



Avondale Primary School Community Engagement Report

Submission to the Ministry of Education Interim Decision for Education
Renewal



27 June 2013

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to record the process and outcomes of the Avondale Primary School community engagement on the Minister of Education's interim decision relative to the Aranui Learning Cluster¹. This report reemphasizes and builds on the previous Avondale School submission calling for Avondale School to be kept open.

Avondale School, its Board, staff and community reject the Ministry of Education's (MoE) interim decision to close our school and three others to amalgamate into one, year 1 -13 Community Campus² in Aranui.

The Avondale School community remains unconvinced that such a move would 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.

The process of engagement for this submission involved a number of surveys, conversations, and stakeholder workshops for parents, staff, community and Board of Trustees (BoT).

Engagement took place with the Avondale Primary School community and also between the Principals, BoT members and parents across the four schools affected by the closures in the interim decision. In addition a number of community members not directly connected with the schools and stakeholders from other sectors participated in the engagement process.

The Avondale Primary School Board of Trustees:

1. Urges the Minister of Education to consider the strong evidence and voice of the Avondale School and community provided for Avondale Primary School to remain open.
2. Recognises the massive impact the Canterbury Earthquakes has had on Greater Christchurch, the school and the community of Avondale.
3. Acknowledges this most challenging context and the test this has been to school leadership, staff, parents and children whilst still focusing on student achievement.
4. Remain very sensitive to the human impact of the earthquakes especially on the many vulnerable families of the Avondale Schools community who are fragile and struggling to manage the complex recovery of our community.
5. Is pleased with the level of engagement and diverse range of school and community stakeholders who have participated in the Avondale School dialogue in the context of the broader conversation happening relative to the four schools in the 'Aranui cluster' and other related conversations.
6. Acknowledges and thanks the school and community stakeholders who have engaged in the Avondale School and wider 'Aranui Cluster' dialogue including, but not limited to;

¹ <http://shapingeducation.govt.nz/engagement/renewal-interim-decision/aranui-cluster-interim-decisions-information>

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.

parents, grandparents, teachers, education leaders, Maori and Pasifika leaders, Early Childhood Education, Kohunga Reo, local government, health and social services.

7. Wants positive change informed by evidence and research to ensure the best learning opportunities for our children and mokopuna. Looks forward to ongoing meaningful engagement with the Ministry of Education to continue working through this Education Renewal process.
8. Acknowledges the letters of support received (Appendix 5) for the retention of Avondale Primary School and urges the Minister to consider the merits offered within the letters provided by KidsFirst Kindergartens and parents.
9. Should the interim decision stand, call for the Minister of Education to partner with the school community so they are empowered to participate fully in the transition towards closure and the establishment of the new community campus.

2. Executive Summary

The Board of Trustees has given careful consideration about the long-term future of Avondale Primary School and the legacy to be created for future children and families.

This perspective has been developed through engagement with the Avondale School community and wider stakeholders whose priorities are summarised as follows:

Theme	Priority
1. Avondale remains open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Avondale School community believes that Avondale Primary School is a high performing and viable entity that, with a roll of over 300 students, should remain open and share facilities with Chisnallwood Intermediate School, which is on an adjacent site, and develop a range of additional wrap around social services. This preferred option would allow for the retention of years 1 to 6 schooling in Aranui while still enabling the Government to create a separate Community Campus in Aranui and promote consolidation and efficiencies in the schooling network. The Avondale school community urges the Minister to reconsider the interim decision and to review Avondale's place in the network in 2020. The Avondale community values choice of education provision. 915 community members have signed a petition in favour of the retention of Avondale school.
2. Learning outcomes for students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avondale School is a high performing year 1-6 primary and the BoT does not believe that the merger will improve learning outcomes for students, or achieve MoE objectives for the educational renewal of greater Christchurch. Avondale is a "school of choice" providing tailored services to vulnerable and priority students.
3. Timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should the Minister choose to close Avondale Primary School that it continues until January 2017.
4. Teaching and Support Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merger of schools is preferable to closure to protect staff and mitigate risks. Staffing levels and operational funding should be maintained from 1st July 2014.
5. Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure sufficient quality land is available for the new campus. Current Avondale site is preferable to the proposed new campus.
6. Special school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarity sought on the shape and nature of the Special School to be relocated.

7. Parental Intentions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avondale parents would choose to send their child/ren to a school other than the proposed community campus.
8. Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The health & safety of students remains a priority for Avondale parents & staff.
9. Establishment Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should the interim decision become final, the community regards the early establishment of transition leadership and management to be imperative.
10. Engagement & Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority and resourcing of engagement and communications planning and implementation throughout the next four years.
11. Learning Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for Early Childhood Education (ECE) through to Adult and Community Education (ACE).
12. Culture & Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporating different cultures and values is important to students and community members.

3. Interim Decision

The Avondale School Principal and BoT received the Interim Decision on 22 May 2013. The key points in the interim decision for the Aranui Learning Cluster has been widely publicised and are:

1. Four schools, Avondale School, Aranui High School, Aranui School and Wainoni School should close on 27 January 2017.
2. Year 1-13 schooling in a community campus (OR a Year 1-6 school and a Year 7-13 school) to be established.
3. The new campus should be established on the Aranui High School site.
4. The new campus to open from term one 2017.
5. Chisnallwood Intermediate School should remain open as normal on its current site. Its future should be reviewed in 2020 after the community campus has been operational for a couple of years and other changes to the schooling network have been made and settled in.
6. Consultation to continue with the community about the make-up of the possible other facilities within the community campus development. This is to include the relocation of a Special School into the campus

In addition there are at least two ECE providers who would be affected by the closures and the Ministry has indicated its intent to remain engaged in the reshaping of ECE in the wider Aranui area.

4. Rationale closure

In addition to the 22 May 2013 press release announcing the interim decision, Avondale was also provided with advice from the Ministry to the Minister on 27 March 2013: "*Education Report: Consideration of the Closure of Aranui High School (323), Aranui School (3279), Avondale (3286), Chisnallwood Intermediate School (3314) and Wainoni School (3575) and the establishment of a new Year 1 to 13 area school in Aranui*" (IM60/10452/3) ("the Ministry's advice").

From this documentation, it appears that the interim decision to close Avondale is based on the following:

1. Advice from the Ministry that Avondale's roll is not viable as the school is currently utilising 64 per cent of its capacity, and its roll has been in decline in recent years: 494 children in 2008, 485 children in 2010, and 335 children in 2012.
2. Earthquake related damage;
3. Repair of existing schools does not respond to the community specific education needs;³ and
4. Larger schools are able to offer greater choice to students than smaller schools often can.⁴

Avondale disagrees with the decision and its rationale, and submits that none of these factors justifies or requires the closure of Avondale. With the removal of four of the surplus classrooms, utilisation is now 77%. As a further 7 classrooms are re-locatable, like the four that have already been removed, the BoT considers issues of utilisation inconsequential.

The Ministry rejected Avondale's proposal to share facilities with Chisnallwood which occupies an adjacent site, because:

- The schools would remain in close proximity to the new Year 1 to 13 education provision and would likely negatively affect the sustainability of the new school(s); and
- Avondale and Chisnallwood have not, to any "real extent", shared facilities and resources in the past.⁵

Avondale submits that neither reason warrants rejection of the proposal because:

- Chisnallwood is also in close proximity to the proposed Year 1 to 13 school but will remain open, with 246 of its student population residing in the Aranui cluster area. In addition, community demand for separate year 1 - 6 provision is precisely why such provision should be retained; and
- Avondale and Chisnallwood have shared facilities in the past, particularly with the use of hall facilities and grounds, and there is no practical reason why the two schools could not work more closely together into the future.

5. School roll and viability

The Board disputes the Ministry's advice that Avondale's roll is not viable. Avondale's current roll has stabilised at 320 students, which is large relative to other primary schools. In fact in its March submission, Avondale school identified 28 smaller Christchurch primary schools that remain open. Three quarters of them also have lost students due to EQ effects.

The Ministry goes on to state that Avondale has "substantial spare capacity". This is also misleading as four temporary re-locatable classrooms, previously brought onto the site to cater

³ Ministry's advice (27 March 2013), p 1.

⁴ Ibid, p 13.

⁵ Ibid, p 13.

to increased enrolments, were removed in 2012. Avondale is therefore well utilised and is operating near current capacity at 77%.

Avondale School has a viable roll, has the potential to absorb additional pupils currently enrolled at Burwood school families (45 in number) who live in the suburb of Avondale rather than shift to Windsor school as there is space for additional classrooms on the site,⁶ and is able share facilities innovatively with Chisnallwood Intermediate School (which occupies as adjacent site).

Retaining a year 1 to 6 primary school in the Eastern Suburbs is also critical given whanau concerns regarding the risks associated with year 1 - 13 schooling for younger students. Retaining Avondale School is economically viable and will ensure a year 1 to 6 primary school alternative is available to parents. It will also enable full utilisation of the Avondale/Chisnallwood site, the latter of which is to remain open, and promote diversity and flexibility in the local schooling network.

6. Viability of the Community Campus

At page 12 of its advice, the Ministry expresses concern that “if both Chisnallwood Intermediate School and Avondale School are retained and remain separate but physically close to the new provision, there would likely be competition between the two parallel schooling structures. This may negatively impact on the viability of the secondary provision on the community campus.”

Such concern appears premature, as the planning and design of a Community Campus will presumably take into account the impact of any alternative local provision. If Avondale is retained, then the year 1 - 6 capacity of the Community Campus would simply need to be adjusted accordingly in the design phase. This should not have a negative impact on the viability of secondary provision at the community campus.

In addition, the Ministry’s concern that parents would be likely to send their children to the Avondale/Chisnallwood campus over a Community Campus is precisely why such provision should be retained in the schooling network. There is obviously demand for separate year 1 - 6 provision in Aranui and the Minister should take this into account.

In fact, if the Area school is as good as the Minister suggests, offering 21st century learning opportunities, filled with well qualified staff, then the BoT contends that Avondale School should have no trouble retaining or growing its future role in the year 1-6 area as Avondale wouldn’t be a threat.

⁶ We note that the Ministry’s Education Report to the Minister of 27 March 2013 misread Avondale’s previous submission that the three primary schools be merged on the Avondale site stating: “Avondale suggested that all three primary schools could be merged on the current Avondale site. The Minister considers that the Avondale site would not be large enough to accommodate Year 1-13 schooling provision.”

This is not correct. Avondale’s original submission stated that its current location would be suitable for a merged primary school (years 1 to 6) with Chisnallwood Intermediate School accommodating years 7 to 8 pupils on the adjacent location, with a combined capacity of 1,150 years 1 to 8 students. It did not propose that the Avondale site would be large enough for Year 1 – 13 provision.

7. Earthquake-related damage

In its advice, the Ministry indicated that repair of existing school sites does not respond to community specific education needs.⁷ Avondale understands that some schools in Christchurch are uneconomical to remediate, particularly those with significant earthquake damage, but contends that the cost of remediation at Avondale is minimal and does not justify school closure.

Closure would also undermine significant recent investment in Avondale School.

In addition, the Board is concerned that the “Indicative Ten Year Property Costs” of \$4.8 million included in the Rationale for Change (October 2012) were not informed by detailed site-specific assessments, and the Board considers that actual remediation costs are likely to be significantly less. The Board has not been provided with, nor has it seen evidence of the Minister being provided with, a revised cost estimate following Avondale’s Detailed Engineering Evaluation, or a detailed breakdown of costs. This information is necessary in order for the Board to make an informed response, and in order for the Minister herself to make an informed decision.

However, on the basis of the information available to it, the Board responds as follows.

8. Buildings

The Avondale site has suffered only superficial earthquake damage, and only minor strengthening is required.

A Detailed Engineering Evaluation in respect of the Avondale site was conducted in September 2012 and released to Avondale on 4 March 2013. The report confirms that minor work is required and makes some recommendations for repair. Further, the consulting engineer indicated to the Board that the work required ranges between 1 and 2 on a scale of 10 (10 being the most serious).

The Avondale Primary School Board remains concerned that the Ministers interim report does not appear to acknowledge Avondale’s actual DEE report, but continues to use the generic data provided to all cluster schools in October 2012 in its “Rationale for change” document.

The Board acknowledges there are earmarked weather-tightness issues with Avondale; however, this ‘earmark’ is a standard matter for all Ministry-owned buildings constructed after 1994 and was subject to a “desk-top” exercise only. There is no evidence indicating that weather-tightness issues pose a threat to the on-going operation of Avondale on its existing site, or any significant cost over and above general maintenance costs which will accrue to all school buildings - whether at existing or new campuses.

The Ministry has also made recent and significant capital investments in Avondale School. In 2005, Avondale invested in a purpose-built block of six modern classrooms. This new block supplements existing facilities which have proved to be fully functional child-centred learning environments and conform to current Ministry standards and requirements. The Board is confident that Avondale has “21st century school facilities”, as described at page 1 of the Ministry’s advice, which is capable of supporting the development of the identities, languages and culture of young people in a community context.

⁷ Above, n 1 at p 1.

9. Land

In its Rationale for Change, the Ministry indicated that the land comprising and surrounding Avondale is predominantly zoned by the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority as technical category 3. This means that moderate to significant land damage from liquefaction is possible in the event of future large earthquakes and that site-specific geotechnical investigation and specific engineering foundation design is required.

Avondale notes, however, that most of the Eastern Suburbs are technical category 3, including the land at Aranui High where the Ministry has proposed construction of a large new Community Campus. The Avondale BoT do not have specific information about the damage to land at Aranui High School.

Further, in the absence of a site-specific geotechnical investigation, there is a lack of probative evidence indicating that the Avondale site is no longer suitable for education purposes, particularly as Chisnallwood is remaining open on an adjacent site. Similarly, there is no evidence that the site of the proposed Community Campus is a more suitable or safe location for the construction of a new school.

Accordingly, the Board submits that until expert analysis is conducted in respect of both the Avondale site and the proposed site for the Community Campus, the suitability of land for future development should not be a consideration in the decision to close Avondale.

10. Community specific education needs

The Ministry has stated that repair of existing schools “is not supported by the Ministry as it does not respond to the community specific education needs”. The Ministry does not elaborate on the specific community education needs referred to, or why they would not be served by repair of existing schools in general and an existing school the size of Avondale in particular.

Avondale has engaged at length with its stakeholders through interviews, conversations, surveys, and specifically tailored stakeholder workshops for parents, staff, community groups, students and Board Trustees. A parent survey was conducted in which 100% of the 122 Avondale families who responded opposed the proposed decision to close Avondale.

In a subsequent parent survey conducted in June 2013, 66% of the 143 respondents stated that they would not send their children to the year 1 - 13 community campus if Avondale were closed. A further 48% said that if Avondale closed, they would likely move outside of the community campus zone so that their child could go to another school. This survey suggests that closure of Avondale School would force families out of Aranui, further disrupting education for students, and negatively impacting both Chisnallwood Intermediate and the community campus.

Further, in the last 5 years 91% of Avondale School leavers have gone on to attend Chisnallwood Intermediate. From there, fewer than 1 in 4 students have gone on to attend Aranui High; most moving out of the area to attend secondary school.

Through this engagement, it is clear that the Avondale Board, staff and the school community overwhelmingly reject the proposal and the interim decision. Our community is concerned that the proposed merger would reduce choice in educational provision for families, and would in fact harm learning outcomes for our students. Parents are particularly concerned that their primary-aged children would be at risk in a year 1 - 13 schooling environment.

Of particular concern to the Board is that the Ministry's advice does not provide any detail of the level of engagement that was undertaken by Avondale, nor does it express the level of dissatisfaction that was evident throughout this engagement process. This is in stark contrast to the Ministry's acknowledgement of the 'depth of feeling' within Chisnallwood Intermediate School as a key factor in its recommendation that Chisnallwood remain open. There is no defensible reason why depth of community feeling should be taken into account in respect of Chisnallwood, and not taken into account in respect of Avondale.

