



Te Kura Ōhinehau ki te Uru
Charting a course for the future
Lyttelton West School Board of Trustees
41 Voelas Road
Lyttelton
Christchurch 8028

Kathryn Palmer
Regional Manager Acting (Southern)
Ministry of Education
Po Box 1666
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Tena Koe Ms Palmer

Lyttelton West School's submission on the proposed merger of our school with Lyttelton Main School, on their site

Please find enclosed our school community's submission on the proposal by the Ministry of Education to merge Lyttelton West School with Lyttelton Main School on the site of Lyttelton Main School.

As you will see, almost two-thirds of parents at Lyttelton West School do not support the proposal.

In submissions opposing the proposal, the five main reasons given were: loss of the unique culture at LWS, concerns about the LMS site, dissatisfaction with the Ministry's decision-making process (particularly the lack of information), questioning why a successfully operating school would be closed, and concerns that many children from west Lyttelton would no longer be able to walk to school.

In submissions supporting the proposal, the three main reasons given were: it would unite the community, a desire for a modern new school, and it could potentially increase the numbers of students in years 7 and 8.

Alternatives suggested were retain the status quo, delay making a decision until further information is obtained, create two campuses, create a new school on the old convent site, and merge the schools on the Lyttelton West site.

The Ministry's principle reason for closing our school as given in the "Rationale for change" is "Lyttelton does not have a sufficiently large enough school age population to support two primary schools". In its 125-year history Lyttelton West School's roll has varied between ~60 and 300+. The roll of

Lyttelton Main has similarly varied since its establishment. Our current roll has doubled in the past six years and now stands at 130 (a larger roll than before the February 2011 earthquake). Prior to the earthquakes we had been granted permission to build a new classroom. Our growth is currently constrained by the moratorium on new construction and the imposition of an enrolment scheme. Consequently, we do not agree with the statement given in the Rationale for change. Furthermore, we feel strongly that our small school environment consistently provides good educational outcomes for children.

As mentioned in our submission, while we are two separate schools, we regularly work together with Lyttelton Main School on fundraising and many school activities (as listed in our submission) to enhance educational opportunities for the children of Lyttelton.

A previous survey carried out by the two schools in 2011, asked whether people in the community supported or opposed the creation of a single merged school. The survey showed clear support for the two schools continuing separately with 76% of Lyttelton West responses and 55% of the Lyttelton Main responses supporting the status quo. (It is interesting to note that even prior to the current proposal, a much greater proportion of the community of Lyttelton West sort to retain the status quo). A conclusion of the survey was as follows:

Responses from this survey indicated a high level of satisfaction with the education at both schools. The comments specifically identified good teaching, the strong friendly relationships between school staff and parents, happy children and the general environment of good care for students.

The report also mentioned the strong sense of community in Lyttelton. Importantly, there was also support for a choice of school in Lyttelton.

This year we received a very favourable Education Review Office report. During her visit, one of the reviewers, said: "you should bottle what you have here".

In the ERO report particular mention was made of the success of Maori students and the inclusion of Maori values within the school, as follows:

Maori culture is strongly validated in this school. Maori students learn in an inclusive and positive environment. The school's values closely reflect Maori values such as manaakitanga – by providing a caring and nurturing environment.

The principal and teachers have high expectations for learning and behaviour. Most Maori students are achieving at National Standards in reading and mathematics. Maori girls are achieving at or above National Standards in writing...

Parents of Maori students feel welcome in the school and are meaningfully involved in sharing their knowledge and skills with students by teaching the tikanga alongside the skills of weaving, carving, waiata, and haka. Maori parents told ERO that their children are well cared for and find learning fun.

We fear that if the proposed merger goes ahead, the thing Marge Wong said we should bottle will be lost and consider this would be contrary to the aims of the Government.

As part of the consultation process, the Lyttelton West School board together with the Lyttelton Main School board engaged a facilitator to assist us with our consultation. Largely as a result of the tight timeframes imposed by the Ministry, our board did not consider the executive summary prepared by the facilitator sufficiently captured the submissions made by our community.

