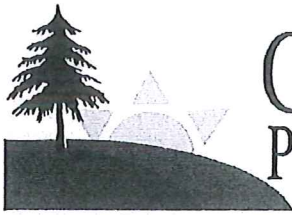


rcvd 28/3/13
by email.



GLENMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

28 March 2013

Kathryn Palmer
Acting Regional Manager
Southern Region
Ministry of Education
P O Box 2522
Christchurch 8140

Dear Kathryn,

Re: The Minister of Education's interim decision that Glenmoor School should close.

The Glenmoor School Board of Trustees, staff, students and their whanau are disappointed in the Minister's interim decision to close Glenmoor School. This decision does not appear to be in the best interests of the students who attend the school.

The Board of Trustees feels that the Minister appears to be making this decision based on faulty data. Glenmoor School has little earthquake damage (\$40k estimated repairs). Despite requesting additional information since October 2011 the Ministry has only recently provided any evidence to substantiate their estimate of \$1.7 million for "structural strengthening". We believe these costs are grossly overstated.

If closure goes ahead we believe Glenmoor School, buildings and grounds, will be a lost to the Mairehau cluster. It seems likely that the school will be lost to the Mairehau community by infill housing which does not further benefit the community. Closing Glenmoor School appears to be a short-term financial gain without considering the longer term cost, as the growth projections in this area indicates significant property developments beginning within 1km of the school over the next 2-3 years; resulting in a significant influx of new students.

Glenmoor School is a unique school on the edge of the city, with experienced staff who are well supported by an active Board of Trustees. Our focus is, and will continue to be, on achieving the best educational outcome for the students who attend. If closure goes ahead we believe our students will struggle to reach their full potential in a larger school; particularly the special needs students. It will add to the significant stress that students, and their whanau, have already been under following the earthquakes/aftershocks.

The Glenmoor Primary School Board of Trustees asks that the Minister re-consider the interim decision to close Glenmoor Primary School.

Yours sincerely

Allison Alexander
Chairperson
Glenmoor Primary School Board of Trustees

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