The Avondale School community considers that the interim decision will hinder the economic, social and cultural recovery of the Eastern suburbs by impeding the specific aspirations of the school community, and reducing the level of choice in educational provision. Further, the majority of feedback received from stakeholders in Avondale indicated that the primary reason for rejecting the proposed merger was their disapproval of year 1 to 13 schooling as opposed to primary years 1 to 6 education.

This is a particularly serious concern for the Avondale School community, which includes a high proportion of vulnerable and priority students. Their safety is paramount, and it is the Board's firm belief that years 1 - 13 provision puts young students, who are particularly vulnerable, at unnecessary risk.

Avondale has demonstrated an approach to education that effectively addresses social inequalities and improves student learning outcomes. Avondale is particularly proud of the high achievement levels of our Maori students who make up 28% of our current cohort. Avondale has shown a commitment to working with social and community organisations to ensure the best possible support for its students.

11. Benefits of larger schools

In its advice, the Ministry stated that the proposed merger would not reduce choice in educational provision on the basis that *'it is known that larger schools are able to offer greater choice to students than smaller schools often can'*.⁸

While large schools can benefit from economies of scale, this cannot reasonably be advanced as a justification for removing choice in provision, particularly where concerns exist regarding the risks associated with year 1 - 13 schooling for younger students.

If this was the Ministry's view of viability of school size, one would have to question why they have not initiated closure for any of the other 28 smaller primary schools, identified by Avondale that will remain open

Avondale is already comparatively large in relation to other primary schools, and is able to utilise economies of scale to provide cost-effective education provision. Retaining Avondale would ensure parents have the option of sending their young children to a year 1 - 6 primary school in Aranui.

The Board's proposal to invest in greater coordination and shared facilities between Avondale and Chisnallwood, with the capacity to absorb students from Burwood students living in the Avondale suburb if necessary, is a viable option. It will allow for the retention of years 1 to 6

⁸ Above, n 1 at p 13.

schooling in Aranui while still enabling the Government to create a separate Community Campus in Aranui and promote consolidation and efficiencies in the schooling network.

12. Preferred outcome

The Board asks that the Minister reconsider the interim decision to close Avondale and relocate its students to the proposed community campus. Specifically the Board requests that the Minister considers:

- Retaining Avondale on its current site as it is with a view to enabling it to work more closely with Chisnallwood Intermediate School; and would accept the review conditions placed on Chisnallwood in 2020
- Retaining Avondale on its current site and accomodating ECE facilities

The Board's proposal would retain choice in educational provision for families, while promoting consolidation and economies of scale in the wider schooling network.

We note that this proposal was supported by Chisnallwood Intermediate School and the Avondale Residents Association in their submissions on the original proposal. We also note that Aranui Primary school were neutral in terms of Avondale Primary School being part of the cluster school.

13. Consultation

The community engagement approach for the Avondale Primary School community of interest has been drawn from the inclusive and participatory principles identified and endorsed by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) and the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA). This process has been designed to ensure the best outcomes for the Avondale Primary School and wider school community in the context of the very complex and challenging reality.

The process of engagement for Avondale Primary School consisted of two surveys and three specifically prepared stakeholder workshops for parents, BoT, teaching and support staff and community members.

These opportunities included:

1. Initial meeting between BoT Chair, Principal and facilitator on Friday 24 May 2013
2. Staff survey completed in June 2013
3. Parent survey completed in June 2013
4. Two parent workshops at the school on Thursday 6 June 2013
5. Aranui, Wainoni and Avondale Principals and BoT Chairs meeting on Friday 7 June 2013
6. Aranui, Wainoni and Avondale Principals meeting with MoE on Monday 10 June 2013
7. Aranui Community Forum at Aranui High School involving representatives of the four school communities and MoE personnel on Wednesday 19 June 2013
8. A petition signed by 915 signatories in favour of retaining Avondale School.

Two surveys received a very good response from staff and parents. 80% (21/26) of staff returned surveys and 143 households responded. Two stakeholder workshops were hosted by the Principal at Avondale Primary School and were supported by 20 parents.

The purpose of these two workshops was clarified as an invitation to participate in dialogue framed by the current reality for the school and the interim decision. Parents and wider school community stakeholders were invited to several opportunities to share thoughts and feelings about the proposed closure.

A third Community forum was held at Aranui High School where there was a diverse representation of Avondale staff, parents and BoT members.

In the weeks leading up to the forum the Board of Trustee Chairs and Principals' of the schools had met twice (Friday 7 June and Monday 10 June) in order to understand each schools situation and the impact of the interim decision, particularly the impact on staffing and morale. The facilitator attended both of these meetings.

At the second meeting a Ministry of Education representative attended to listen, answer questions and provide clarity to some of the key concerns of the schools. At this meeting a commitment was made to work with the four schools to assist them with current and anticipated transitional issues. These issues related to staffing, operational funding, resources, processes and leadership matters.

The Avondale community has indicated strongly through a community petition, with 915 signatories, that Avondale Primary School remain open.

14. Summary

In summary, shared priorities became evident in the following thematic areas.

Avondale remaining open

95% of parents and staff believe that with a roll of over 300 students, Avondale Primary School is a viable entity and should remain open. The Avondale community urges the Minister to reconsider the decision and to review Avondale's place in the network in 2020.

The Avondale community strongly endorses choice of education provision in Avondale and Aranui.

915 people in the Avondale community have signed a petition for the retention of Avondale Primary school (Appendix 8).

Student Achievement

Parent concerns exist for the perceived negative impact of closure on student achievement.

Structure

The structure of a Year 1-13 school became a key focus area with a number of structural variations being considered. There was support for defined areas for junior students (year 0 - 6/7), middle school (year 7/8 - 10) and senior students (11-13) be a part of the structure. In addition, early childhood education (ECE), tertiary education transition (trades and academies) and adult and community education (ACE) were identified as important facets of the structure.

There was an emerging consensus from staff, BoT, parents and community representatives that should the interim decision become final then some forms of separation would be necessary. Solutions include; separation through timetabling, entrances and physical boundaries within the campus.

Timing

The majority of Avondale parents and staff believe if Avondale Primary School were to close that the time frame should remain at 2017.

Teaching and support staff

The majority of parents and staff believe that a merger of schools is preferable to closure, thereby protecting the staff in some way and reducing the stress and damage to their career prospects.

Staffing levels and operational funding should be maintained from 1st July 2014.

Facilities

Facilities attracted a good deal of attention in the workshops. Of interest was ensuring sufficient quality land was available for the infrastructure on the new campus.

Concerns still exist about the quality of land at the proposed new campus site. The staff and community believe that the current Avondale site is better land, with opportunity for expansion available.

Special School

The inclusion of relocating a Special School onto the campus raised a number of questions. There was a consensus that further information and evidence is needed in order to inform such relocation. Concerns discussed related primarily to uncertainty about how a special school might fit in and be run.

Parental Intentions

The majority of parents agree that they have no choice but to send their child/ren to the new campus and that they would choose to send their child/ren to another primary/intermediate/secondary school rather than to the new campus. Nearly half of the respondents indicated that they would consider moving house into another area to attend school.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of students was a common concern voiced by parents in their workshop. It was also an underlying feature weaving its way through the community workshops.

Establishment Leadership

The community is calling for the establishment leadership of the new campus to have diverse representation, including community, cultural (Maori & Pasifika), health, social sector, parental and ECE components. The eBoT was discussed and recognized as being a critical component of the transitional structure from 2013-2017.

Engagement and Communications

The community is calling for a shared vision to be developed and for opportunities to engaged in decision-making. The community recognises relationships, transparency, honesty and unity as key elements for a successful community campus. Engagement using technology, including the use of social media is recommended.

Learning Pathways

A learning pathway from ECE through to Adult and Community Education has emerged as important. In the community forum there was a strong focus on a collaborative approach by early childhood providers to the extent that a memorandum of understanding was taking shape. There was recognition that two ECE providers will be directly affected by the interim decision and several others that feed into the current primary education network.

Culture & Identity

Incorporating different cultures and values is important to students and community members. These include:

- Moemoea (Future Visions)
- Waiora (Healing) - Wainoni Primary School
- Rakau ora (Strength, Trees) - Aranui Primary School
- Whare ora (House of Wellbeing/Learning) - Aranui High School
 - Manaakitanga (Hospitality/Kindness)
 - Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship/Stewardship/Trustee)

Chisnallwood

The Avondale community seeks to align with Chisnallwood Intermediate through until the 2020 review.

General Comments

Parents have commented on a range of related issues (Appendix 6 - 6.14 General Comments) in favour of the retention of Avondale Primary School. Many questions exist relating to the negative impact on the community and the economic viability of the new campus.

Appendix 1 – Parent and Community workshops

Avondale Parent & Community workshops - Thursday 6 June (9.00-10.00am, 4.00 - 5.00pm)

Vision

Community Campus and Chisnallwood

3 July - Submission

September - Final decision

Choice

What is meant by 'choice' of education

Changing Network

Staff security

July 2014 freeze staffing numbers

Ministerial understanding

Interim Decision

ECE Voice

Why can't Avondale stay and be reviewed in 2020?

Can Avondale school take a judicial review?

Process

Closure/Merger

DEE's

Timelines

Judicial review

Injunction

Novopay'

Latest, accurate & correct advice

Information

320 students

Land

Buildings (minor structural damage reported by MoE staff)

Money

Community campus Y1-13/ Y1-6 & Y7-13

Special School

Aranui HS site (and?) greenfields

Jan 2017

BOT

? Zoning. School encirclement scheme

? REPRIEVE

? Aranui & Wainoni merge on Avondale 2015

Appendix 2 – Avondale Staff Survey

Avondale Staff Survey - Results - June 2013

Number returns = 21 Total Staff = 26 Percentage returned = 80%

- ☐ Teaching Staff = 13
- ☐ Non-teaching staff = 5
- ☐ Undisclosed staff = 3

The purpose of this survey was to determine the key issues or considerations that the staff of Avondale primary school consider that they would most like the MOE and or the Minister be made aware of. This survey has been conducted as part of the school's resubmission against the Minister's interim decision to close Avondale; along with Wainoni Primary, Aranui Primary and Aranui High

For us as staff

- ☐ I believe that Avondale Primary School should remain open as it remains a viable school for over 300 students.
= (20) 95%
- ☐ If Avondale Primary School was to close, I do not want the Minister shortening the timeframe from the indicated date of 27 January, 2017
= (19) 90%
- ☐ I believe that my career prospects have been damaged due to being a teacher at one of the five schools closing due to media and Minister comments regarding "closure" rather than merger.
= (11) 52%
- ☐ I believe staffing should be retained as of 1st July 2014 as well as freezing ops funding through till proposed closure if this was to occur.
= (16) 76%
- ☐ If Avondale was to close I believe that it should be a merger rather than a closure to provide necessary continuity for our students and offer some protection for staff.
= (17) 81%
- ☐ We believe that Avondale school's site is less EQ impacted and having greater soil stability than the proposed Year 1-13 site, therefore it makes economic sense to keep Avondale open.
= (17) 81%
- ☐ We would like the Minister to reconsider her decision and consider providing Avondale with the same conditions as Chisnallwood. ie review at 2020 as students going to Avondale have traditionally seen their future educational pathways lying outside of Aranui cluster schools.
= (18) 85%

Avondale Staff Survey - Results - June 2013

For our community

- ☐ I do not believe that the Year 1 -13 Area school is a viable option for the Avondale Primary School community.
= (16) 76%
- ☐ I do not believe that one school can meet the needs of our diverse communities
= (18) 85%
- ☐ We believe that our original alternate option of having the two other primary schools merge on the Avondale site is a justifiable use of existing and future resources and provides choice for parents.
= (12) 57%
- ☐ By keeping Avondale open, we provide a realistic and democratic choice for parents and students in the wider Avondale community.
= (15) 71%
- ☐ I believe that should Avondale close, many parents will remove their children from the area, which would have a negative impact on the viability of the Year 1 -13 Area school.
= (14) 66%
- ☐ Avondale should remain open and merge with Chisnallwood to make one campus as our sites adjoin each other. Pre quake combined rolls of 1400 students suggest that the campus has the capacity.
= (9) 43%
- ☐ We believe that many Burwood school students who live closer to Avondale than Windsor would come to Avondale if Avondale were to remain open. We understand that this would be at least 45 students.
= (9) 43%

Appendix 3 – Notes from Aranui Learning Community Forum

The following notes are from the Aranui Learning Community Forum held at Aranui High School on Wednesday 19 June 2013.

Overview

On Wednesday 19 June 2013 approximately 50 people participated in a community forum to understand the current situation relating to the proposed closures of four schools in Aranui.

This document reports on school and community thinking relative to the Minister of Education's interim decision proposing the closure of Aranui, Aranui High, Avondale and Wainoni schools and the establishment of a new Community Campus on the Aranui High School site at the start of 2017.

For the purpose of this engagement process these four schools and the Ministry of Education (MoE) are referred to as the strategic partners. These partners in the Aranui cluster recognise that there are a number of key stakeholders in the Minister's proposal and that meaningful dialogue is needed with:

1. Aranui Community Trust Incorporated Society (ACTIS)
2. Chisnallwood Intermediate school
3. Christchurch City Council including the Burwood Pegasus Community Board
4. Canterbury District Health Board and broader health system
5. Local child, youth and family providers of health and social services

This list is not exclusive and the partners remain open to engaging other key stakeholders as partners identify them. ACTIS could be considered a strategic partner in this engagement given the critically important role they play in community development, service and advocacy in the greater Aranui area.

This document contains issues, actions, risks, opportunities and comments from the school communities and from the wider Aranui community of interest as represented and advocated for by ACTIS and other key stakeholders.

Introduction

This forum is a part of the Education Renewal process relative to the Aranui schools and the communities of Aranui, Wainoni and Avondale. Because of the size of the Aranui High School catchment there is an acknowledgement that there is a much wider network of schools directly connected to the Aranui schools decision-making process.

The Principal of the four schools and ACTIS management agreed that it would be beneficial to hold a community forum in order to provide community and school stakeholders with an opportunity to listen directly to the school and community leaders. In addition it was considered necessary and important to invite the Ministry of Education to answer questions and seek clarity on information that was either unclear or unknown.

In the weeks leading up to the forum the board of trustees and principles of the schools had meet twice (Friday 7 June and Monday 10 June) in order to understand each schools situation and the impact of the interim decision. At the second meeting a Ministry of Education representative attended to listen, answer questions and provide clarity to some of the key concerns of the schools. At this meeting a commitment was made to work with the four schools to assist them with current and anticipated transitional issues. These issues related to staffing, operational funding, resources, processes and leadership matters.

Individual school engagement processes have run concurrently over the past two weeks. Parents, Boards of Trustees, Secondary students, Teaching and support staff have been engaged in these processes. Each school will provide their own submission and this report may form the basis for a wider community submission.

Key points of the Interim Decision

The Minister of Educations interim decision for the Aranui Learning Cluster has been widely publicized and the key points are:

7. Four schools, Aranui School, Aranui High School, Avondale School and Wainoni School should close on 27 January 2017.
8. Year 1-13 schooling in a community campus (OR a Year 1-6 school and a Year 7-13 school)
9. Should be established on the Aranui High School site,
10. Open from term one 2017.
11. Chisnallwood Intermediate School should remain open as normal on its current site. Its future should be reviewed in 2020 after the community campus has been operational for a couple of years and other changes to the schooling network have been made and settled in.
12. Consultation to continue with the community about the make-up of the possible other facilities within the community campus development. This is to include the relocation of a Special School into the campus

In addition there are at least two early child hood providers who would be affected by the closures and the ministry has indicated its intent to remain engaged in the reshaping of ECE in the wider Aranui area.

Further information is available on the Shaping Education website:

<http://shapingeducation.govt.nz/engagement/renewal-interim-decision/aranui-cluster-interim-decisions-information>

The Aranui Learning Community Forum

On Wednesday 19 June from 7-9pm the partners and a number of stakeholders gathered in the Aranui High School Library. The agenda for the forum was presented to the participants at the beginning of the forum and participants indicated they were happy to proceed with it. The endorsed agenda was as follows.

