could share some of the possible options that lie ahead for us. The following night (Thurs 1st Nov) at the City East church at 118 Shortland St from 5:45pm there will be an open public meeting for all five schools in the cluster to meet. Each principal will have a 5 minute slot to state their communities position, before being opened up with a facilitator to get full community input. The big news is that the Education Minister, Hekia Parata will be at Avondale school on Tuesday 6 November from 10am till 11am. She wants to hear your views and suggestions as parents.

Principal's Newsletter 7th November, 2012

Last Wednesday's PTA community BBQ between 5pm and 7pm was a raging success with a good turnout. This was preceded by a briefing about progress to date on our school's Renewal Progress and a big thank you to the 40 people who attended that.

Yesterday we hosted the Education Minister, Hekia Parata for an hour as she does her road show of all affected schools. About 60 people were in attendance which was fantastic for a mid-morning meeting. We communicated to the Minister our feelings about the Ministry's proposed Area school model, the opportunities lost, lack of genuine consultation, the impact on our children and the shortness of the timeframe in which to consult and consider options which she politely acknowledged. It seems clear to me that we certainly have to make a strong and compelling case to her office that represents the views of our school community about not only what we want, but why. I am lead to believe that we will feature on Campbell Live tonight at 7pm.

Our Avondale school community meeting tonight (in the library) is another vital step in our process to capture the aspirations of our community. Our facilitator, Chris Mene, will lead this discussion where we look at the issues and opportunities. I would like to see a good representative group at this meeting at 7pm.

Principal's Newsletter 28th November, 2012

Since the last newsletter, the Minister of Education, Hon Hekia Parata has granted the five schools of the Aranui cluster an extension to our looming December 7th deadline for submissions. It has now been set for March 7th next year. However, in weekly meetings with the other principals and Board chairs, as well as comments made in our combined community cluster forums, it is becoming clear that all five schools will not reach a consensus view on the

best alternate proposal to go to the minister.

It would appear that most of the three schools east of Wainoni Road are considering accepting the Ministers initial proposal of a year 1-13 Area school. This does not appear to reflect in any way our original survey feedback in September, or the emerging views expressed in our community consultation meetings. The feeling is growing that Avondale and Chisnallwood are seen as something different across the wider community, which suggests a different response to the Minister.

It is proposed that a survey be circulated before the end of term to all the Avondale parent community giving you the ability to select your preferred option of the 3 or 4 options we currently have been considering. We will need your responses to this so that your "voice" is clearly heard and that we can capture the sentiments behind this message in our final submission.

Principal's Newsletter 11th December, 2012

As we have down-sized from pre-quake days we have surplus classrooms. Last Christmas the MOE took away two prefabs and once again they will be removing two more. These will be rooms 5 & 6 that border the drive. Given that when they last removed buildings they left the site undeveloped which has been totally unacceptable, I have been able to negotiate some upgrades. They will fence part of our driveway, repair and replace damaged court surfaces as well as asphalt where the two rooms were removed, recarpet rooms 15 & 18 and so on.

Last newsletter, I mentioned that we would conduct a parent survey on our "Renewal" options before this year ends. Due to time constraints, this will be conducted in the opening weeks of the new school year. As mentioned before, we will be lobbying the Minister for the retention of Avondale school as our preferred option when we finally submit our proposal on March 7th.

Principal's Newsletter 20th February, 2013

The big school renewal announcement on Monday by Hekia Parata has been the focus of attention for this week. As you may be aware, Avondale is part of the Aranui cluster and we successfully negotiated a postponement of our submission date until March 7th. This means that we will not be given our formal notification until May. While many school communities of the 31 affected schools are in despair about their formal notification of closure or merger, the biggest impact for them would be that the dates for closure have been brought forward (in some cases by more than two years), with many facing closure at the end of this year. This in my opinion, is a huge travesty and an appalling decision.