Furthermore, as a single combined executive summary was prepared we did not consider the summary adequately captured our concerns as the "merging" school. This concerned us as we are fundamentally in a very different position to the "continuing school", Lyttelton Main, as we stand to lose our site, our buildings, and consequently more of our school culture if the proposed merge goes ahead.

Consequently, the Lyttelton West School board has not ratified the executive summary prepared by our facilitator, Rema Leitch.

At our meeting on 4 December, our board instead ratified an executive summary prepared by board members. We ask that this summary be considered by the Ministry as the response from our school community to the proposal.

Heoi ano



Jillian Frater

Chairperson

on behalf of the Lyttelton West School Board of Trustees

Executive Summary

Merger Proposal

Lyttelton Schools

The proposal from the Minister of Education is that Lyttelton West and Lyttelton Main Schools merge and a new school is built on the site of Lyttelton Main.

Report prepared on behalf of

Lyttelton West School and Lyttelton Main School

November 2012

Jillian Frater	Chairperson Lyttelton West
Diana Feary	Principal Lyttelton West
Craig McGuigan	Chairperson Lyttelton Main
Sue Walls	Principal Lyttelton Main
Rema B Leitch	Facilitator

The process.

The proposal was received from the Minister of Education September 13.

A facilitator was appointed.

A meeting of the joint boards was held 17/10/12 to agree on the process of consultation. (meeting notes 1a)

Invitations to attend community meetings were circulated to both school communities and interested community groups including early Childhood.

School websites included information relating to the proposal.

A community meeting was held at Lyttelton Main School 30/10/12

A community meeting was held at Lyttelton West School 31/10/12

The purpose of these meeting was to provide as much information as possible so people could make informed decisions. Ministry of Education personnel attended and addressed community concerns (See meeting notes appendix 1b and 1c)

A survey using SurveyMonkey® was designed and made available to whanau of both schools, Early Childhood cohorts and interested community members, and hard copies were also made available. It was decided not to limit responses from individual computers to allow for more than one respondent form each family.

The questions asked in the survey were as suggested by the Ministry of Education and agreed to by the combined Boards.

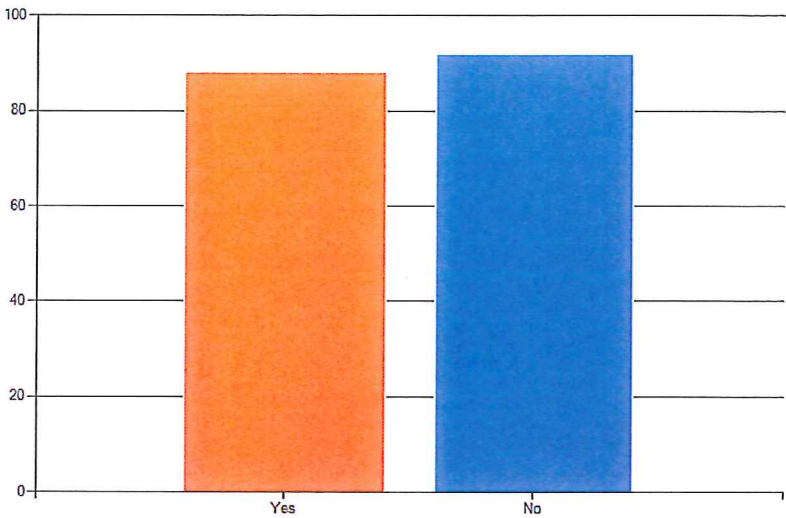
- Do you agree with the proposal - Yes or No.
- If yes please give your reasons
- If no please give your reasons
- Do you have other options or concern

The surveys closed on 9/11/12.

The responses are represented in the following charts.