1. Start (7.00pm)
2. Welcome and introductions (5mins)
3. Purposes (5mins)
 - Understanding the interim decision and the current situation in the four schools and Aranui Community.
 - Identify issues, potential solutions, mitigation
 - Identify preferred and agreed priority actions
4. Guest speakers (Up to 5mins each ~30-40mins):
 - Audrie McKenzie (Principal, Wainoni School)
 - Mark Scown (Principal, Avondale School)
 - Mike Allen (Principal, Aranui School)
 - John Rohs (Principal, Aranui High School)
 - Rachael Fonotia (Coordinator, ACTIS)
 - (MoE representatives)
5. Workshop of emerging priority areas (30mins)
6. Workshop report back (30mins)
7. Emerging preferences / agreements (5mins)
8. Way forward (5mins)
9. Acknowledgements and closure (5mins)
10. Close (9.00pm)

Note: 5. Emerging priorities for the workshop process were determined with participants.

Opening

John Rohs (Principal, Aranui High School) opened the forum welcoming participants and provided a house keeping overview. He then handed over to Chris Mene (Facilitator, The 6D Group).

Chris framed up the forum and all participants were invited to identify who they were and what school and/or community interest they had in the forum. This provided an opportunity for all participants to understand who was in the forum and their interest.

Presentations by partners

1. Audrie McKenzie (Principal, Wainoni School)

Audrie opened up the presentations and focused on the children/tamariki as the people we are doing this for. She spoke about how the Wainoni School board has deliberately taken a long-term future focus. Audrie identified the relationships with people we know and trust are critical for future success. She said that Wainoni School wants to be partners in this process and that they want to include the student perspective in the decisions we make. Audrie reflected on how there are a lot of people that are stakeholders in this process who should be engaged. She spoke about how they do like our Wainoni site and we wonder about the future of their playground. Audrie said it is important to the school to be with the kids they know. She explained how the Wainoni school brand includes the element of water and this is a part of the identity we bring into the new campus. The schools four values are: Thinking, Respect, Responsibility and Pride. They want seamless education for our children and they want to journey together. Audrie finished with a Maori proverb that says "With your food basket and my food basket our people will thrive"

2. Mark Scown (Principal, Avondale School)

Mark spoke about the current situation at Avondale School. The role at Avondale School has reduced by 177 children they think that, with 320 students remaining, there are still enough children for Avondale to be viable as a stand alone institution. While Avondale Primary School is not against the concept of the area school (community campus) there remains a significant (95%) of the parent population against this proposal for the Avondale school community. Mark emphasised that the frustration is with the bureaucratic processes within the Ministry of education and the unreliability of the supplied documentation that draws on facts and figures that at best are questionable. Mark reiterated that the local ministry staff are good people and Avondale have a good relationship with them. Mark spoke about the challenges of getting timely and accurate information on land, buildings and costing. Avondale is saying that the Ministry of Education's documentation lacks equity, transparency and choice and does not consider that the interim decision justifies the closure of Avondale.

3. Mike Allen (Principal, Aranui School)

Mike spoke about the proud history Aranui Primary School has (1911) and reflected on the symbolism of the Peace tree that was recently cut down. He spoke of the challenges of being a new Principal at the time of the February earthquakes. Mark spoke about the difficulties of trying to move forward with so much going on in the short term. Mike spoke about the Aranui Primary School Community being neutral on the Avondale closure and that the school would support Avondale in the direction they wanted to take. Mike spoke about looking to the future and about the conflicting emotions that exist in the current reality. These were excitement, worry, interest and confusion. He questions how best to weave the four school communities together into a new entity and that however we do it we need to keep children at the heart of the matter. Mike emphasized Marks point that we love our local MoE people and that the Aranui School wants to partner with the Ministry towards the best possible outcomes. He shared a comment that in a similar situation up north it took five years for the division to go away. Mike related this to the importance of a collective approach to weaving together a new school community. He emphasized the importance of our attitudes and what we say and desire.

4. John Rohs (Principal, Aranui High School)

John welcomed people again to the High School and expressed delight in being able to host the gathering. John spoke passionately about the TV1 Seven Sharp programme selecting Aranui High School as a feature school on an upcoming episode. He spoke of the pride that Aranui High School people have for their school and it's identify. John shared how the Board of Trustees came to the decision of supporting the Ministers initial proposal and how five schools could work. He emphasized the Boards shared vision of having Early Childhood Education, Adult and Community Education, health and social service providers on the community campus. John discussed the importance of widening the frame to look at the entire eastern education network. He then spoke about the value and contribution secondary school students had to inform the aspirations of a new campus. 'Te Whare' was identified as a physical, spiritual and cultural icon on the current college site and that 'Te Whare' may well be the gift that the High School has to the new campus. John concluded by emphasizing the excitement the Board has in looking forward and embracing this opportunity.

5. Rachael Fonotia (Coordinator, ACTIS)

Rachael spoke about her role within ACTIS and the organisations purpose of being a community voice for the citizens of Aranui who are not involved in the local schools. Rachael spoke of her journey through Wainoni Primary School, Chisnallwood Intermediate and Aranui High School and the aspiration that every young person leaving

Aranui High School will have a qualification. The establishment Board of Trustees is seen as a critical decision-making body in the ongoing process and ACTIS want to have a representative on the eBoT. It is unclear what the selection /recruitment process will be to them at this stage. Rachael requested some clarity about how zoning might work and requested broad engagement with the wider Aranui community in planning, design, school naming and other aspects of the transition to a community campus. Rachael spoke about the high value that ACTIS places on Adult and Community Education, improved levels of amenity and infrastructure on the new campus. Rachael requested clarity on Public Private Partnership and Charter/Partnership schools. She also requested ongoing engagement and to be kept informed on the process.

6. (MoE representatives)

offered commentary and answered questions raised by participants. These included questions relating to property, zoning and processes.

Community workshop

A workshop process was designed to maximize contribution from participants. The structure of the workshop process was designed based on emerging priority areas from the engagement processes in the schools as well as in the community.

Eight priority areas were identified that people wanted to explore. Each of these priority areas required a host and 8 participants offered to be a host. The task of the host was to facilitate and guide and exploration of that priority area. Hosts had to remain in the priority area that they had taken responsibility for.

Participants were welcome to move between priority areas so that they had an opportunity to make a contribution to multiple priority areas. Participants agreed to this process that determined what the priority areas for more detailed discussion would be:

1. Structure Year 1-13
2. Aranui High School Site
3. Early Childhood Education
4. Engagement and Communications
5. Establishment Leadership
6. Special School
7. Other campus facilities
8. Avondale Open

Below is a transcription of the written comments from participants in the workshop.

1. Structure Year 1-13

1. Should it start with crèche?
2. Stop at Year 13 or Adult education.
3. Juniors and Seniors Separate.
4. The Community needs to drive the structure.
5. Can we change the bureaucracy?
6. 2 schools: Y0-7, 8-13
7. How are the two schools funded?
8. 4 schools:
 - a. Y0-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-13
 - b. Y0-3, 4-7, 8-10, 11-13
 - c. Management: Board of Trustees and 4 principals
 - d. Board of Trustees, Principal and 4 deputy principals
9. CPITand UE (*University Entrance?*)
10. Is law change possible to create what we want?
11. Apprenticeships
12. Class Sizes?
13. Answers.

2. Aranui High School Site

1. Discuss the site testing. –Big concern!
2. Geotech report. –Can the community have the results and findings?
3. Access to the site after school hours.
4. Noise to adjacent properties.
5. Parking/Drop off
6. Transport Issues
7. Openness to site.
8. Possible purchase of adjacent properties when they become available.

3. Early Childhood Education

1. Is early childhood and afterthought?
2. Needs to be included on site. –‘Learner is at the heart’ child. –Develop a real community of learners.
3. Does the educational system support Te kohanga reo and Pasifika early childhood?
4. Te kohanga reo on site still keeping separate identities.
5. Provision: 0-6 year olds,
6. 100% qualified ECE teachers –our children deserve this!
7. Joint proposal between kids first and
8. How are existing early childhood centres being treated? Is it fair?
9. Te kotahitangi ki waitaha te kohanga reo.
10. Exciting opportunities for shared understanding, shared information, and shared resources and equipment between primary and secondary.
11. ECE providers have so many unanswered questions. Honesty wins communication!

12. Ministry needs to give clear, important information in a timely manner, to all parties!
13. Memorandum of understanding how we will work together:
 - a. E Tipu Rea
 - b. Te Kohanga Reo
 - c. Pasifika
 - d. Kidsfirst Kindergartens
14. Community backed.
15. If you get it right in the earlier years, a lot more chance of getting it right later on – ECE is worth the investment.
16. We want to be included in the AHS proposal. Kidsfirst and E Tipu e Rea Early Learning Centre. – We want to be kept in the loop.
17. What will we share? i.e. Professional development, parenting courses.
18. How will we share equipment and resources, including specialists, be keep our identities – choice for parents/whanau to share such things as 'bulk buying' power.
19. Government Goals:
 - a. Increasing participation
 - b. Reduce costs/barriers
 - c. Increase parenting skills

4. Engagement and Communications

1. We need to develop a shared vision for the best interests of future students living here.
2. Ask the children what they want for their ideal school.
3. Avoid discrimination based on where people live and go to school, ability, culture and social-economic status.
4. Our community needs opportunities to get together to discuss our similarities and to unite together. –Kotahitanga
5. Relationships – People-based process to drive decision-making! Whanaungatanga.
6. Leadership group, person formed and then frequent meetings.
7. Can we get the community together now to show the ministry we ARE apart of this?
8. Where is the research to back up government claims that a year 1-13 school is better for education?
9. Is it not possible for Chisnallwood and Avondale to stay together?
10. Merger Facebook Page.
11. Make use of social media.
12. Make sure the people of the community are listened to. –The community needs to decide how we want our school.
13. We want guarantees that the ministry will be open and honest to all our decisions. E.g. The special school was never mentioned to us during the consultation period, it was after the last decision that we were told of it.

5. Establishment Leadership

Reps from:

1. Reps from:
 - a. Health Sector
 - b. Social Sector
 - c. Parents
 - d. Community
2. Community interview panels.
3. Nomination and election process.
4. Skills relevant.
5. Is there a limit on the number of Board?
6. Cultural diversity reflected.
7. Leadership from community. –Bottom up not top down.
8. Staff appointments, 2 years out.
9. Achievement Outcomes for students.
10. Read consultation documents from community.
11. Communication
12. Consultation
13. Let the community decide and lead the creation of our school and not the Ministry.
14. Start transitioning two years out. –Joint events etc. between schools.
15. Quality education during the next three years and for transitioning children.
16. Staff retention.

6. Special School

1. On site?
2. What size will the school be?
3. Where?
4. Teacher to student ratios?
5. Which students will this cater for?
 - a. Gifted
 - b. Physical Disabilities
 - c. Behavioural
 - d. Learning Disabilities
6. Experts or skilled teachers.
7. Streaming –ECE and Adult
8. Will it take a cut of the budget or will it be on a separate one? –How will it be managed?
9. Mainstreaming students with specific learning needs.
10. Students directed from ministry.
11. Hammersley Park, Ferndale Unit?
12. Closure of McKenzie Residential
13. Halswell Facility reducing students learning.
14. Bromley unit. –What is happening?

7. Other campus facilities

1. Use of the facilities out of hours by community groups.
2. Better street entrances to make the school attractive to community providers.
3. Connection with Aranui Library.
4. Sports fields at Wainoni Park.
5. Community based health facility (like CPIT)
6. Swimming Pool
7. Adult community education.
8. Well-maintained grounds.
9. No fence
10. Run a competition for the naming of the school.
11. Keep sports academy.
12. Aurora Centre-like Complex for Music and Drama.
13. Community Gardens. – "Garden to Table Trust."
14. School Cafeteria, (like university campus.) – Can be for community parents and children.
15. CPIT / Academy.
16. Ask the community to be involved from the beginning.
17. Gymnasium
18. Grounds maintained by kids and community.
19. Welcoming spaces for community meetings. – Like the Aranui library.
20. Wrap around service with whanau.
21. Recycle the buildings and trees for the community to use.
22. Recognize the cultural richness in the services and the site.

8. Avondale Open

1. Avondale has not suffered the earthquake damage that the Ministry states.
2. Is Avondale deemed to close merely because the numbers are needed for the new school? i.e. 320 pupils.
3. Parental choice? Taken!
4. Wainoni Road/River is a natural divider.
5. Still a viable school. – Roll of 320
6. We need to know the real reasons as to why Avondale is closing.
7. Avondale is already a campus with Chisnallwood; the combined total is 1150 children now.
8. Options/choice for children being bullied or excluded.
9. Predetermination. – It has been done to us.
10. We have proven evidence around Maori achievement. What evidence is there to suggest a Year 0-13 school will do better?
11. We need to stay open, at least until 2020, as Chisnallwood has been granted.

12. Extra travel distance to the new school.
13. 97% of our students go to Chisnallwood, and then hardly any of them go to Aranui High.
14. We are a central hub
15. Where is the data to prove larger schools creating better educational outcomes?
16. Our community has had no input into the site.
17. The Avondale site is more stable than the Aranui High site.
18. Let us still have a choice of where we send our kids. -There needs to be a choice of another school.
19. It is not the buildings, it is the teachers, parents and the community that support our children's learning
20. Too early to close Avondale. The community will rejuvenate with the rebuild.
21. Leave Avondale Alone!!!

Other

1. Moemoea (Future Visions)
2. Waiora (Healing) - Wainoni Primary School
3. Rakau ora (Strength) - Aranui Primary School
4. Whare ora (House of Learning) Aranui High School
5. Manaakitanga (Hospitality/Kindness) -
6. Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship/Stewardship/Trustee) -

Summary

Participants have identified a number of issues, actions, risks, opportunities and comments from the school communities and from the wider Aranui community of interest.

Some of the elements identified in this forum are current and most are relevant over the transitional short to medium term of 3.5 years. Some elements relate to long term success of educational and life outcomes for the children and families of Aranui, Wainoni and Avondale.

Next steps

It was agreed that this report would be circulated to the partners, key stakeholders and participants who provided contact details. In addition there were a number of apologies noted as well as interested parties who had requested a copy of the notes from the forum.

Participants

There were 50 participants who attended the forum and they were invited to provide an email address for future correspondence.

Appendix 4 – Closure Survey Results

Avondale Primary School - Closure survey June 2013

RESULTS

-143 Household Participants

I/we believe that Avondale Primary School should remain open as it remains a viable school for over 300 students.

135/143 agree = 94.4%

I/we do not believe that the Year 1 -13 Area school is a viable option for the Avondale Primary School community.

101/143 agree = 70.6%

If Avondale Primary School was to close, we do not want the Minister shortening the timeframe from the indicated date of 27 January, 2017

101/143 agree = 70.6%

If Avondale Primary School was to close, from 2017, I would:

Percentages below exceed 100% in total as many respondents ticked more than one box.

Have no choice but to send my child(ren) to the Area school

22/143 agree = 15.3%

Send them to another primary school, Intermediate or a single sex high school

94/143 agree = 65.7%

Move house outside of the Area school zone so that my child could go to another school.

68/143 agree = 47.5%

Comments (paraphrased)

Safety

- Believe bullying will increase. (multiple responses)
- Think its disgusting how Govt. is bullying parents into limited education.
- Don't feel picking up/dropping off children at a large school will be viable in terms of safety.
- Child is already bullied after school, by children who attend Aranui primary. Fears the safety of their child after the merger.