However, we as a school can take some heart from the news that 12 schools will remain open. We remain hopeful that Avondale will be one of them. I believe that Avondale's case is strong for retaining us as a school on our existing site. The key elements of our argument are:

- Our roll is greater than 300. This remains a viable number for any school. In fact there are 28 other primary schools in Christchurch that have smaller rolls and they remain open. 65% of those also lost students as well.
- With Chisnallwood Intermediate next door, we already have the capacity to be considered as one campus with combined roll numbers of @1100. The proposed year 1-13 Area school would likely to be smaller than we are already.
- Earthquake damage. We maintain that EQ damage on site (including liquefaction) has

been minimal and that we are fully operational. The MOE's own engineers have also said that our damage was minimal.

- Land stability, we all know that we are either TC2 or TC3 around here. The fact that Avondale school stood up so well to string of huge quakes is living proof that this site remains viable for a school and that no other site in the wider area is any better or worse.
- The MOE have not been able to provide any rationale or educational research as to why an Area school in a city, in a low decile area will give better outcomes for students.
- We believe that our Avondale students are getting a good deal now and that our achievement data shows that.

I am holding a public meeting next week to outline our full proposal.

Appendix 3 – Parent survey responses

Aranui Cluster Survey Results - Avondale School Community - September 2012

Sample size = 254 families
Actual Respondents = 122

Adopt Proposal

- I/We support the establishment of a new super school (Year 1 to Year 13)
4 = 3.2%

Modified Proposal

- I/We have reservations about the super school proposal, but acknowledge that some schools within the cluster may need to merge
46 = 37.8%

Reject All Proposals

- I/We believe that Avondale Primary School should remain as it is and all other proposals are rejected.
70 = 59%

<u>Adopt Proposal - Comments</u>	
support the establishment of a new super school (Year 1 to Year 13)	
An awesome idea	
Should work well as long as Avondale is within the cluster	

<u>Modified Proposal</u>	
have reservations about the super school proposal, but acknowledge that some schools within the cluster may need to merge.	
I do not believe that 5 yr olds and 18 yr olds in one school is a good idea, they all have different needs and could be very intimidating for young students. Merging just primary schools may work as I know some school rolls are low.	Multiple
Only merge 3 x primary schools into 2 - remove yrs 7&8 and send to Chisnallwood.	Multiple
What happened to the widely held value that every primary school aged child should have the opportunity to get to a school close enough to home, in their community, by themselves if necessary. This is still vitally important in such a low-decile area as ours is.	
Prefer if they were to look at yr 7-13 school	

Modified Proposal	
have reservations about the super school proposal, but acknowledge that some schools within the cluster may need to merge.	
Have reservations in losing community identity in combining any more than two schools together + traffic control + young children starting off in an overwhelming population	
Some parents are gang related, which scares me for the safety of our children	
Am excited to be a part of a new process	
Our children need stability and continuity as we continue to live in this area with our homes and roads taking many years to fix.	
Split students from Burwood school between Avondale and Windsor	
Merge Wainoni and Aranui primary into Avondale and leave High school and Intermediate as they are.	
Keep Avondale as is, merge Wainoni and Aranui Primary	
Maybe Avondale and Chisnallwood could merge	

Reject All Proposals - Comments	
Believe that Avondale should remain as it is and all other proposals rejected	
Further travel distances and potential safety risks	
Avondale school is the centre of our community and part of our children's identity	
The "super school" is just social engineering - An experiment - A disaster	2
Young children particularly will be overwhelmed and lost within a large school and with so many students in a low decile super school, bullying will be a problem.	6
It is not safe to have 5 year olds (yr 1's) with 17 year olds (yr 13's)	2
Avondale School is the only community contact we have	
Smaller schools cater for special needs students better	
We have enough students here to stay open	