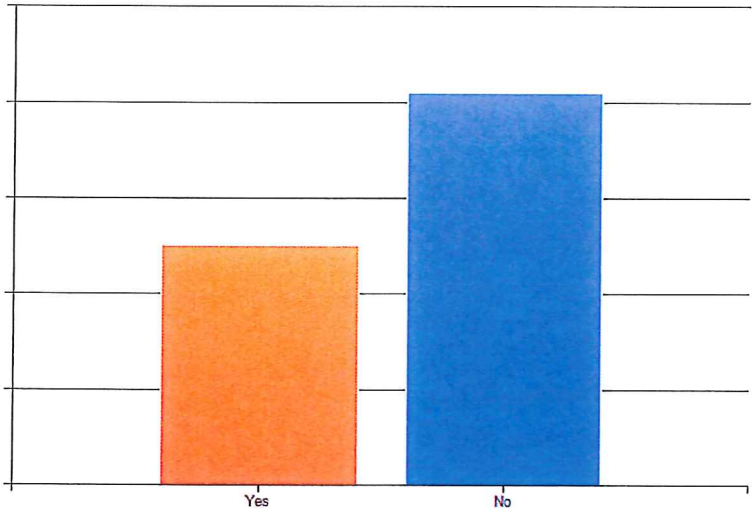
Overall result - This figure represents all respondents, including those who did not complete the full survey and did not identify their connection to the issue

The proposal from the Minister of Education is that Lyttelton West and Lyttelton Main schools merge and a new school is built on the site of Lyttelton Main. For further background information refer to your school's website or talk to your Principal and/or Chairperson. The requirement for this round of consultations is that we respond to the following questions. Do you agree with the proposal?



Parents of Children at Lyttelton West

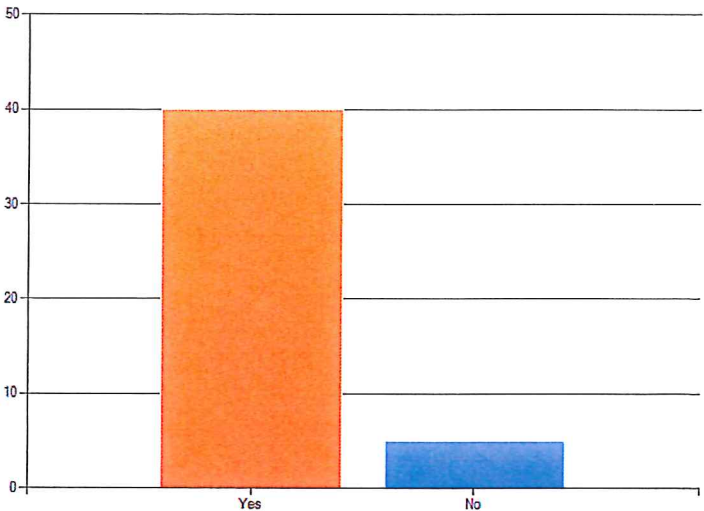
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Percentages of Lyttelton West who support/do not support the proposal.

Parents of Children at Lyttelton Main

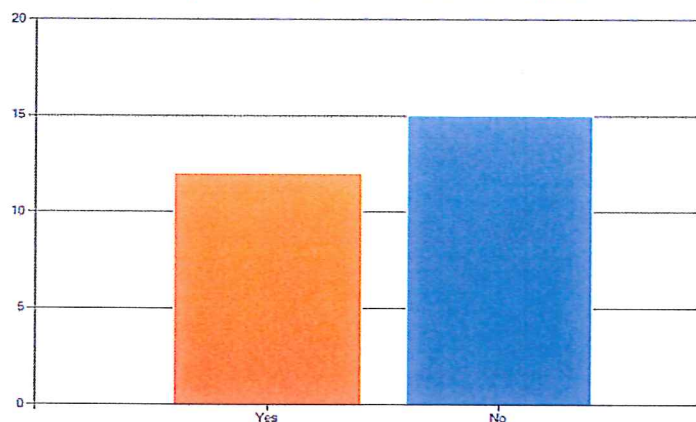
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Percentages of Lyttelton Main who support/do not support the proposal.