Choice

- Very disappointed school is closing and losing freedom of choice.
- Believes parents deserve a choice in where they send their children.
- Won't be able to financially send children to another school. Feels choice has been taken out of their hands.
- Will not be sending children to super school. (multiple responses)
- Lives out of Aranui area and chose Avondale for their children to attend for its wonderful community and is a great school. Will not allow for this and will take all action to stop it.
- Wants children to go to school together at Chisnallwood, but if they have to go to area school as their primary, would keep them there.
- Has 3 primary aged children. Not one would be sent to Aranui.
- Under no circumstances their children will be sent to Aranui.
- Doesn't want choice to be taken away. Already had one daughter pass through Avondale and now attends Avonside Girls High. Happy to have chosen this over Aranui High.
- Youngest child will start at another school to avoid disruption.
- No choice for parents in the East of Christchurch to send their kids if 'Super School' goes ahead and would affect Chisnallwood's role significantly even though that remains open [for now].
- Parent's choose schools based on their child's needs, being forced to attend one large area school will see many children fall through the cracks
- Avondale school works so well beside Chisnallwood. They compliment each other. Neither fit into the image of the super school
- We have been given so little information about the Area school that it has been difficult to make an objective decision.
- I will send my children to the Catholic school if Avondale closes

Housing

- Recently moved to area, would not have moved here without Avondale.
- Would rather move house or homeschool children.
- Will move to an area where school choices are better.
- Would be forced to move house again.
- Strong views against closure, feels that kids should not be uprooted from a good school at Avondale after all they've been through. Would probably move to Australia.
- Thinks a mass wave of movement with families would occur and homes would be valued less in the East of Christchurch for this reason and the lack of higher standard of education in the area.

Student Achievement

- Child who struggles with reading has shown improvements at Avondale, other schools did not offer additional help.
- Child will no longer be attending Avondale as will be year 7, but wishes it to stay open because it was a great school for their children.
- Would move kids out of Avondale early if merger is confirmed as it is not for the children's educational best interests.
- Would move Children out of Avondale before 2017 if merger goes ahead (x3)
- Feels students will not be as catered for or fairly represented in a large school.
- Worried about the Child/Teacher ratio in a new school.
- Feels that children's education will benefit more from a single-sex school than a 'super school' at secondary level.

Economic

- Believes Chisnallwood and Avondale should share services to ease pressure and save money in creating a new school.
- Economically not viable to set up.
- Waste of money closing down a functional school.
- Feels minister will do as she pleases in an economic perspective over a community and education perspective.
- It is noted how poorly this area is being treated in ChCh compared to cabinet minister's electorates
- Would like to shift school if Avondale closes, but cannot move house as a low income family.

Community

- Would break up the community of Avondale if closure goes ahead.
- At the end of the day a flash new school in Aranui would not improve the quality of education for the children. It will still be located in an undesirable area.
- It's the people not the buildings that make a school. Too soon after what kids have been through [quakes].

- Don't think the suburb of Avondale will last after closure.
- We feel that there is no reason to close Avondale with over 300 students. This is a fabulous school and our community do not want it to close at all. (multiple responses)
- Our son is doing really well at Avondale with another soon to start. The teachers and staff are fantastic. We are a strong community based school. There is no way I would send my children to the other school. We would move first!
- We would move to Wellington rather than have to send our children to the super school
- If all parents think strongly about the closure, we should hire all the teachers and have a "Home school" style at Avondale.

General

- Believes Aranui high stays as it is, Wainoni and Aranui Primary's merge with Avondale, so there are 3 main schools along the same road. Least disruption to kids.
- Deep resentment for change.
- Keeping Avondale open would assist the role of Chisnallwood.
- With Aranui not wanting the 'super school' and Avondale able to handle a larger role, why is the proposal still going ahead?
- Avondale and Chisnallwood should merge as a years 1-8 school as they are literally next door to each other.
- If Avondale closes it should allow all students to finish through to the end of year 6. Otherwise would be disruptive.
- Prefer Avondale to stay open as a single school.
- The Govt. is not listening to the children, they love their school and teachers and wish they [Ministry of Education] would leave them alone.

Support Merger (1 respondent only)

- Looking forward to new beginnings at the 'super school'. Strongly for the merger. Believe that you are being negative. Excited for my kids having something new.

Appendix 5 – Avondale Support Letters



26 June 2013

Head Office, 43 Birmingham Drive
PO Box 8089, Christchurch 8440
Tel: 03 338 1303 Fax: 03 338 1086
www.kidsfirst.co.nz

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

AVONDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION IN RESPECT OF THE EDUCATION RENEWAL PLAN FOR GREATER CHRISTCHURCH

Background Information

Canterbury Westland Kindergarten Association Incorporated (CWKA) trading as Kidsfirst Kindergartens is the largest early childhood education provider in greater Christchurch with over 60 sites. Kidsfirst Kindergartens is highly regarded as a reputable organisation with a history of over 100 years of providing high quality education to preschool children in the Canterbury and West Coast regions of the South Island.

Within the Aranui Learning Community Cluster we have three kindergartens and one early learning centre providing high quality early childhood education to over 175 children and their families.

This letter of support focuses on two of our services, our early learning centre Aranui and Kidsfirst Kindergartens Woolley Street, the challenges currently facing these two services, and the opportunities that might arise if Avondale Primary School is retained alongside Chisnallwood Intermediate School in what might be termed a "mini learning community cluster".

CWKA again urges that the early childhood education sector is fully involved in the development and consultation of education renewal proposals in Christchurch.

The proposed initiatives for education renewal in Christchurch, and in certain instances the strong challenges to some of these proposals, are both supported by CWKA where there is well founded educational or community agreement.

CWKA have adopted these apparent contradictory positions based on our belief that it is imperative that there is quality, seamless education on offer for children as they progress from early childhood to primary education.

We believe that being located on a school site greatly enhances the opportunities for increased learning outcomes for some of our youngest and more vulnerable children and makes the move from early childhood education into primary education a seamless transition process. Transitions from early childhood education to primary school are dynamic, multi-faceted and complex and need to be constantly revisited and evaluated within local contexts and in our view being located on a school site provides the greatest opportunity for success.

As we employ only trained registered teachers the suggested solution provides the opportunity to bridge the early childhood education curriculum Te Whāriki and the New Zealand Primary School Curriculum more effectively. This will enable new entrant primary teachers to build on early childhood education development, recorded through children's individual portfolios as each child transitions into the school system.

CANTERBURY WESTLAND KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION INC. MO NGĀ TAMARIKI ME NGĀ WHĀNAU O WAITAHA ME TAI POUTINI

We are also aware that having an early childhood facility on a school site may improve the accessibility to high quality early childhood education, for some families who have children attending both school and early childhood centres.

Aranui Proposals

It is in this content that CWKA is supportive of the proposal of Avondale Primary School to “stand outside” the proposed education cluster on the Aranui High School site. In particular CWKA supports the principle of choice that Avondale Primary School proposes through the development of a “mini learning community cluster” based on a Chisnallwood Intermediate/Avondale Primary Campus. (We note that the two schools currently occupy neighbouring properties.)

CWKA has both an early learning centre (Kidsfirst Early Learning Centre Aranui) and three kindergartens (Kidsfirst Kindergartens Portsmouth Street, Ngaire Larcombe and Woolley Street) affected by the education renewal proposals for the Aranui Area.

In line with the principle set out above, CWKA supports both the Aranui Community Cluster, and the development of a Chisnallwood/Avondale “mini learning community cluster”. The inclusion of early childhood education services as an integral part of both clusters, is in the opinion of CWKA, critical.

In practical terms the inclusion of early childhood education in both the Aranui Community Cluster and in the “mini learning community cluster” proposed by Avondale Primary would result in Kidsfirst Ngaire Larcombe located in the Aranui Community Cluster; and Kidsfirst Early Learning Centre Aranui and Kidsfirst Kindergarten Woolley Street located on the Avondale Primary School site as part of the Chisnallwood/Primary “mini learning community cluster.” It is intended that Kidsfirst Kindergartens Portsmouth Street is retained and continues to operate from its current site.

A significant attraction to CWKA of such an outcome is that it addresses two particular issues currently facing our Association: -

1. Kidsfirst Early Learning Centre Aranui currently has a much higher demand for places than it is able to cater for, and ideally should expand. As the site, and the building on Breezes Road, Aranui, is owned by the Christchurch City Council the probability of such expansion is highly unlikely.
2. Kidsfirst Kindergartens Woolley Street was severely damaged in the Christchurch earthquakes and faces very major repair/rebuild.

If further information is required in relation to this letter outlining the position of CWKA in relation to the Avondale Primary School submission to the Minister please do not hesitate to contact me by phoning 03 338 1303.


Sherryl Wilson
Chief Executive

APPENDIX : Profile of Kidsfirst Services

Early Learning Centre Aranui

Our early learning centre is situated in Breezes Road and caters for children aged six months through until six years of age. This centre operates Monday to Friday 7.30 am to 5.30 pm all year round. The licence for this Centre allows for 9 children under the age of two years and 23 children aged two years up to six years to attend. Māori children contribute approximately 24% of the Centre's roll.

Kidsfirst Kindergartens Woolley Street

Our kindergarten in Woolley Street caters for children aged two years through to six years. This kindergarten operates Monday to Friday 8.30 am – 2.30 pm following the primary school education year. This kindergarten is licensed for 40 children and presently 11% of the children enrolled are identified as Māori.

Kidsfirst Kindergartens Ngaire Larcombe

Our kindergarten located on the Wainoni School Site caters for children aged two years through to six years. This kindergarten operates Monday to Friday 8.30 am – 1.30 pm although recent demand may see this kindergarten extend its hours. This kindergarten follows the primary school education year. The kindergarten is currently licensed for 40 children of which 46% of these children are Māori.

Kidsfirst Kindergartens Portsmouth Street

This kindergarten is located on crown owned land in Portsmouth Street and caters for children aged two years through to six years. It operates Monday to Friday 8.30 am – 2.30 pm following the primary school education year. It is licensed for 40 children aged two years through to six years. Currently 44% of the children enrolled are Māori.

Three of the four services noted above attract government equity funding which is a targeted funding mechanism. The components of equity funding received is as a result of serving low socio-economic communities and having a high number of children with special needs and children from non-English speaking backgrounds.

These services work hard to support the government early childhood education goals of reducing the barriers to participation for priority families in greater Christchurch. These barriers have been defined as:

- ▶ Cost
- ▶ Access
- ▶ Suitability of provision
- ▶ Education is not a priority
- ▶ Complex issues facing priority families since earthquake

For example CWKA has recently extended its "No Fees" initiative for a further twelve months (through until July 2014) in recognition of the hardships that families in Canterbury and on the West Coast are continuing to face as a result of the Christchurch earthquakes and the Pike River Mining Disaster.

This initiative has allowed more children to participate in high quality early childhood education, for those children already enrolled the opportunity to increase their hours; for women to re-enter the workforce and to develop a real community of learners as the financial worries of attending high quality early childhood education has been negated or significantly reduced for our families in the communities that we serve.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: AVONDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL CLOSER.

THE CLOSER OF OUR BELOVED AVONDALE SCHOOL TAKES AWAY OUR BASIC RIGHTS AS PARENTS TO CHOOSE WHERE, WHAT AND HOW WE RAISE AND EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN.

FORCING US TO SEND OUR CHILDREN TO A SCHOOL THAT WE DON'T WANT IN AN AREA THAT IS A LOT LESS SAFER, FRIEDLIER AND A LOT LESS FAMILY ORIENTATED.

ARAWU (THE PROPOSED AREA) IS SURROUND BY INDUSTRIAL SITES, EMPTY SHOPPING AREAS, GANGS, GANG HOUSES AND A PUB.

ONE EXAMPLE FOR AVONDALE BEING SAFER IS OUR CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE TO CROSS ANY BUSY OR MAIN ROADS FOR PICK UP/DROP OFF AS WE BACK ON TO TENBY PLACE, A AREA WHERE THE CHILDREN DON'T HAVE TO CROSS ANY ROADS.

AVONDALE IS A CHOICE FOR A LOT OF FAMILIES NOT A PLACE WHERE WE ARE FORCED TO SEND OUR CHILDREN

AVONDALE HAS TEACHERS, STAFF, SURPORT STAFF, A PRINCIPAL, A DUTY PRINCIPAL THAT HAVE A PASSION FOR OUR CHILDREN, THEIR LEARNING, THEIR ENVIROMENT, THEIR WELL BEING THAT ALSO KNOW THE CHILDREN BY NAME AND THEIR FAMILIES BY NAME.

AVONDALE HAS A SWIMMING POOL, LARGE GROUNDS, NEW MORDERN WARM CLASSROOMS, A COMMUNITY THAT SURPORTS IT JUST TO NAME A FEW GOOD POINTS

OUR CHILDREN DESERVE THE RIGHT TO THE BEST SCHOOL THAT WE CHOOSE - AVONDALE

OUR CHILDREN ARE NOT JUST STATICS THEY ARE OUR FURTURE, ONE THAT NEEDS TO BE LOOKED AFTER.

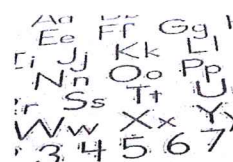
DO NOT CLOSE AVONDALE !

FROM :

MOTHER OF TWO AVONDALE STUDENTS
- AUNT OF THREE AVONDALE STUDENTS

Avondale Primary School

Avondale
Vibrant
Outdoors
Nice SCHOOL!
Delightful
Amazing
Library
Education



Primary
Restful
Involvement
Monkey bars
Amazing Teachers
Reading
Young



School
Camping
Helpful
Only the best primary school
Opportunities
Learn lots

From:
Subject: **Re: Super school**
Date: 31 May 2013 4:59:07 PM
To: "avondaleschool@paradise.net.nz" <avondaleschool@paradise.net.nz>

I am writing this in regards to the MOE interim decision.

I would like to start with noting, that I am completely against the decision.

My name is _____ I grew up in _____ but attended Aranui High and I
have children.
We used to live in _____ but shifted to this area purposely to send my children to
Avondale.
My eldest _____ attended Avondale, Chisnallwood and now Aranui High.
Avondale was fantastic for _____

another school that put a lot of effort into helping him achieve as much as he could, to the best of
his ability. Avondale also support and are continuing to support my other son _____ and I think
without that support from them, I would be a bit lost. _____ is 10, in Year 6 and will be attending
Chisnallwood next year. I have _____

_____ They will be
attending Avondale also.
I have nieces and nephews that attend or have attended and more that are due to attend.

The support Avondale has shown all my children is amazing. They are not treated like 'just
another student', something I don't think a super school could equal. I cannot see were Avondale
is not 'viable', even with the earthquake, the roll is still at a suitable level, it is fully staffed and
there isn't major damage. They know the community, they know the families and they know their
children. It is somewhere my children feel safe and somewhere I feel safe sending them, I would
not feel comfortable sending my children to a school where there will be 17 and 18 year old
children, nor would my younger children feel safe. They are growing up in this area, we live in
Aranui, _____ but their are teenagers around here, that are not the type of
children I would like to send my _____ year old daughter to school with. As I said we live here, I
chose to live in this area and I see its strength as a community everyday.

The MOE are forcing peoples hands into sending their kids to the super school, because there
will be no other option in the area. What gives them the right to do this? I read the submissions
the schools put through, the community voice was strong on what they wanted, but the MOE has
chosen not to listen, that was their **choice. Choice**, something the MOE has stripped from us.
They will set zoning and roll caps on schools, further taking people's choice away and bullying
them into their super school.

My alternatives to a super school would be either 1-Merge Wainoni Primary, Aranui Primary and
Avondale Primary, on the current Avondale site, leave Aranui High and Chisnallwood as is. 2-
Merge the three primary schools, on the current Avondale site and make Avondale a junior
school to Chisnallwood. 3-Let Aranui and Wainoni join with Aranui High and Avondale become a
junior school to Chisnallwood. I say this because of the fact that Avondale is still very much a
viable school and because Avondale and Chisnallwood already neighbour each other.

I would shift area's before I send my children to the super school.

Kind regards

SUPPORTING AVONDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

I am writing this letter in support of Avondale Primary School staying open and support for all the staff at Avondale Primary School.

I have two children who both used to go to another primary school in the area, which they truly loved. I have one child though who struggles with

How ridiculous. You are an education service yet can not help with an obvious education problem.

I then moved both boys to a bigger school in Avondale Primary School and have received amazing support for in his endeavours to try and better himself. His teachers over the two years and the support staff at Avondale Primary School have worked very hard to help improve in his learning ability, which he has done in astounding results.