<i>Reject All Proposals - Comments</i>	
Believe that Avondale should remain as it is and all other proposals rejected	
How can the government think of closing us without even consulting us	
We send our children to Avondale for a reason. We are proud of our school	
A super school is just too big	3
We have already suffered enough in our community from the EQs. To close the school and make more changes is just not right	2
The proposal is just a money saving scheme and does not offer the children the education they deserve.	
I don't like any of the other schools so that is why I chose Avondale	3
If Avondale has to close I will pull my kids out	5
Avondale is a wonderful school. Leave it alone	
Avondale does not have any gang issues	
A super school gives parents no choice	
Our schools (Avondale & Chisnallwood) are the heart of our community and we don't want our heart ripped out.	
Our children have suffered enough over the past two years. Why upset them more? Why try and fix something that isn't broken.	4

Appendix 4 – Staff survey responses

Aranui Cluster Survey Results - Avondale School Staff - September 2012

Sample size = 27 Staff
Actual Respondents = 18

Adopt Proposal

I/We support the establishment of a new super school (Year 1 to Year 13)
0 = 0%

Modified Proposal

I/We have reservations about the super school proposal, but acknowledge that some schools within the cluster may need to merge
17 = 95%

Reject All Proposals

I/We believe that Avondale Primary School should remain as it is and all other proposals are rejected.

1 = 5%

<u>Adopt Proposal - Comments</u>	
support the establishment of a new super school (Year 1 to Year 13)	
No Responses	

<u>Modified Proposal</u>	
have reservations about the super school proposal, but acknowledge that some schools within the cluster may need to merge.	
Take Burwood Children from Avondale side of river	Multiple
Merge 3 primary schools together in a new school. Leave Chisnallwood + Aranui High as is	Multiple
Merge 3 primary schools and Chisnallwood. (Use Avondale & Chisnallwood sites) Leave Aranui High as is	Multiple
Merge Wainoni and Aranui Primary. Leave Avondale, AHS and CIS	1
Avondale site should be used and others merge on it.	Multiple
At least 1 primary with year 1-6 option so that Intermediate choice remains	Multiple
Merge Wainoni and Aranui primary into Avondale and leave High school and Intermediate as they are.	

<i>Reject All Proposals - Comments</i>	
Believe that Avondale should remain as it is and all other proposals rejected	
Leave Avondale as is. We have enough students to continue	1

Appendix 5 - Principals address to Minister Parata

Avondale Primary School - Ministers Hui - 6th November, 2012
Principal's Address

Welcome to the Minister, Hon Hekia Parata

I would seek the audience's indulgence to give everyone a brief outline of Avondale's journey since February 2011 and the subsequent milestones encountered since that time and the issues and ramifications surrounding these issues.

Pre-quake - Avondale was one of the larger contributing schools in the South Island. Next door, Chisnallwood was the largest Intermediate in the South Island

Post quake + hundreds of significant aftershocks left many people (and students) highly anxious and hypervigilant. Widespread impact across the Eastern suburbs. Avondale's own "Red zone" accounts for 630 lost homes. Widespread impact across the Eastern suburbs in terms of property damage and for those that got it the heartbreaking mess left by liquefaction.

Avondale initially lost 200 students over the first few months. Overall it has lost 167 students and a quarter of its teaching staff.

In spite of all this, as a school we counted our blessings, property damage appeared minimal and there was a steadfast determination from our community and the school staff to get back to business as usual as quickly as possible and get back to our core business of providing quality learning outcomes for our students.

It was clearly evident to all across the education sector that Christchurch had changed with moderate to severe structural damage in some schools and an exodus of 5000 students across the city suggested that there had to be some rationalisation across schools. Our Aranui cluster lost 500 students, 10% of the ChCh total.

Principal's and Boards welcomed the Ministries consultation with two workshops that brought us all together to brainstorm "blue skies" thinking around the opportunities that this rationalisation process could bring and the innovative ways that this may come about. First the draft and then the final renewal plans could be seen as aspirational.