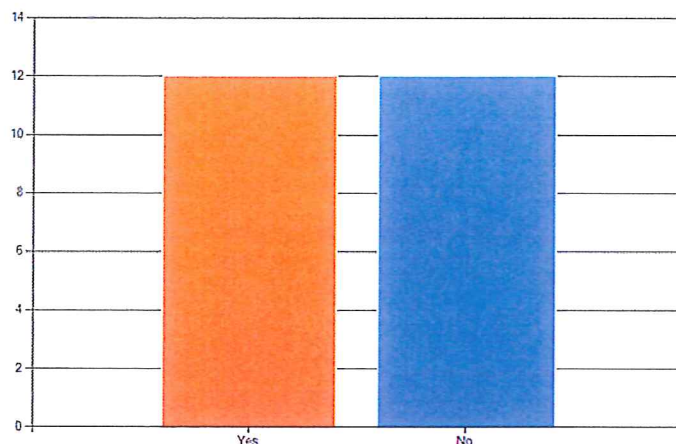
Interested Members of the Community

The proposal from the Minister of Education is that Lyttelton West and Lyttelton Main schools merge and a new school is built on the site of Lyttelton Main. For further background information refer to your school's website or talk to your Principal and/or Chairperson. The requirement for this round of consultations is that we respond to the following questions. Do you agree with the proposal?



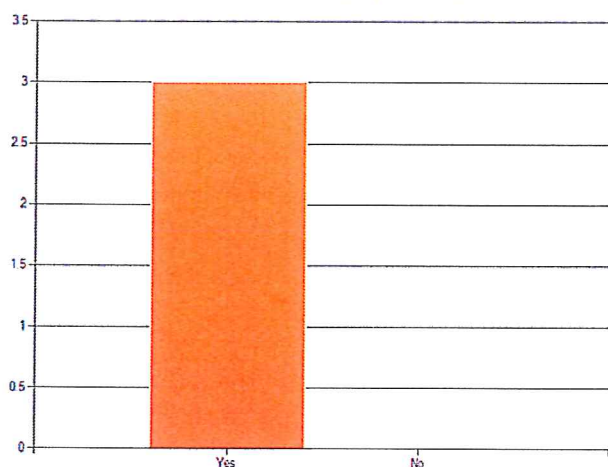
Parents of a Pre-schooler

The proposal from the Minister of Education is that Lyttelton West and Lyttelton Main schools merge and a new school is built on the site of Lyttelton Main. For further background information refer to your school's website or talk to your Principal and/or Chairperson. The requirement for this round of consultations is that we respond to the following questions. Do you agree with the proposal?



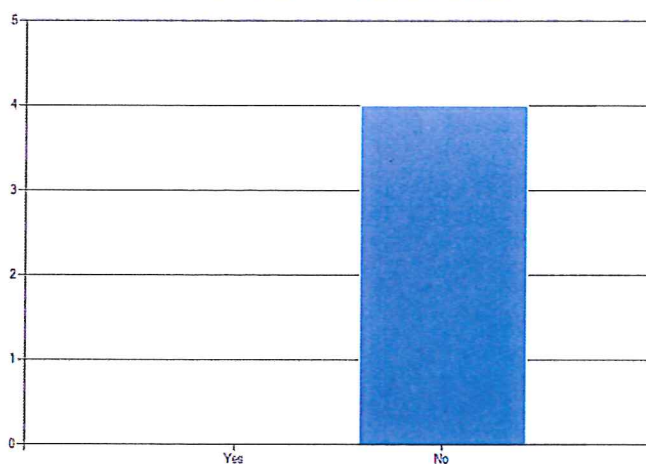
Staff Member at Lyttelton Main

The proposal from the Minister of Education is that Lyttelton West and Lyttelton Main schools merge and a new school is built on the site of Lyttelton Main. For further background information refer to your school's website or talk to your Principal and/or Chairperson. The requirement for this round of consultations is that we respond to the following questions. Do you agree with the proposal?