To find that the government has made such an ugly decision to close the school and for all staff to lose there jobs has left me dumbfounded. Especially after amazing results in the National Standards report of 2012.

I believe with combining all four schools as a year 1-13 school with such a diverse range of social issues and backgrounds will only leave more children without the help and support that they so deserve to get a better education. I believe more children will full into that category of "Not Fragile" enough to get help.

I do not want any parent to hear that from there education provider.

And on top of all the hardships and lack of support from the government when we are all (parents/students/teachers/support staff) are still on a waiting list for our homes to be fixed/repared/rebuilt, that you can justify spending all that money on building a so called Super School. Don't the families and children of Christchurch deserve to come first?

The earthquake was a disaster but the attitude of the government and the ministry of education to destroy our schools and hearts is abominable.

Appendix 6. Community feedback

Two workshops were also conducted enabling BoT members, parents and community to identify and discuss key issues relative to the interim decision and potential scenarios.

The following sections provide a summary of the key issues and thinking from the participants in the workshops. Fully transcribed notes from the workshops are included in Appendices. Note that the Parent Feedback section includes feedback from parents in the two workshops and via the Closure Survey.

5.1 Structure

Theme	Community Forum
Structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Should it start with crèche? 2. Stop at Year 13 or Adult education. 3. Juniors and Seniors Separate. 4. 2 schools: Y0-7, 8-13 5. 4 schools: Y0-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-13 Y0-3, 4-7, 8-10, 11-13 6. Management: Board of Trustees and 4 principals 7. Board of Trustees, Principal and 4 deputy principals 8. CPIT and UC (<i>University Entrance?</i>) 9. Apprenticeships 10. Class Sizes? 11. Answers. 12. Where is the research to back up government claims that a year 1-13 school is better for education? 13. Believes Chisnallwood and Avondale should share services to ease pressure and save money in creating a new school.

5.2 Timing

Themes	Parent Feedback	Avondale staff survey
Timing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 70.6% of parents believe that if Avondale Primary School was to close they do not want the Minister shortening the timeframe from the indicated date of 27 January 2017. 2. July 2014 freeze staffing numbers 3. Staff security 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. 90% of staff believes that if Avondale Primary School was to close they do not want the Minister shortening the timeframe from the indicated date of 27 January 2017.

5.3 Teaching and support staff

Themes	Parent Feedback	Avondale staff survey
Teaching and support staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 81% of parents believe that if Avondale was to close they believe it should be a merger rather than a closure to provide necessary continuity for our students and offer some protection for staff. 2. July 2014 freeze staffing numbers 3. Staff security 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. 52% of staff believes that their career prospects have been damaged due to being one of the five schools closing due to the media and Minister comments regarding "closure" rather than merger. 5. 76% of staff believes staffing should be retained as of 1st July 2014 as well as freezing Ops funding through till proposed closure if this was to occur.

5.4 Facilities

Themes	Avondale staff survey	Community Forum
Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 81% of staff believes that Avondale school's site is less EQ impacted and having greater soil stability than the proposed Year 1-13 site, therefore if makes economic sense to keep Avondale open. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Discuss the site testing. -Big concern! 3. Geotech report. -Can the community have the results and findings? 4. Access to the site after school hours. 5. Noise to adjacent properties. 6. Parking/Drop off 7. Transport Issues 8. Openness to site. 9. Possible purchase of adjacent properties when they become available. 10. Use of the facilities out of hours by community groups. 11. Better street entrances to make the school attractive to community providers. 12. Connection with Aranui Library. 13. Sports fields at Wainoni Park. 14. Community based health facility (like CPIT) 15. Swimming Pool 16. Adult community education. 17. Well-maintained grounds. 18. No fence 19. Run a competition for the naming of the school. 20. Keep sports academy. 21. Aurora Centre-like Complex for Music and Drama. 22. Community Gardens. -"Garden to Table Trust." 23. School Cafeteria, (like university campus.) -Can be for community parents and children. 24. CPIT / Academy. 25. Gymnasium 26. Grounds maintained by kids and community. 27. Welcoming spaces for community meetings. -Like the Aranui library. 28. Wrap around service with whanau. 29. Recycle the buildings and trees for the community to use. 30. Recognize the cultural richness in the services and the site.

5.5 Special school

Themes	Community Forum
Special School	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On site? 2. What size will the school be? 3. Where? 4. Teacher to student ratios? 5. Which students will this cater for? 6. Gifted 7. Physical Disabilities 8. Behavioural 9. Learning Disabilities 10. Experts or skilled teachers. 11. Streaming -ECE and Adult 12. Will it take a cut of the budget or will it be on a separate one? -How will it be managed? 13. Mainstreaming students with specific learning needs. 14. Students directed from ministry. 15. Hammersley Park, Ferndale Unit? 16. Closure of McKenzie Residential 17. Halswell Facility reducing students learning. 18. Bromley unit. -What is happening?

5.6 Parental intentions

Themes	Parent Feedback
Parental intentions	<p>If Avondale Primary School was to close, from 2017, I would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 15.3% (22/143) agree that they have no choice but to send their child(ren) to the Area school 2. 65.7% (94/143) agreed that they would send their child(ren) to another primary school, Intermediate or a single sex high school agree 3. 47.5% (68/143) agreed that they would move house outside of the Area school zone so that my child could go to another school. <p>Note: Percentages exceed 100% in total as respondents were able to tick more than one box.</p>

5.7 Health and Safety

Themes	Parent Feedback
Health and Safety	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Believe bullying will increase. (multiple responses) 2. Don't feel picking up/dropping off children at a large school will be viable in terms of safety. 3. Child is already bullied after school, by children who attend Aranui primary. Fears the safety of their child after the merger.

5.8 Establishment Leadership

Themes	Community forum
Establishment leadership	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reps from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Sector • Social Sector • Parents • ECE 2. Community interview panels. 3. Nomination and election process. 4. Skills relevant. 5. Is there a limit on the number of Board? 6. Cultural diversity reflected. 7. Leadership from community. -Bottom up not top down. 8. Staff appointments, 2 years out. 9. Achievement Outcomes for students. 10. Read consultation documents from community. 11. Communication 12. Consultation 13. Let the community decide and lead the creation of <u>our</u> school and not the Ministry. 14. Start transitioning two years out. -Joint events etc. between schools. 15. Quality education during the next three years and for transitioning children.

5.9 Engagement and Communications

Themes	Community Forum
Engagement and Communications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We need to develop a shared vision for the best interests of <u>future</u> students living here. 2. Ask the children what they want for their ideal school. 3. Avoid discrimination based on where people live and go to school, ability, culture and social-economic status. 4. Our community needs opportunities to get together to discuss our similarities and to unite together. -Kotahitanga 5. <u>Relationships</u> - People-based process to drive decision-making! Whanaungatanga. 6. Leadership group, person formed and then frequent meetings. 7. Can we get the community together now to <u>show</u> the ministry we <u>ARE</u> apart of this? 8. Merger Facebook Page. 9. Make use of social media. 10. Make sure the people of the community are listened to. -The community needs to decide how we want <u>our</u> school. 11. We want guarantees that the ministry will be open and honest to all our decisions.

	<p>E.g. The special school was never mentioned to us during the consultation period, it was after the last decision that we were told of it.</p> <p>12. Ask the community to be involved from the beginning.</p> <p>13. The Community needs to drive the structure</p>
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5.10 Learning pathways

Themes	Community Forum
Learning pathways	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is early childhood and afterthought? 2. Needs to be included on site. -'Learner is at the heart' child. -Develop a <u>real community of learners</u>. 3. Does the educational system support Te kohanga reo and Pasifika early childhood? 4. Te kohanga reo on site still keeping separate identities. 5. Provision: 0-6 year olds, 6. 100% qualified ECE teachers -our children deserve this! 7. Joint proposal between kids first and 8. How are existing early childhood centres being treated? Is it fair? 9. Te kotahitangi ki waitaha te kohanga reo. 10. Exciting opportunities for shared understanding, shared information, and shared resources and equipment between primary and secondary. 11. ECE providers have so many unanswered questions. Honesty wins communication! 12. Ministry needs to give clear, important information in a timely manner, to <u>all</u> parties! 13. Memorandum of understanding how we <u>will</u> work together: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. E Tipu Rea b. Te Kohanga Reo c. Pasifika d. Kidsfirst Kindergartens 14. Community backed. 15. If you get it right in the earlier years, a lot more chance of getting it right later on - ECE is worth the investment. 16. We want to be included in the AHS proposal. Kidsfirst and E Tipu e Rea Early Learning Centre. - We want to be kept in the loop. 17. What will we share? i.e. Professional development, parenting courses. 18. How will we share equipment and resources, including specialists, be keep our identities - choice for parents/whanau to share such things as 'bulk buying' power. 19. Government Goals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increasing participation b. Reduce costs/barriers 20. Increase parenting skills

5.11 Culture & Identity

Theme	Community Forum
Culture & Identity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moemoea (Future Visions) 2. Waiora (Healing) - Wainoni Primary School 3. Rakau ora (Strength, Trees) - Aranui Primary School 4. Whare (p)ora (<i>House of weaving, weaving school</i>) - Aranui High School 5. Manaakitanga (Hospitality/Kindness) 6. Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship/Stewardship/Trustee)

5.12 Remaining Open

Theme	Parent Feedback	Community Forum	Avondale Staff survey
Avondale Remaining Open	<p>22. 94.4% of parents believe that Avondale Primary School should remain open as a viable school for over 300 students.</p> <p>23. 70.6% of parents do not believe that the Year 1-13 Area school is a viable option for the Avondale Primary School community</p> <p>24. Community Campus and Chisnallwood</p> <p>25. Why can't Avondale stay and be reviewed in 2020?</p> <p>26. Give us a reprieve</p> <p>27. At 320 students Avondale is still a viable school</p> <p>28. Aranui & Wainoni merge on Avondale 2015</p> <p>29. Avondale failed to receive the latest, most accurate and correct information about our land and buildings</p> <p>30. Does the Minister understand our current reality</p>	<p>31. Avondale has not suffered the earthquake damage that the Ministry states.</p> <p>32. Is Avondale deemed to close merely because the numbers are needed for the new school? i.e. 320 pupils.</p> <p>33. Parental choice? Taken!</p> <p>34. Wainoni Road/River is a natural divider.</p> <p>35. Still a viable school. - Roll of 320</p> <p>36. We need to know the real reasons as to why Avondale is closing.</p> <p>37. Avondale is already a campus with Chisnallwood; the combined total is 1150 children now.</p> <p>38. Options/choice for children being bullied or excluded.</p> <p>39. Predetermination. -It has been done to us.</p> <p>40. We have proven evidence around Maori achievement. What evidence is there to suggest a Year 0-13 school will do better?</p> <p>41. We need to stay open, at least until 2020, as Chisnallwood has been granted.</p> <p>42. Extra travel distance to the new school.</p> <p>43. 97% of our students go to Chisnallwood, and then hardly any of them go to Aranui High.</p> <p>44. We are a central hub</p> <p>45. Where is the data to prove larger schools creating better educational outcomes?</p> <p>46. Our community has had no input into the site.</p> <p>47. The Avondale site is</p>	<p>52. 95% of staff believes that Avondale Primary School should remain open as a viable school for over 300 students.</p> <p>53. 85% of staff wants the Minister to reconsider her decision and consider providing Avondale with the same conditions as Chisnallwood. Ie review at 2020 as students going to Avondale have traditionally seen their future educational pathways lying outside of Aranui Cluster Schools.</p> <p>54. 76% of staff do not believe that the Year 1-13 Area school is a viable option for the Avondale Primary School</p> <p>55. 85% of staff does not believe that one school can meet the needs of our diverse communities.</p> <p>56. 57% of staff believes that the original alternate option of having the two other primary schools merge on the Avondale site is a justifiable use of existing and future resources and provides choice for parents.</p> <p>57. 71% of staff thinks that by keeping Avondale open, we provide a realistic and democratic choice for parents and students of the</p>

		<p>more stable than the Aranui High site.</p> <p>48. Let us still have a choice of where we send our kids. -There needs to be a choice of another school.</p> <p>49. It is not the buildings, it is the teachers, parents and the community that support our children's learning</p> <p>50. Too early to close Avondale. The community will rejuvenate with the rebuild.</p> <p>51. Leave Avondale Alone!!!</p>	<p>wider Avondale community.</p> <p>58. 66% of staff believes that should Avondale close, many parents will remove their children from the area, which would have a negative viability of the Year 1-13 Area School.</p> <p>59. 43% of staff think that Avondale should remain open and merge with Chisnallwood to make one campus as our sites adjoin each other. Pre quake combined rolls of 1400 students suggest that the campus has the capacity.</p> <p>60. 43% of staff believes that many Burwood school students who live closer to Avondale than Windsor would come to Avondale if Avondale were to remain open. We understand that this would be at least 45 students.</p>
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5.13 Chisnallwood remaining open

Theme	Community Forum
Chisnallwood remaining open	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If Chisnallwood continues, how will its influence on this proposal be restricted? 2. Move Chisnallwood into its zone (not on its border!) 3. What effect will still having Chisnallwood in our area have on this new school? 4. Why was Chisnallwood allowed to survive as they are part of our community? 5. Chisnallwood parents will not send kids to an Yr1-13 school when others have been here since Yr1. 6. Chisnallwood perception - "Don't turn our diamonds into mongrels" 7. Chisnallwood review 2020 - provision to seamlessly integrate students in new campus 8. Is it not possible for Chisnallwood and Avondale to stay together?

5.14 Choice

Theme	Parent feedback
Choice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very disappointed school is closing and losing freedom of choice. 2. Believes parents deserve a choice in where they send their children. 3. Won't be able to financially send children to another school. Feels choice has been taken out of their hands. 4. Will not be sending children to super school. (multiple responses) 5. Lives out of Aranui area and chose Avondale for their children to attend for its wonderful community and is a great school. Will not allow for this and will take all action to stop it. 6. Wants children to go to school together at Chisnallwood, but if they have to go to area school as their primary, would keep them there. 7. Has 3 primary aged children. Not one would be sent to Aranui. 8. Under no circumstances their children will be sent to Aranui. 9. Doesn't want choice to be taken away. Already had one daughter pass through Avondale and now attends Avonside Girls High. Happy to have chosen this over Aranui High. 10. Youngest child will start at another school to avoid disruption. 11. No choice for parents in the East of Christchurch to send their kids if 'Super School' goes ahead and would affect Chisnallwood's role significantly even though that remains open [for now]. 12. Parent's choose schools based on their child's needs, being forced to attend one large area school will see many children fall through the cracks 13. Avondale school works so well beside Chisnallwood. They compliment each other. Neither fit into the image of the super school 14. I will send my children to the Catholic school if Avondale closes 15. What is meant by 'choice' of education 16. Recently moved to area, would not have moved here without Avondale. 17. Would rather move house or homeschool children. 18. Will move to an area where school choices are better. 19. Would be forced to move house again. 20. Strong views against closure, feels that kids should not be uprooted from a good school at Avondale after all they've been through. Would probably move to Australia. 21. Thinks a mass wave of movement with families would occur and homes would be valued less in the East of Christchurch for this reason and the lack of higher standard of education in the area. 22. Feels that children's education will benefit more from a single-sex school than a 'super school' at secondary level. 23. Would like to shift school if Avondale closes, but cannot move house as a low income family. 24. We would move to Wellington rather than have to send our children to the super school

5.13 Student Achievement

Themes	Parent Feedback
Student Achievement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child who struggles with ; has shown improvements at Avondale, other schools did not offer additional help. 2. Child will no longer be attending Avondale as will be year 7, but wishes it to stay open because it was a great school for their children. 3. Would move kids out of Avondale early if merger is confirmed as it is not for the children's educational best interests. 4. Would move Children out of Avondale before 2017 if merger goes ahead (x3) 5. Feels students will not be as catered for or fairly represented in a large school. 6. Worried about the Child/Teacher ratio in a new school.