Nothing more came from the Ministry until the announcement that, in mid-September that we would be advised of the outcomes. In fact, just one week before the September 13 announcement, I had even put in our school newsletter, that given our current roll of 340 students, that we could consider ourselves safe due to our roll as we were certainly of a viable size.

However, I consider that a great opportunity was lost at this point as principals and Boards played no further part in turning the Renewal plan into the truly visionary outcomes and values that it upheld.

The fact that a significant number of schools were called to a pre-launch meeting on Sept 13 had some ominous undertones that had many somewhat nervous. The announcement that Avondale would be closed, along with all four other schools in our Aranui cluster and a new year 1-13 Area school built, left us absolutely stunned.

The same could be said for the rest in the room. However, I felt equally bad for our local MOE people who handed out the packs. The vast majority of them had no inkling of the contents either and the strain could be clearly seen on their faces. In fact I continue to hold our local MOE people in high regard, but feel that they too have had to (and continue to do so) carry a huge burden and an enormously stressful workload.

Equally, I felt that the Year 1-13 proposal may have been a little more palatable if the rationale for it had been carefully explained, including relevant educational research that shows why an urban Area school in our low decile area would best meet the needs of our learners. Whilst I have subsequently sought this information, to date I have had no satisfactory response.

Immediately after the announcement in the the following week, our parent community were surveyed

3 questions were asked:

- 1) I support the establishment of a year 1-13 Area school
- 2) I have reservations about the Area School proposal but acknowledge that some schools within the cluster may need to merge
- 3) Keep Avondale as it is and reject all other proposals

97% rejected the Area school proposal
37% considered some mergers may be necessary, and
59% wanted Avondale to remain the same.

I felt that this gave me a clear mandate from my community to explore other options and alternatives to the Area school proposal which has been done and since shared with other schools in the cluster.

In the first week of this term, all affected schools were summonsed to one on one meetings with MOE property personnel and consulting engineers to explain the Ministry's "Rationale for change". The presented document, predominately focused on property and infrastructure as well as the cluster depopulation issues. Whilst the local MOE people were friendly and welcoming and willing to listen, for me, their rationale for change did not in any way justify our closure or justify a merger. By their own admission, our property damage was minimal and that the excessive multi-million dollar figure of 4.8 million tabled with only about 10% representing EQ damage. There was an acknowledgement that the bulk of this figure was generated by structural strengthening and weather tightness provisions. Both of these categories will ultimately be applicable to every school across the nation and it is not solely a Christchurch problem.

Whilst we could acknowledge that there has been a significant depopulation of most schools in the five school cluster totaling 500 students, some schools, such as Avondale as I stated to them, still have a significant roll size with 340 students and remains totally viable as stand alone educational institutions as they are.

These facts fly in the face of the MOE's "rationale for change". At this time, I am still not aware of an accurate and attributable rationale for our closure other than to speculate that it will help to resolve other issues pertaining to some of our neighbouring cluster schools.

In closing, the issue for the Avondale community remains as "why". We continue to be seen as the primary school of choice in much of the wider community. Parents have continued to exercise their right to bring their children to Avondale.

An Area school proposal eliminates that ability to choose. Given that we are in a Decile two community, many of our parents do not have the where with all to sell up and move to (or even to travel daily) to any other preferred school in Christchurch.

We firmly believe that the December 7th deadline is unrealistic as the Aranui cluster contains five schools with five differing communities.

The emerging issues for our school and its community is to be able to gain a consensus view about what suitable schooling options could exist in our wider cluster community and what existing facilities can we preserve or enhance.

A number of alternate options are being developed at this time so that the community can respond to them.

We do want the best for our learners. Our own assessment data shows continued gains in areas of literacy and numeracy across our student cohort with our year 3-6 STAR tests showing averages above National means and our PAT maths tests for years 4-6 showing "At" or "Above" National means.

This also applies to our Maori learners who make up 27% of our roll. For us it continues to be about quality teaching. As a community, we have no assurances that a new school will deliver any better outcomes.

Consequently I will again be writing to you on behalf of the cluster seeking an extension of the December 7th deadline to the end of term 1, 2013 (19th April)

as to meet the aspirational goals embedded in the renewal document and the need to identify the nature and scope of an educational facility or facilities that will best meet the needs of all our students and the wider community, including Maori and Pasifika,

that we feel that we need sufficient time (in consultation with local MOE staff) to develop a visionary and innovative proposal that will embrace the best that the renewal framework allows.

Appendix 6 – Emerging alternatives

18th October, 2012

	Mark Scown's emerging views	Priority Ranking Number in order 1 = Highest
	In my view, if the cluster is to provide a viable alternative to the MOE Area School proposal, then all the five school communities need to reach a consensus around what this would look like. Should a new school option be considered, its location should be on a new (therefore neutral) site. Remaining issues regarding future population trends need to be considered. For the East to grow and prosper and be an attractive place to live, we need to get this right. Surety needs to be provided on the status of the empty Housing Corp pool and to be accurately modeled into population models.	
MOE Proposal	All Close and replaced by year 1-13 Area school on a new site after the end of 2017	
Alternate 1	High School and Intermediate remain; with Wainoni and Aranui primaries merging on Avondale site with additional amenities, including ECE and social service hubs being provided. Year 7 & 8's would be sent to Chisnallwood Intermediate	
Alternate 2	High School and Intermediate remain; with Avondale, Wainoni and Aranui primaries merging on a new site with additional amenities, including ECE and social service hubs being provided. Whether a full primary or contributing school would need further consideration.	
Alternate 3	High School becomes year 11-13 + academy education facility with adult links through polytech and or Trades Intermediate becomes year 7 to 10 taking over Avondale school site All three Primary schools merge on a new site	
Alternate 4	Aranui High, Wainoni and Aranui Primary merge on one site with additional amenities, including ECE and social service hubs being provided and Chisnallwood and Avondale merge in their existing location	
Alternate 5		

18th October, 2012

Dear Team,

To get the ball rolling, I have put together this draft alternate cluster options. I am conscious that as we head into upcoming community consultations that we need to have commonality with our alternate options that are palatable to all school communities. I see that this may be the initial task of us and our Boards.

This of course will be in a huge challenge in itself as we represent quite diverse communities, but for the sake of consultation some less palatable options may still be tabled if we consider that adequate opportunities would be given to discuss the positives and negatives of any or all the options.

Hence, I attach a discussion draft to kick things off.

With the clock already ticking I don't consider that we have the luxury of opening the field to every idea that may pop up from any individual or group given the time constraints. I believe that we should take leadership role in providing some well considered alternatives that subsequently can be shortlisted down and fleshed out.

Anyway; that's my views. What do you think???

Cheers Mark

Appendix 7 – Submission from the Avondale Residents Association

c/- 5 Thorness Street
Avondale
Christchurch 8061



Avondale Residents Association

28 February 2013

Ministry of Education
Christchurch

Attention: Minister Parata
New Zealand Government

Dear Minister

Submission from the Avondale Residents Association to the merging of Avondale Primary School into a proposed Aranui Year 1 -13 Area School cluster

The Avondale Residents Association strongly opposes the proposal to merge Avondale Primary into a cluster with Aranui, Wainoni, Chisnallwood and Aranui High School.

Avondale has over 300 students which is twice the New Zealand contributing primary school average roll. This is despite the post earthquake roll drop of 34%. Combined with Chisnallwood, the roll of the two neighbouring complementary schools is approximately 1100. With the Red Zoned children having already gone, this roll will not be dropping further. Whether these two schools are considered singularly or together, in anyone's eyes they are both more than feasible.