5.14 General Comments

Themes	Parent Feedback
General Comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Believes Aranui high stays as it is, Wainoni and Aranui Primary's merge with Avondale, so there are 3 main schools along the same road. Least disruption to kids. 2. Deep resentment for change. 3. Keeping Avondale open would assist the role of Chisnallwood. 4. With Aranui not wanting the 'super school' and Avondale able to handle a larger role, why is the proposal still going ahead? 5. Avondale and Chisnallwood should merge as a years 1-8 school as they are literally next door to each other. 6. If Avondale closes it should allow all students to finish through to the end of year 6. Otherwise would be disruptive. 7. Prefer Avondale to stay open as a single school. 8. The Govt. is not listening to the children, they love their school and teachers and wish they [Ministry of Education] would leave them alone. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Looking forward to new beginnings at the 'super school'. Strongly for the merger. Believe that you are being negative. Excited for my kids having something new. 9. Think it's disgusting how Govt. is bullying parents into limited education. 10. Can Avondale school take a judicial review? 11. Novopay' 12. Zoning / School encirclement scheme 13. We have been given so little information about the Area school that it has been difficult to make an objective decision. 14. Economically not viable to set up. 15. Waste of money closing down a functional school. 16. Feels minister will do as she pleases in an economic perspective over a community and education perspective. 17. It is noted how poorly this area is being treated in ChCh compared to cabinet minister's electorates 18. Would break up the community of Avondale if closure goes ahead. 19. At the end of the day a flash new school in Aranui would not improve the quality of education for the children. It will still be located in an undesirable area. 20. It's the people not the buildings that make a school. Too soon after what kids have been through [quakes]. 21. Don't think the suburb of Avondale will last after closure. 22. We feel that there is no reason to close Avondale with over 300 students. This is a fabulous school and our community do not want it to close at all. (multiple responses) 23. Our son is doing really well at Avondale with another soon to start. The teachers and staff are fantastic. We are a strong community based school. There is no way I would send my children to the other school. We would move first! 24. If all parents think strongly about the closure, we should hire all the teachers and have a "Home school" style at Avondale. 25. Appendix 5 contains four letters of support for Avondale School to stay open.

Appendix 7. Summary from submission (March 2013)

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 Campus⁹ 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 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.

⁹ 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.

Appendix 8 – Avondale Community Petition

Appendix 9 – Burwood Student distribution dot map

Appendix 10 – Avondale Residents Assoc support letter

Secondary Schools attended by ex Avondale Primary leavers

Avondale school would like the Ministry and the Minister to consider the following data which shows that the Avondale community have traditionally seen the educational pathway for their children from Avondale, to Chisnallwood, to other secondary schools. Although only recent data has been captured to illustrate the point we make, it has long been the expected pattern of our students leaving Avondale. Parental choice has, for many decades seen ex Avondale students leaving the suburb

The table below shows where our year 6 leavers go to as year 7 students with an average of 91% seeing our neighbouring school as the school of choice.

Year 6 leavers to Chisnallwood

2008	84 leavers	73 to Chisnallwood	87%
2009	87 leavers	80 to Chisnallwood	92%
2010	72 leavers	64 to Chisnallwood	89%
2011	68 leavers	63 to Chisnallwood	92.6%
2012	64 leavers	61 to Chisnallwood	95.3%

The next table below shows that traditionally fewer than 1 in 4 students go on to attend the local secondary school, Aranui High. As with Chisnallwood Intermediate that successfully argued their case that its students typically move out of the Aranui area for secondary schooling, the same can be said for Avondale Primary School students. This has been a long standing tradition with the Avondale community and reflects their choice of schooling.

2009 Avondale leavers - 87 students

Now attending secondary school as Year 10 students

Aranui	20 students	23%	
Avonside Girls	10 students	11.5%	
Shirley Boys	7 students	8%	19.5%
Linwood	10 students	11.5%	
Hagley	6 students	6.9%	
Mairehau	5 students	5.7%	
Other ChCh Schools	16 students	18.4%	
Other Canterbury	5 students	5.7%	33.3%
Other NZ	8 students	9.2%	

23% Aranui High (20) - 77% other high schools (67)

Single sex schools attract 19.5% (17)

2010 Avondale leavers - 72 students

Now attending secondary school as Year 9 students

Aranui	13 students	18%	
Avonside Girls	13 students	18%	
Shirley Boys	17 students	23.6%	41%
Linwood	5 students	6.9%	
Hagley	4 students	5.6%	
Mairehau	3 students	4.2%	
Other ChCh Schools	6 students	8.3%	
Other Canterbury	2 students	2.8%	
Other NZ	6 students	8.3%	15.3%
Other	3 students	4.2%	

18% Aranui High (13) - 82% other high schools (59)

Single sex schools attract 41% (30). This is a significant rise for these schools. Other high schools outside of six named Christchurch schools has seen a significant drop from 33.3% of our Year 10 students down to 15.3%

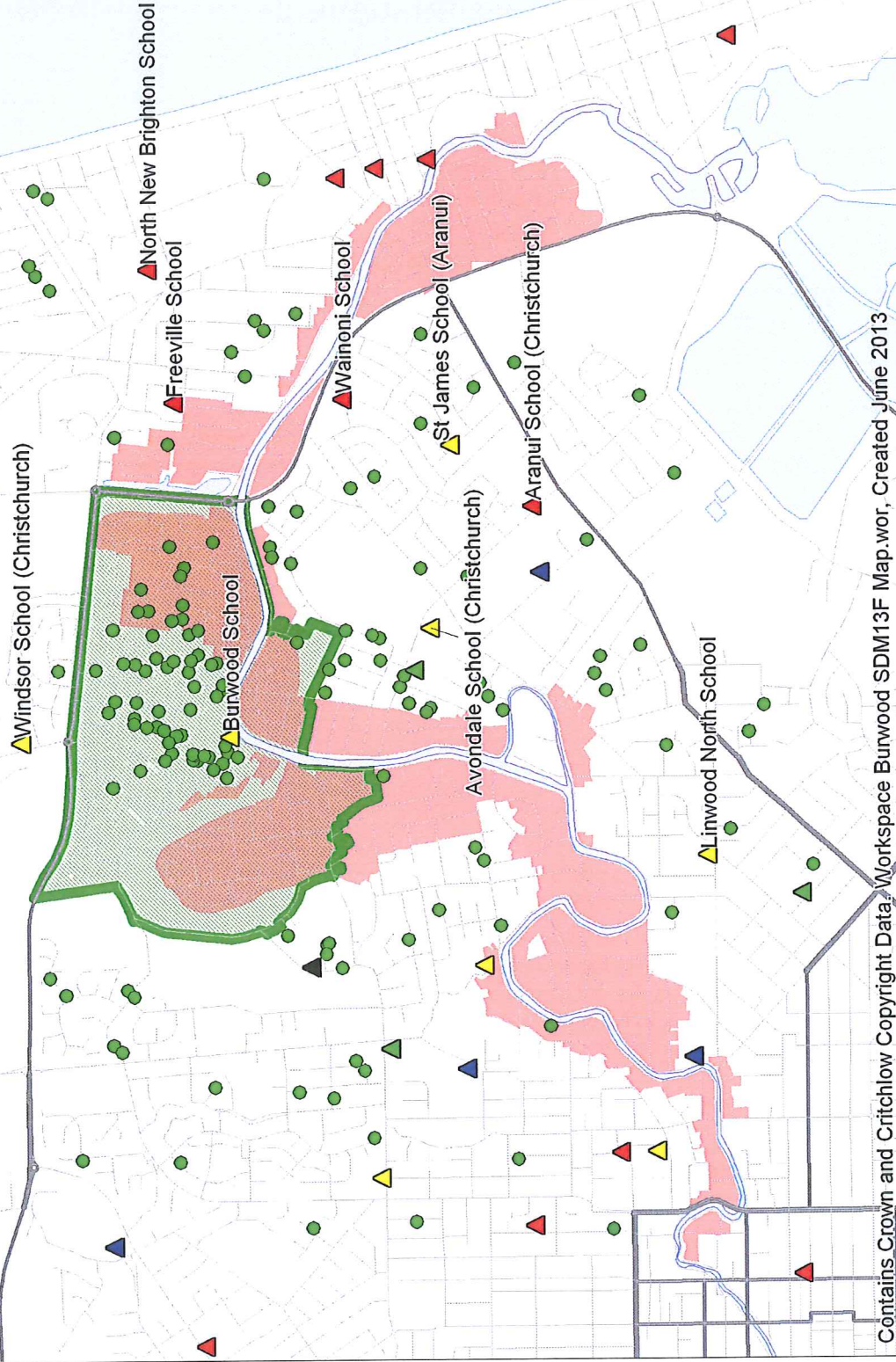
Burwood School Student Distribution at March 2010 and Special Temporary Enrolment Scheme

Note: Not all student addresses were able to be geocoded. 224 of the 229 student addresses provided by the school in the March 2013 school roll return.

Of the 224 geocoded student addresses, 83 are within the Burwood School Special Temporary Enrolment Scheme.

Multiple students at an address appear as one.

Some student addresses may not be shown due to the scale of the map.



Burwood School
Student Address

Burwood School
Special Temporary
Enrolment Scheme

Schools

Full Primary

Contributing Primary

Intermediate

Special School

Secondary (Y7-15)

Composite

Secondary (Y9-15)

Teen Parent Unit

Kura Teina

all others

CERA "Red Zone"
Land Assessment
at 31 October 2012

Main Road

Road

River

Water

Avondale Primary School

Submission to the Minister of Education on the interim decision to close Avondale Primary School

3 July 2013

Prepared with the assistance of

CHENPALMER
NEW ZEALAND **PUBLIC AND EMPLOYMENT LAW** SPECIALISTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 Avondale Primary School ("**Avondale**") recognises the need to explore innovative, cost effective and sustainable options for organising and funding the Christchurch schooling network in the post-earthquake environment.
- 2 Avondale understands that some schools in Christchurch are uneconomical to remediate, particularly those with small rolls and significant earthquake damage, but contends that neither roll size nor cost of remediation provide justification for closing Avondale School. The Avondale School roll remains stable at approximately 320 students which is large relative to other primary schools and the school is operating near current capacity. Earthquake damage to Avondale School is also minimal and the campus is fit for purpose.
- 3 The Avondale School Board of Trustees ("**the Board**") therefore opposes the interim decision to merge Avondale with three other schools to create a single year 1 to 13 Community Campus in Aranui ("**the merger**"). The Board does not believe that the merger will improve learning outcomes for students, or achieve the Ministry of Education's ("**the Ministry's**") objectives for the educational renewal of greater Christchurch.
- 4 The Board is also concerned that it has not been provided with, nor has it seen evidence of the Minister being provided with, a revised cost estimate following Avondale's Detailed Engineering Evaluation, or a detailed breakdown of costs. This information is necessary in order for the Board to make an informed response, in accordance with the requirements of natural justice. The Board is concerned that the Minister does not have adequate information to be reasonably satisfied that Avondale School should close under section 154 of the Education Act 1989.
- 5 We therefore request all financial information, including cost estimates, relating to Avondale School on which the Minister has relied in making her interim decision to close Avondale.
- 6 Avondale is a high-performing school, particularly in the provision of tailored services to vulnerable and priority students. Avondale is a Decile 2 school and, like Chisnallwood, is a "school of choice" for students and their families, particularly for students with special learning needs and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- 7 The Board considers that there are viable alternative solutions that would retain choice of provision for parents, while continuing to support the Government's priorities for an efficient and future-focused schooling network in Christchurch.
- 8 The Avondale School community has strongly opposed the proposal to close Avondale and merge four schools into a single year 1 – 13 school on a community campus in Aranui. This strength of feeling from the community should be taken into account, as it was in the decision to retain Chisnallwood Intermediate. The community is concerned that year 1 – 13 schooling environments carry particular risks for young children in years 1 – 6, including risks to physical and emotional safety. For this reason, it is important that parents have a choice of primary schooling provision in the Aranui area.
- 9 The Board's preferred option is for Avondale to remain open and share facilities with Chisnallwood Intermediate School, which is on an adjacent site, and develop a range of additional wrap around social services. This preferred option would allow for the retention of years 1 to 6 schooling in Aranui while still enabling the Government to create a separate Community Campus in Aranui and promote consolidation and efficiencies in the schooling network.

- 10 We look forward to meeting with the Minister on 4 July 2013 to discuss our submission.

BACKGROUND

- 11 On 23 February 2013, Avondale School provided an initial submission on the proposal to close the school, along with four other schools in the Aranui area, and establish a single years 1 to 13 area school on a large 'community campus' in Aranui.
- 12 Avondale's initial submission strongly opposed the proposal, which we argued would adversely impact Avondale students and the wider community, would remove choice in educational provision for Avondale school families, and would not achieve the Ministry's objectives for the educational renewal of greater Christchurch.
- 13 In particular, Avondale argued that the school should be retained on its existing site because:
- (a) Avondale is a high-performing school catering to a high proportion of vulnerable and priority students;
 - (b) Student achievement for a low decile school generally and Maori in particular show positive outcomes for students;
 - (c) Avondale's roll is large and stable, and the school is economically viable;
 - (d) Earthquake damage to Avondale is minimal, with only minor or superficial damage to land and structures; and
 - (e) Greater collaboration and shared facilities between Avondale School and Chisnallwood Intermediate, with the potential for Avondale to absorb students from other primary schools, is a viable alternative which would enable a years 1 to 6 primary school to be retained in the local community (enabling choice) while improving the schools' economic viability and sustainability.
- 14 On 22 May 2013, the Minister of Education ("Minister") released her interim decision to close Avondale, Wainoni Primary, Aranui Primary and Aranui High School in January 2017, and establish a years 1 to 13 campus on the current Aranui High School site.
- 15 The interim decision also included retaining Chisnallwood Intermediate School, initially proposed for closure, on its current site with a review scheduled for 2020.

RATIONALE FOR CLOSURE

- 16 In addition to the 22 May 2013 press release announcing the interim decision, Avondale was also provided with advice from the Ministry to the Minister on 27 March 2013: *"Education Report: Consideration of the Closure of Aranui High School (323), Aranui School (3279), Avondale (3286), Chisnallwood Intermediate School (3314) and Wainoni School (3575) and the establishment of a new Year 1 to 13 area school in Aranui"* (IM60/10452/3) ("the Ministry's advice").
- 17 From this documentation, it appears that the interim decision to close Avondale is based on the following:
- (a) Advice from the Ministry that Avondale's roll is not viable as the school is currently utilising 64 per cent of its capacity, and its roll has been in decline in recent years: 494 children in 2008, 485 children in 2010, and 335 children in 2012;
 - (b) Earthquake related damage;

- (c) Repair of existing schools does not respond to the community specific education needs;¹ and
 - (d) Larger schools are able to offer greater choice to students than smaller schools often can.²
- 18 Avondale disagrees with the decision and its rationale, and submits that none of these factors justifies or requires the closure of Avondale. Avondale is also concerned that the Ministry's advice includes errors of fact, particularly concerning Avondale's capacity and utilisation.
- 19 The Ministry rejected Avondale's proposal to share facilities with Chisnallwood which occupies an adjacent site, because:
- (a) The schools would remain in close proximity to the new Year 1 to 13 education provision and would likely negatively affect the sustainability of the new school(s); and
 - (b) Avondale and Chisnallwood have not, to any "real extent", shared facilities and resources in the past.³
- 20 Avondale submits that neither reason warrants rejection of the proposal because:
- (a) Chisnallwood is also in close proximity to the proposed Year 1 to 13 school but will remain open. In addition, community demand for separate year 1 – 6 provision is precisely why such provision should be retained; and
 - (b) Avondale and Chisnallwood have shared facilities in the past, particularly with the use of hall facilities and grounds, and there is no practical reason why the two schools could not work more closely together into the future.