Positive effects on the community of Avondale Primary remaining as is, where is:

- As each subdivision in Avondale was completed, the community slowly grew. Avondale Primary has served its community for 50 years, with multiple generations of families going to the same school.
- Avondale has continued to be a draw card for families to buy, live and stay in the area. Their children have the opportunity to attend great local schools which are safely within walking distance.
- The Residents Association has supported the schools growth with many gifts of library books etc.
- Avondale Primary have proven their ability to raise the academic standard of the Maori and Pacifica roll. Pre quake Avondale boasted the highest Maori student achievement statistics for a low decile school in the cluster.
- Providing manual technology education - valued in the community. If the Year 7 and 8 are recapitated into full primary schools, there is no technology centre for them to attend.
- The school needs to be given the opportunity to think outside the square, to creatively look at opportunities for collaboration with other learning centres to maintain their leading edge post earthquakes.

- Avondale School has superficial building damage
- The required money that was stated as being required to repair the school is a nationwide issue and not earthquake related. i.e. every building built in NZ schools post 1994 is considered to have weather tight issues. This is nothing to do with earthquakes, but is conveniently now being added to the pricing for repairing the school.
- The school is yet to receive the detailed engineer's report, presumably commissioned by the Ministry of Education, but not provided in time to provide concrete evidence for their own submission deadline.
- Avondale School site had only 2 trailer loads of liquefaction removed from the entire school grounds. Conversely, the proposed merger site at Aranui High School had multiple tons. This is clearly shown on post Feb 2011 Google land photos.
- There is no justification for moving Avondale off their current sites due to ground conditions. The surrounding houses are all TC3 with the land deemed fit to build on. How can one government department dictate that home owners are not deemed red zoned and expected to repair or rebuild on site, whilst another government department chooses not to repair or rebuild their facilities on the neighbouring land. If this was to eventuate, it would again devalue the property values of the surrounding homes as buyers would automatically take it that the government did not have confidence in the land stability.
- The Avondale Resident's Association support the proposal from Avondale School for other supplementary community facilities being developed on the school grounds e.g. community centre, doctor's surgery, WINZ offices, special needs support services etc.
- Avondale has lost a 1/3 of its homes to the Red Zone (638) but 2/3 remain - around 1100 homes still make up this community. We have suffered enough including losing our block of shops and local tavern. Apart from the Avondale Golf Club, a dairy and service station businesses, we have no other facilities besides Avondale Primary and Chisnallwood Intermediate. Please let us heal so we can move forward - don't rip out our heart, leaving our community to die a slow, lingering death.

Negative effects on the community of closing Avondale Primary and merging to a new site in Aranui

- Schools need to be in walking distance, in the centre of the geographical area, as not all families in this area have a second car to transport their children to school. Crossing Wainoni Road is problematic.
- Children being transported to school by car cause road congestion, parking issues and does nothing to encourage independence and daily exercise of walking or cycling to school.
- The social effects on Avondale children from the violence, drugs, gang grooming and other influences within some of the Aranui and Wainoni community. Local Avondale children for many years have avoided entering some parts of the Wainoni/Aranui area as they have felt scared, vulnerable and intimidated. The children and their families are now stressed with the proposal to form a cluster in Aranui, as they would now have no option if strict zoning criteria are enforced..
- The perceived risk of bullying, stand over tactics and theft to not only teenage children but Year 1, (five year olds), has added to their feelings of fear.
- The local Avondale specialist real estate agent has noted that many parents are stating they will not buy or stay in Avondale if their children can only attend a year 1-13 school incorporating Aranui and Wainoni. This will have an undeniable effect on property values especially properties which have always attracted young families. There is a notable increase in the

number of tenanted properties recently as the upcoming census will no doubt show. This again has a huge impact on the desirability of the area for home buyers.

- Experience tells that for children beginning school, the playground is often more daunting than the classroom with 5 year olds frequently feeling intimidated by 10 year olds. This is going to exasperated significantly with them mixing with 18 year olds in a year 1-13 environment.
- The only other Year 1 - 13 urban low decile school in all of New Zealand, is the Southern Cross campus in Mangare. The ERO reports show the school has significant problems both academically and socially and is struggling to remediate these. We do not wish to see the same educational experiment of creating another Year 1 -13 urban Area School in the Avondale / Wainoni / Aranui area, when at present we have two well functioning, respected schools in Avondale Primary and Chisnallwood Intermediate meeting the specific needs of the Avondale community, which is a more mixed socio economic group than Wainoni / Aranui.
- On questioning, the parents of Avondale , 100% of parents stated categorically they would not support a Year 1-13 school incorporating Aranui, Wainoni and Aranui High school and would not send their children there.
- **Avondale Primary stay as is where is adjacent to Chisnallwood.** Aranui Primary, Wainoni Primary and Aranui High School to merge on Aranui High existing site. Aranui Primary (roll approx 140) and Wainoni (roll approx 90) and Aranui High combined, would create a total roll of approx 650 which is viable in every way. Combined, this would include Year 7 and Year 8 classes from these numbers, giving families options. There would also be options of running Maori immersion classes right throughout the Year 1-13 range if desired.

Summary

The local community have firmly stated on numerous questionnaires, meetings and discussions that they want to stay where they are.

The schools have both indicated they are keen to work collaboratively with shared resources, buildings, staff etc to further enhance educational opportunities in Avondale.

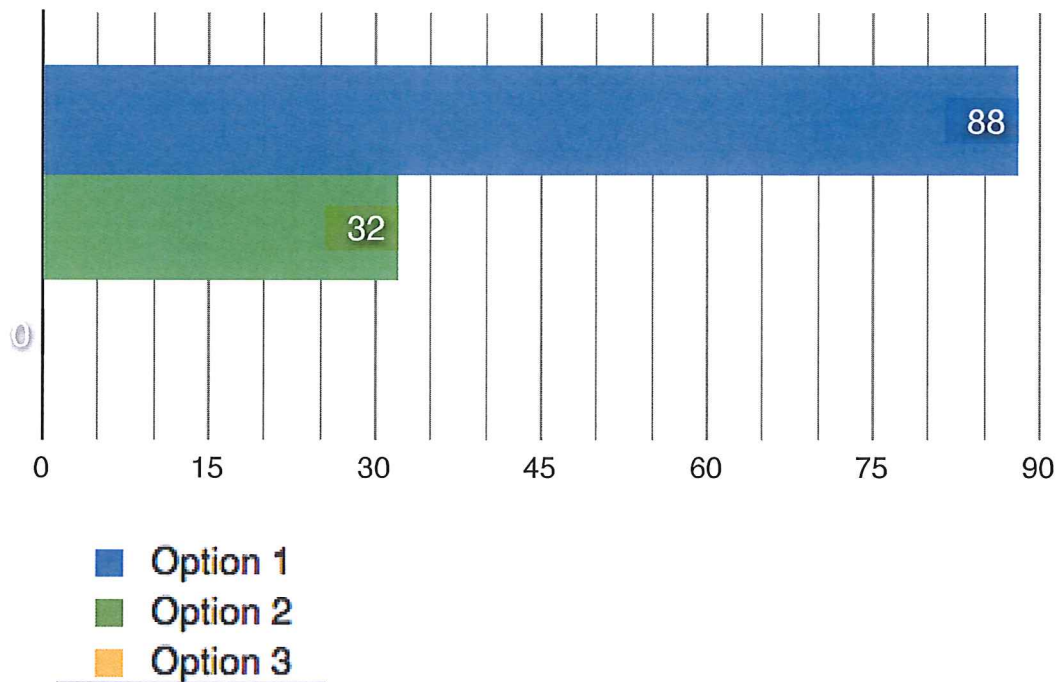
To use the earthquakes as an excuse to experiment with our eastern suburbs children's education is abhorrent. Our children have been through enough with many of their friends being forced to leave Avondale. Avondale is a very divided community with over 600 households being red zoned leaving the remaining @1100 to pick up the pieces and rebuild their homes, community and lives. The constant 'rock' of Avondale School has done a superb job of assisting these young citizens to adjust and needs to be retained as is, where is.