SCHOOL ROLL AND VIABILITY

- 21 The Board disputes the Ministry's advice that Avondale's roll is not viable. Avondale's current roll has stabilised at 320 students, which is large relative to other primary schools. In fact, in its March submission, Avondale school identified 28 smaller Christchurch primary schools that are to remain open. Three quarters of them have also lost students due to the earthquake.
- 22 The Ministry goes on to state that Avondale has "substantial spare capacity". This is also misleading as four temporary re-locatable classrooms were removed in January 2012 (2) and January 2013 (2). Avondale is therefore well utilised and is operating near current capacity at 77% utilisation. A further 7 classrooms on the Avondale site are also relocatable and could easily be released to the Ministry if required.
- 23 Avondale School has a viable roll, has the potential to absorb additional pupils, including those currently enrolled at Burwood school (many of whom live in Avondale), as there is space for additional classrooms on the site,⁴ and is able share facilities innovatively with Chisnallwood Intermediate School (which occupies an adjacent site).

¹ Ministry's advice (27 March 2013), p 1.

² Ibid, p 13.

³ Ibid, p 13.

⁴ We note that the Ministry's Education Report to the Minister of 27 March 2013 misread Avondale's previous submission that the three primary schools be merged on the Avondale site stating: "Avondale suggested that all three

- 24 Retaining a year 1 to 6 primary school in the Eastern Suburbs is also critical given whanau concerns regarding the risks associated with year 1 – 13 schooling for younger students. Retaining Avondale School is economically viable and will ensure a year 1 to 6 primary school alternative is available to parents. It will also enable full utilisation of the Avondale/Chisnallwood site, the latter of which is to remain open, and promote diversity and flexibility in the local schooling network.

Viability of the Community Campus

- 25 At page 12 of its advice, the Ministry expresses concern that “if both Chisnallwood Intermediate School and Avondale School are retained and remain separate but physically close to the new provision, there would likely be competition between the two parallel schooling structures. This may negatively impact on the viability of the secondary provision on the community campus.”
- 26 Such concern appears premature, as the planning and design of a Community Campus will presumably take into account the impact of any alternative local provision. If Avondale is retained, then the year 1 – 6 capacity of the Community Campus would simply need to be adjusted accordingly in the design phase. This should not have a negative impact on the viability of secondary provision at the community campus.
- 27 In addition, the Ministry’s concern that parents would be likely to send their children to the Avondale/Chisnallwood campus over a Community Campus is precisely why such provision should be retained in the schooling network. There is obviously demand for separate year 1 – 6 provision in Aranui and the Minister should take this into account.

EARTHQUAKE-RELATED DAMAGE

- 28 In its advice, the Ministry indicated that repair of existing school sites does not respond to community specific education needs.⁵ Avondale understands that some schools in Christchurch are uneconomical to remediate, particularly those with significant earthquake damage, but contends that the cost of remediation at Avondale is minimal and does not justify school closure.
- 29 Closure would also undermine significant recent investment in Avondale School.
- 30 In addition, the Board is concerned that the “Indicative Ten Year Property Costs” of \$4.8 million included in the Rational for Change (October 2012) were not informed by detailed site-specific assessments, and the Board considers that actual remediation costs are likely to be significantly less. The Board has not been provided with, nor has it seen evidence of the Minister being provided with, a revised cost estimate following Avondale’s Detailed Engineering Evaluation, or a detailed breakdown of costs. This information is necessary in order for the Board to make an informed response, and in order for the Minister herself to make an informed decision.
- 31 The Minister is required to consult with the Avondale School Board under section 154 and 157 of the Education Act 1989, prior to taking a decision to close Avondale School Board.

primary schools could be merged on the current Avondale site. The Minister considers that the Avondale site would not be large enough to accommodate Year 1-13 schooling provision.”

This is not correct. Avondale’s original submission stated that its current location would be suitable for a merged primary school (years 1 to 6) with Chisnallwood Intermediate School accommodating years 7 to 8 pupils on the adjacent location, with a combined capacity of 1,150 years 1 to 8 students. It did not propose that the Avondale site would be large enough for Year 1 – 13 provision.

⁵ Above, n 1 at p 1.

Meaningful consultation requires the provision of adequate information, so that the Board can make an informed response.

- 32 Under section 154 of the Education Act 1989, the Minister must also be reasonably satisfied that the school should close. On the basis of the information available to us, the Board is concerned that the Minister does not have adequate information to be reasonably satisfied that Avondale School should close.
- 33 We therefore request all financial information, including cost estimates, relating to Avondale School on which the Minister has relied in making her interim decision to close Avondale.
- 34 This information request notwithstanding, and on the basis of the information available to it, the Board responds as follows.

Buildings

- 35 The Avondale site has suffered only superficial earthquake damage, and only minor strengthening is required.
- 36 A Detailed Engineering Evaluation ("DEE") in respect of the Avondale site was conducted in September 2012 and released to Avondale on 4 March 2013. The report confirms that minor work is required and makes some recommendations for repair. Further, the consulting engineer indicated to the Board that the work required ranges between 1 and 2 on a scale of 10 (10 being the most serious). The Avondale Board remains concerned that the Minister's interim report does not appear to acknowledge Avondale's actual DEE report, but continues to use the generic data provided to all cluster schools in October 2012 in its "Rationale for change" document.
- 37 The Board acknowledges there are earmarked weather-tightness issues with Avondale; however, this 'earmark' is a standard matter for all Ministry-owned buildings constructed after 1994 and was subject to a "desk-top" exercise only. There is no evidence indicating that weather-tightness issues pose a threat to the on-going operation of Avondale on its existing site, or any significant cost over and above general maintenance costs which will accrue to all school buildings – whether at existing or new campuses.
- 38 The Ministry has also made recent and significant capital investments in Avondale School. In 2005, Avondale invested in a purpose-built block of six modern classrooms. This new block supplements existing facilities which have proved to be fully functional child-centred learning environments and conform to current Ministry standards and requirements. The Board is confident that Avondale has "21st century school facilities", as described at page 1 of the Ministry's advice, which are capable of supporting the development of the identities, languages and culture of young people in a community context.

Land

- 39 In its Rationale for Change, the Ministry indicated that the land comprising and surrounding Avondale is predominantly zoned by the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority as technical category 3. This means that moderate to significant land damage from liquefaction is possible in the event of future large earthquakes and that site-specific geotechnical investigation and specific engineering foundation design is required.
- 40 Avondale notes, however, that most of the Eastern Suburbs are technical category 3, including the land at Aranui High where the Ministry has proposed construction of a large new Community Campus. An August 2012 Geotechnical Interpretive Report for Aranui High notes that the site is susceptible to liquefaction and that a number of buildings

experienced settling in the earthquakes from 76mm to 116mm with the gym experiencing 164mm. The report recommends liquefaction mitigation measures and/or foundation improvements for all new structures, including piles to a depth of 40m to reach the gravel layer at significant additional cost.

- 41 Further, in the absence of a site-specific geotechnical investigation, there is a lack of probative evidence indicating that the Avondale site is no longer suitable for education purposes, particularly as Chisnallwood is remaining open on an adjacent site. Similarly, there is no evidence that the site of the proposed Community Campus is a more suitable or safe location for the construction of a new school, particularly given the concerns identified in the Aranui High Geotechnical Interpretive Report.
- 42 Accordingly, the Board submits that until expert analysis is conducted in respect of both the Avondale site and the proposed site for the Community Campus, the suitability of land for future development should not be a consideration in the decision to close Avondale.

COMMUNITY SPECIFIC EDUCATION NEEDS

- 43 The Ministry has stated that repair of existing schools “is not supported by the Ministry as it does not respond to the community specific education needs”. The Ministry does not elaborate on the specific community education needs referred to, or why they would not be served by repair of existing schools in general and an existing school the size of Avondale in particular.
- 44 Avondale has engaged at length with its stakeholders through interviews, conversations, surveys, and specifically tailored stakeholder workshops for parents, staff, community groups, students and Board Trustees. A parent survey was conducted in which 100% of the 122 Avondale families who responded opposed the proposed decision to close Avondale.
- 45 In a subsequent parent survey conducted in June 2013, 66% of the 143 respondents stated that they would not send their children to the year 1 – 13 community campus if Avondale were closed. A further 48% said that if Avondale closed, they would likely move outside of the community campus zone so that their child could go to another school. This survey suggests that closure of Avondale School would force families out of Aranui, further disrupting education for students, and negatively impacting both Chisnallwood Intermediate and the community campus.
- 46 Further, in the last 5 years 91% of Avondale school leavers have gone on to attend Chisnallwood Intermediate. From there, fewer than 25% students have gone on to attend Aranui High; most moving out of the area to attend other secondary schools.
- 47 Through this engagement, it is clear that the Avondale Board, staff and the school community overwhelmingly reject the proposal and the interim decision. Our community is concerned that the proposed merger would reduce choice in educational provision for families, and would in fact harm learning outcomes for our students. Parents are particularly concerned that their primary-aged children would be at risk in a year 1 – 13 schooling environment with no guarantees that learning outcomes would be enhanced.
- 48 Of particular concern to the Board is that the Ministry's advice does not provide any detail of the level of engagement that was undertaken by Avondale, nor does it express the level of dissatisfaction that was evident throughout this engagement process. This is in stark contrast to the Ministry's acknowledgement of the 'depth of feeling' within Chisnallwood Intermediate School as a key factor in its recommendation that Chisnallwood remain open.

There is no defensible reason why depth of community feeling should be taken into account in respect of Chisnallwood, and not taken into account in respect of Avondale.

- 49 The Avondale School community considers that the interim decision will hinder the economic, social and cultural recovery of the Eastern suburbs by impeding the specific aspirations of the school community, and reducing the level of choice in educational provision. Further, the majority of feedback received from stakeholders in Avondale indicated that the primary reason for rejecting the proposed merger was their disapproval of year 1 to 13 schooling as opposed to their successful experience with primary years 1 to 6 education.
- 50 This is a particularly serious concern for the Avondale School community, which includes a high proportion of vulnerable and priority students. Their safety is paramount, and it is the Board's firm belief that years 1 – 13 provision puts young students, who are particularly vulnerable, at unnecessary risk.
- 51 Avondale has demonstrated an approach to education that effectively addresses social inequalities and improves student learning outcomes. Avondale is particularly proud of the high achievement levels of our Maori students who make up 28% of our current cohort. Avondale has shown a commitment to working with social and community organisations to ensure the best possible support for its students.

BENEFITS OF LARGER SCHOOLS

- 52 In its advice, the Ministry stated that the proposed merger would not reduce choice in educational provision on the basis that *'it is known that larger schools are able to offer greater choice to students than smaller schools often can'*.⁶
- 53 While large schools can benefit from economies of scale, this cannot reasonably be advanced as a justification for removing choice in provision, particularly where concerns exist regarding the risks associated with year 1 – 13 schooling for younger students.
- 54 Avondale is already comparatively large in relation to other primary schools, and is able to utilise economies of scale to provide cost-effective education provision. The Board notes that there are 28 smaller primary schools in greater Christchurch which will remain open.
- 55 Retaining Avondale would ensure parents have the option of sending their young children to a year 1 – 6 primary school in Aranui.
- 56 The Board's proposal to invest in greater coordination and shared facilities between Avondale and Chisnallwood, with the capacity to absorb students from Burwood students living in the Avondale suburb if necessary, is a viable option. It will allow for the retention of years 1 to 6 schooling in Aranui while still enabling the Government to create a separate Community Campus in Aranui and promote consolidation and efficiencies in the schooling network.

PREFERRED OUTCOME

- 57 The Board asks that the Minister reconsider the interim decision to close Avondale and relocate its students to the proposed community campus. Specifically the Board requests that the Minister considers:

⁶ Above, n 1 at p 13.

- (a) Retaining Avondale on its current site as it is with a view to enabling it to work more closely with Chisnallwood Intermediate School, with the potential for a review in 2020 to align with Chisnallwood;
 - (b) Exploring the option of accommodating additional students, particularly from Burwood school, and/or establishing early childhood education facilities on the Avondale site.
- 58 The Board's proposal would retain choice in educational provision for families, while promoting consolidation and economies of scale in the wider schooling network.
- 59 We note that this proposal was supported by Chisnallwood Intermediate School and the Avondale Residents Association in their submissions on the original proposal.

CONCLUSION

- 60 We look forward to meeting with the Minister on 4 July 2013 to discuss our submission. We would also be happy to provide further information.

26 June 2013

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**AVONDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION IN RESPECT OF THE
EDUCATION RENEWAL PLAN FOR GREATER CHRISTCHURCH**

Background Information

Canterbury Westland Kindergarten Association Incorporated (CWKA) trading as Kidsfirst Kindergartens is the largest early childhood education provider in greater Christchurch with over 60 sites. Kidsfirst Kindergartens is highly regarded as a reputable organisation with a history of over 100 years of providing high quality education to preschool children in the Canterbury and West Coast regions of the South Island.

Within the Aranui Learning Community Cluster we have three kindergartens and one early learning centre providing high quality early childhood education to over 175 children and their families.

This letter of support focuses on two of our services, our early learning centre Aranui and Kidsfirst Kindergartens Woolley Street, the challenges currently facing these two services, and the opportunities that might arise if Avondale Primary School is retained alongside Chisnallwood Intermediate School in what might be termed a "mini learning community cluster".

CWKA again urges that the early childhood education sector is fully involved in the development and consultation of education renewal proposals in Christchurch.

The proposed initiatives for education renewal in Christchurch, and in certain instances the strong challenges to some of these proposals, are both supported by CWKA where there is well founded educational or community agreement.

CWKA have adopted these apparent contradictory positions based on our belief that it is imperative that there is quality, seamless education on offer for children as they progress from early childhood to primary education.

We believe that being located on a school site greatly enhances the opportunities for increased learning outcomes for some of our youngest and more vulnerable children and makes the move from early childhood education into primary education a seamless transition process. Transitions from early childhood education to primary school are dynamic, multi-faceted and complex and need to be constantly revisited and evaluated within local contexts and in our view being located on a school site provides the greatest opportunity for success.

As we employ only trained registered teachers the suggested solution provides the opportunity to bridge the early childhood education curriculum Te Whāriki and the New Zealand Primary School Curriculum more effectively. This will enable new entrant primary teachers to build on early childhood education development, recorded through children's individual portfolios as each child transitions into the school system.

We are also aware that having an early childhood facility on a school site may improve the accessibility to high quality early childhood education, for some families who have children attending both school and early childhood centres.

Aranui Proposals

It is in this content that CWKA is supportive of the proposal of Avondale Primary School to "stand outside" the proposed education cluster on the Aranui High School site. In particular CWKA supports the principle of choice that Avondale Primary School proposes through the development of a "mini learning community cluster" based on a Chisnallwood Intermediate/Avondale Primary Campus. (We note that the two schools currently occupy neighbouring properties.)

CWKA has both an early learning centre (Kidsfirst Early Learning Centre Aranui) and three kindergartens (Kidsfirst Kindergartens Portsmouth Street, Ngaire Larcombe and Woolley Street) affected by the education renewal proposals for the Aranui Area.

In line with the principle set out above, CWKA supports both the Aranui Community Cluster, and the development of a Chisnallwood/Avondale "mini learning community cluster". The inclusion of early childhood education services as an integral part of both clusters, is in the opinion of CWKA, critical.

In practical terms the inclusion of early childhood education in both the Aranui Community Cluster and in the "mini learning community cluster" proposed by Avondale Primary would result in Kidsfirst Ngaire Larcombe located in the Aranui Community Cluster; and Kidsfirst Early Learning Centre Aranui and Kidsfirst Kindergarten Woolley Street located on the Avondale Primary School site as part of the Chisnallwood/Primary "mini learning community cluster." It is intended that Kidsfirst Kindergartens Portsmouth Street is retained and continues to operate from its current site.

A significant attraction to CWKA of such an outcome is that it addresses two particular issues currently facing our Association: -

1. Kidsfirst Early Learning Centre Aranui currently has a much higher demand for places than it is able to cater for, and ideally should expand. As the site, and the building on Breezes Road, Aranui, is owned by the Christchurch City Council the probability of such expansion is highly unlikely.
2. Kidsfirst Kindergartens Woolley Street was severely damaged in the Christchurch earthquakes and faces very major repair/rebuild.

If further information is required in relation to this letter outlining the position of CWKA in relation to the Avondale Primary School submission to the Minister please do not hesitate to contact me by phoning 03 338 1303.



Sherryl Wilson
Chief Executive

APPENDIX : Profile of Kidsfirst Services

Early Learning Centre Aranui

Our early learning centre is situated in Breezes Road and caters for children aged six months through until six years of age. This centre operates Monday to Friday 7.30 am to 5.30 pm all year round. The licence for this Centre allows for 9 children under the age of two years and 23 children aged two years up to six years to attend. Māori children contribute approximately 24% of the Centre's roll.

Kidsfirst Kindergartens Woolley Street

Our kindergarten in Woolley Street caters for children aged two years through to six years. This kindergarten operates Monday to Friday 8.30 am – 2.30 pm following the primary school education year. This kindergarten is licensed for 40 children and presently 11% of the children enrolled are identified as Māori.

Kidsfirst Kindergartens Ngaire Larcombe

Our kindergarten located on the Wainoni School Site caters for children aged two years through to six years. This kindergarten operates Monday to Friday 8.30 am – 1.30 pm although recent demand may see this kindergarten extend its hours. This kindergarten follows the primary school education year. The kindergarten is currently licensed for 40 children of which 46% of these children are Māori.

Kidsfirst Kindergartens Portsmouth Street

This kindergarten is located on crown owned land in Portsmouth Street and caters for children aged two years through to six years. It operates Monday to Friday 8.30 am – 2.30 pm following the primary school education year. It is licensed for 40 children aged two years through to six years. Currently 44% of the children enrolled are Māori.

Three of the four services noted above attract government equity funding which is a targeted funding mechanism. The components of equity funding received is as a result of serving low socio-economic communities and having a high number of children with special needs and children from non-English speaking backgrounds.

These services work hard to support the government early childhood education goals of reducing the barriers to participation for priority families in greater Christchurch. These barriers have been defined as:

- ▶ Cost
- ▶ Access
- ▶ Suitability of provision
- ▶ Education is not a priority
- ▶ Complex issues facing priority families since earthquake

For example CWKA has recently extended its "No Fees" initiative for a further twelve months (through until July 2014) in recognition of the hardships that families in Canterbury and on the West Coast are continuing to face as a result of the Christchurch earthquakes and the Pike River Mining Disaster.

This initiative has allowed more children to participate in high quality early childhood education, for those children already enrolled the opportunity to increase their hours; for women to re-enter the workforce and to develop a real community of learners as the financial worries of attending high quality early childhood education has been negated or significantly reduced for our families in the communities that we serve.



Avondale Residen Association

c/- 5 Thorness Street
Avondale
Christchurch 8061

2 July 2013

The Principal, Mark Scown
Avondale School
Christchurch

The Minister of Education
New Zealand Government

Dear Minister Parata and Mr Scown

Letter of Support for the continuance of Avondale School

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

We acknowledge with sincere thanks that through sheer hard work, Chisnallwood Intermediate School was able to show the Minister the value in retaining it as an Intermediate School on its current site for the next seven years. Mr Paton is a highly respected, community orientated, forward thinking, deeply caring leader of a great school and we have nothing but deep respect for what they have achieved for many, many eastern children. Many believe that Chisnallwood influenced their children in a particular direction towards their chosen career path and are very grateful they were given that opportunity.

All parents want their children to succeed and to have the best education possible - and we certainly want that in Avondale. For those of us who had, are, will be raising children in this community, we already have two top schools within walking or biking distance for many. Unless children had a family association with Burwood School, local children attended the local school on this side of the river. Burwood offered smaller classes with lower pupil/teacher ratio, but they were never able to lure the children away from Avondale School. Now this choice has been halved already with the merging and closure of Burwood on its' river site to a site much further away, with the added surety that zoning will more than likely make it impossible for Avondale youngsters to attend Windsor/Burwood (two highly respected schools).

Avondale's 643 Red Zone families who the Government or Insurance Companies financially compensated one way or another, have mostly moved out and moved on to other suburbs. For those left behind facing an uncertainty on the repairs to their homes and for some, futures on sunken floodplain land, are facing even further loss by the proposed closure of Avondale. For most it is not just a matter of jumping over Wainoni Road to head down to Aranui, it is a loss of character and culture to their suburb, over and above not wanting their children to attend the Super School. It is crucial that the



Avondale Resident Association

remaining 1100 odd families stay and work on improving this community to its former glory as shops too have been lost to the Red Zone. Should the school close and families move away, then we lose our land owners to rentals that may not attract families when there is no local school. Imagine facing this uncertainty of who will buy my home, as all of New Zealand is aware of Christchurch's inflated house prices, so how much will it really cost people to move remembering the \$'s only part of it.

Besides the residents, the school is made up of all the children who parents choose to travel from outside the area to Avondale because they want the best education and care they are adamant their children receive there. From the Principal down, there are very long serving, totally dedicated teachers who have had a major influence on their pupils and parents. There are few bad words spoken about this school. And the logic of the natural progression to attend Chisnallwood right next door when the children finally get to join in all the interesting manual technology classes and group activities an Intermediate School can offer. These two schools are interwoven with history and should move into the future together. Give them the opportunity to achieve their success together please.

We share below the opinions a few of our residents have written:

We moved to Avondale area 30 odd years to a good safe environment with two very good functioning schools in Breezes Rd. My 3 children attended both Avondale and Chisnallwood schools and we had no trouble getting them out the door to go. We felt that the quality of teaching and resources second to none and in that time we made a lot of friends and associations. We love the area with our walk to the river, but saddened to see it in its present state, and it would be a tragedy if we lost our schools forever.

I wish to make known my disappointment at Avondale Primary being closed. It doesn't make sense to remove it when it is so close to the next level of education at Chisnallwood Intermediate. This also impacts on our suburb when selling our properties as having a local school in the area is a highlight – and very little choice of primary schools now that Burwood across the river is going. Where is the nearest school going to be – miles away!!

Avondale

I am a mother of two young children aged In the past few years since the earthquakes, I have had to move home times and have tried my hardest to make the right choices by my children, to keep them feeling secure and loved no matter where we have ended up.

We moved to Avondale in and have found such a friendly and happy community here; we have felt very welcome and safe. This year my daughter started school at Avondale Primary and



Avondale Resident Association

although I felt the usual nerves every mother feels leaving her daughter at "Big Girl School" I learnt quickly that Avondale Primary School is a safe and loving school for our children to grow up in. My daughter has come on in leaps and bounds and is thoroughly enjoying school. There is a real "family feel" to Avondale Primary and I wouldn't want either of my children anywhere else.

I feel disgusted to know that someone who doesn't even know me or my family could try to dictate to me where my children should go to school, and to think that anyone could believe putting five year old children in the same school as high school students is beyond me. Not to mention the fact that a MULTI-STOREY Super School situated in the East Side of Christchurch is the last place I would ever want my children to be after all of the earthquakes. I care about my children and I will not let ANYONE tell me what to do with them!

I am writing in support of retaining Avondale Primary. I have a _____ daughter and am expecting my second later this year. I am extremely distressed about the proposed changes to the local education.

My children will under NO circumstances attend the 'super school'. There are many reasons for this. They include but are not limited to:

- Number of pupils
- Age range
- Mix of socioeconomic and demographic groups
- Location

Unfortunately, from my understanding as this is the ONLY academic schooling option we will be zoned for and we will be forced out of our home.

I understand that Avondale Primary has a relatively low decile rating. However, I find it extremely irresponsible of the Ministry of Education to assume that due to the fact all of the proposed schools to merge have low deciles means the families attending the school and the operations of the schools are the same. Avondale is a middle class area yet Avondale Primary has a number of students from nearby low socioeconomic areas. What this shows is the parents of said students realize that Avondale Primary will provide a better education for their children than their local school. This shows a level of involvement and interaction in their children's schooling. Neither of my parents finished high school, they placed a huge emphasis on their children's education. This resulted in my sister achieving a Masters degree and myself a Bachelors degree. This shows the importance of parental interaction.

Aranui and Wainoni Primary's have a stigma attached to them; some families attending the schools are associated with rival gangs. Whether or not this is the case is irrelevant, that is the stigma attached to the schools and I will not be risking my children's safety or education with the suggestion of merging these two rival gang schools with our local school. Advertise and promote as much as you want over the next three years, you will not change this perception, and those opposed will not renege.



Avondale Resident Association

Schools need to cater for the students they have. If they have a large behavior problem or lack of parental feeding, the school needs to alter its approach. My children will require a school that remains academically focused.

I would also like to add a note that you may not have yet been advised of. For of all of the reasons mentioned above, Avondale, a once sought after area, will lose its good name. With that we will also lose equity in our homes, equity we are still fighting hard with insurers to retain. Remember as you decide the future of the local schools and determine the value you place on our children's education, you are also deciding the financial future of many families.

In regards to the school merger, we too are not happy with the situation as it will affect our choice of schools for As a high school teacher myself I know how much of a gap there is between year 9s and year 13s let alone the giant gap that will exist if Avondale Primary merges with the local high school.

I am a firm believer that students at such a young age need to feel safe and supported in an environment suited to their specific learning needs. My concern is if these schools do merge, would the same opportunities exist and can the resources within the school system stretch wide enough to cater to everyone? For that reason we would not choose to send our son to a super school and instead would look at moving in zone to attend a school that caters for primary aged children. These schools are proven to be successful - so why change what is already working.

As a parent of children that have been through Avondale School, are currently at Avondale School, and are yet to attend Avondale School, I am very disappointed in the Ministry of Education's decision to close it in 2016.

Hekia Parata agreed to listen to the parents and the community before making the final decision. I'm not entirely sure how well she has listened when there was 100% opposition from the parents, and extremely strong opposition from the community.

Having a Primary, Intermediate and High School split for the children is very important. It provides children with a safe place to be, amongst children their own age and without intimidation.

Avondale School has an amazing way of recognizing individual children's strengths and weaknesses, encouraging the strengths and working on the weaknesses.

They are at the grass roots level of this community, not only teaching the lessons in the curriculum, but also life skills required in order to contribute to society and to family - eg. the Environment Team, teaching the children how to plant and successfully grow fruit and



Avondale Resident Association

vegetables, using those to make healthy food choices and that one small area of land can feed many.

Each of the children at Avondale are known by name. They are not just a face among the masses.

The school roll still includes over 300 students - well above numbers at many other Christchurch schools. This number is unlikely to drop considerably now, as the red zoned families have now moved on and changed schools if they had needed to do so. The school does not have significant damage.

The proposed super school is not wanted by the parents or the community. We do not want our tiny wee 5 year olds in with the rowdy teens. We do not want a large, impersonal school where our children are just another face in the masses. We do not want our local school to be in the heart of Aranui.

I am at a loss to know as to how, after listening, and community consultation which vehemently opposes the super school, why it is going ahead. The community is not interested and the children of the community will not be attending. If Avondale School is closed, the majority of the families are already openly discussing alternate options that include other primary school, home schooling and moving out of the area.

Speaking for myself, many other parents of past, current and future students, our children will NOT be attending the super school.

As a home-owner and resident in Avondale, I am deeply disappointed that the MOE has decided to close Avondale Primary School. I understand that the new Aranui Cluster School will be providing a primary school option, but I believe that residents of this area will be disadvantaged by only having one choice of where they send their primary school aged children to school. The other close school, Burwood has also closed, further reducing options available for residents in this area.

For various reasons many families will not be choosing the Aranui Cluster school to send their children to. These reasons include a predisposition by many to distrust the new school set-up, a historic prejudice against the Aranui name and location, and a perception that the new Cluster school will be populated by many children with severe behavioral problems and social disadvantages, which would lead to teachers dealing with behavioral and social issues in the classroom, rather than teaching the curriculum adequately. These perceptions are widespread, and whether they are exaggerated or not, their perceived reality will encourage residents to send their children to schools in other zones, or worse, to relocate out of the area entirely.

We have lived in Avondale as first home owners for over 30 years and our 3 sons are ex pupils of Woolley Street Kindergarten (Avondale), Avondale Primary, Chisnallwood Intermediate, Shirley Boys High School and Canterbury University, achieving they could walk, run



Avondale Residen Association

and bike safely with their neighbours and friends to the local schools and they always felt safe here, living and learning amongst a middle income, caring community.

We have no doubt that the progression of our and other local children's academic and sporting successes was encouraged and enhanced by the teaching, care and opportunities they received firstly from Avondale, then Chisnallwood, so the groundwork for their futures was set. Should the clocks be turned back, there is no way we would send them to a cluster school in Aranui. We would instead choose to live elsewhere near a reputable primary school.

My wife and I shifted into the Avondale area 20 years ago. The Primary School and Intermediate School being within walking distance made the area a very family friendly area. My wife and I, along with our sons enjoy living close to the river and great parks.

Since the earthquakes the residents from the Avondale area have watched many of our community leave due to their being in the red zone, we have lost our local shops and local Tavern. Gerry Brownlee said in an interview that properties directly next to the red zone would lose value due to their proximity to the red zone. The council has not helped with our valuations due to the implementation of the variation 48 Floor Zone.

Our biggest concern is that if the Ministry of Education closes Avondale Primary and move Chisnallwood Intermediate School out of the area our properties will devalue further - resale will be difficult with no schools within walking distance. The Government would be putting us in a situation where we are being penalized for living where we do. The area has sufficient families to justify Avondale School staying open and providing the high standard of education to the families of Avondale they currently provide.

We would seriously consider leaving the area we have lived in and loved for the last 20 years if the school closes but fear this may not be an option for us. Who would purchase a property in an area where the local school is a car drive away? We wouldn't be able to purchase a home anywhere else as the difference in the house values would be too great.

I feel it necessary to voice my total disapproval of the Education Departments decision to close Avondale Primary School in 2016 as designated in the Super School grand plan.

Our children started their NZ education at Avondale and were both at an early stage recognized as advanced for their age and encouraged to join classes a year higher, they both progressed well attaining a good grounding in their Primary Education. They went on from Avondale to Chisnallwood Intermediate and then on to Aranui High School, the older one gaining Bursary and University Entrance

Our younger son also did very well,

Lots of their fellow pupils from the early days at Avondale Primary have also done well for themselves in all sorts of roles in many professions, which they still have contact with.

We as parents and both our sons acknowledge that their education has shaped their lives with it all starting at Avondale Primary School a pleasant warm and friendly environment as introduction to the school system followed by the seamless transition through to Chisnallwood Intermediate then onto Aranui High. As I understand it in the future if the primary pupils start at the Aranui Super School what will be the future for Chisnallwood or is the stay of execution a temporary sop to soften the double blow.

Reasons that I can see for not closing Avondale Primary and not merging it with Aranui Super School are as follows:

- It's out of the Avondale Area
- It's further to take the pupils to school and pick them up, the small ones certainly couldn't be trusted to cross Wainoni Road safely
- Larger age spread and all that that could involve
- Larger class sizes, less personal attention to those pupils that need it
- Traffic problems around school , this is just to name a few

Give it some more thought, the guts have been ripped out of Avondale with the Earthquakes and resulting changes, this decision will rip the heart out of the area for good

As representatives of the residents in the Avondale area, our committee holds grave concerns as to the future of the suburb as a viable and attractive proposition for families to remain in, and to move to in the future. A choice of schooling remains an essential draw card to any community, and with the severe measures imposed upon Avondale regarding the closure of Avondale Primary School, the future of the suburb is severely compromised.

Yours sincerely

Adrienne Lingard
Vice Chairperson
AVONDALE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

**DON'T'S CLOSE CHISNALLWOOD INTERMEDIATE OR AVONDALE
PRIMARY SCHOOLS.**

Please sign this petition to stop the Minister of Education from closing
down these schools.

Let others enjoy the success of these schools like many other children
have.

Name	Address	Signature
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PLEASE SIGN THIS PETITION
AGAINST CLOSING AVONDALE
SCHOOL!

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