Yours faithfully

Adrienne Lingard , President, Avondale Residents Association
Cheryl Magon, Avondale Residents Association Committee

Appendix 8 – Final Parent Survey

Avondale Primary School
Final Parent Survey February 2013



Option 1 –

Avondale remains as it is, but shares some facilities with Chisnallwood Intermediate School that adjoins it, with the possible inclusion of agreed social welfare agencies and the provision of Early Childhood Education facilities (ECE).

88 Respondents said “Yes” = 73%

Option 2 –

Avondale remains as it is, but the year 1-6 students of both Wainoni and Aranui primary relocate to Avondale and the year 7 and 8 students they have, relocate to Chisnallwood Intermediate. Also with the possible inclusion of agreed social welfare agencies and the provision of ECE facilities.

32 Respondents said “Yes” = 27%

Option 3 - Accept the MOE proposal for a year 1-13, new Area school and close all five cluster schools (including Avondale).

0 Respondents said “Yes” = 0%

Parents' Comments

1. No mega school. It will increase bullying, there will be a high number of children in classes, and drug usage.
2. Avondale is an amazing school and I will move areas before I let my child go to the super school.
3. NO to options 2 and 3. Pupils and parents should have the choice of which primary school they attend. North New Brighton, Avondale, Bromley etc.
4. I think the school is fine how it is, I would hate to see the school be moved.
5. If combined, roads will be uncontrollable. Too far for some kids to walk.
6. SAVE the two TOP SCHOOLS in the eastern sector! I definitely don't and won't send my girls to any other primary or intermediate schools!
7. I love the school the way it is, the teachers are great, my daughter loves it there and I would love to send my son.
8. We are open to option 2 also but feel that a merger onto Avondale would be a decision for the affected Wainoni/Aranui parents to make. We fully support Avondale primary staying open!
9. Our children need stability as our homes are still damaged, we need a place that is constant.
10. My concerns with merging is the safety for children bullied by kids at the schools they choose to merge with (particularly Aranui Primary) and what safety they have in this aspect.
11. Not keen on high school children 16+ with five year olds, especially boys with little girls.
12. I am not keen on walking to the proposed new site on my own, if this happens we will not be staying on this side of Christchurch.
13. I am happy with either option 1 or/and option 2. (No to option 3).
14. With already sharing some facilities (school hall and adjoining playing fields) - why change what already works?!
15. As status quo is still not listed as an option, and if I am forced to compromise, option 1 best reflects the best possible outcome for my children. However as a mother I can't help but feel this selection compromises the children from the wider community and that breaks my heart.
16. My children will not be going to the new super school if it is decided. Totally disagree with it.
17. With this option (2) the school would need to be tapping in more actively with buses to get the children from the far side of the zone.
18. Avondale stays on its own site and the other primary schools go here.
19. Avondale needs to get better and up with the play. An updated website and communication and promotion of the school would go a long way.
20. Option 1 is unlikely to happen, I think if we embrace reality, option 2 is best possible outcome.
21. I think option 2 although my second preference has most 'pitch' appeal.
22. I firmly believe Avondale must stay open, I think option 2 is most 'face saving' for the government.
23. I personally think option 2 is a great idea but I also think that some families that have year 7-8 children may struggle to pay for Chisnallwood activities and uniform.
24. Keep the primary schools together, years 1-6 only!
25. No super school! Years 1-6 only!
26. Avondale is an amazing school, as is Chisnallwood. I feel they need to be kept separate to keep their positive and fruitful education going.