Staff Member at Lyttelton West

The proposal from the Minister of Education is that Lyttelton West and Lyttelton Main schools merge and a new school is built on the site of Lyttelton Main. For further background information refer to your school's website or talk to your Principal and/or Chairperson. The requirement for this round of consultations is that we respond to the following questions. Do you agree with the proposal?



The numbers and percentages of different cohorts are represented in the following chart.

Parent/Caregiver of a child at Lyttelton West School	47.1%	65
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Parent/Caregiver of a child at Lyttelton Main School	32.6%	45
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Parent/Caregiver of a child at Pre-school	16.7%	23
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Staff member at Lyttelton West	2.9%	4
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Staff member at Lyttelton Main	2.2%	3
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Interested member of the Lyttelton Community	17.4%	24
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The numbers and percentages of different ethnicities are represented below.

NZ Maori	4.4%	6
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NZ Pakeha	80.9%	110
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Pacifica	0.7%	1
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Other	14.0%	19
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Analysis of the data.

The facilitator downloaded all responses and conducted an initial sweep to identify emerging themes. The key themes and subthemes were confirmed on a second analysis. Responses were recorded and quantified according to the number of times mentioned.

Please note the charts included are designed to represent the weightings offered by each community with Lyttelton West responses in column 1 and Lyttelton Main responses in column 2.

Outcomes expressed as key themes in order of times mentioned (in descending order) with contributing comments and ideas.

The numbers in brackets represent each cohort – LW = Lyttelton West, LM = Lyttelton Main, EC = Early childhood, Community = Community members.

If yes give reasons –

1. Uniting Lyttelton (32) (LW 6, LM 18, EC 5, Community 3)

Contributing ideas: “the town is too small for 2 schools, 1 school would remove divisions, the process is long overdue”.

2. Quality 21 Century School (32) (LW 10, LM 16, EC 5, Community 1)

Contributing ideas: “a quality purpose built school to meet 21 C learning environment, a new facility, well resourced, more play areas, new school, new name, new site, new identity, a new School Board of Trustees, meeting future needs”

3. Makes geographic and economic sense (16) (LW 2, LM 12, Community 2)

Contributing ideas: “a reasonable option in difficult times, let’s move quickly”

4. Benefits to both schools (13) (LW 1, LM 10, EC 1, Community 1)

Contributing ideas; more students, larger peer groups, more attractive to retain Year 7/8 students, better opportunities for sport and cultural activities, continuity of friendships formed preschool to school, including early childhood in the plan for improved transitions is an advantage”

5. Enhanced community resources (7) (LM 4, EC 2, Community 1)

Contributing ideas: “potential for community facilities such as library and hall to serve the needs of the whole community”

If no give your reasons –

- Concerns about the proposed site (34) (LW 25, LM 3, EC 3, community 3)

Contributing ideas: "suitability of the proposed site questioned, no firm geotech report, concerned about the size, history of it being "the jail site", too close to town, parking difficulties, not enough green space, lack of certainty of proposed purchase of neighbouring properties, Lyttelton West is the preferred site"

- Concerns about the transition process(26) (LW 12,LM 9 EC2 Community 2)

Contributing ideas: "disruption to children's learning, destabilising in an already challenging situation, threats to employment of staff, managing the rebuild process , lack of understanding of our situation"

- Safety issues (19) (LW 15,LM 2, EC 2)

Contributing ideas: "more traffic, dangerous walking and biking access for students and parents, further for people to travel therefore higher cost and impact on the environment, too close to town for safety of students"

- Loss of history and identities (18) (LW 13, LM 4 EC 1)

Contributing ideas: "loss of identity of Lyttelton West, loss of the culture of small schools, potential loss of high achievement of Lyttelton West students, difficulty of merging two cultures into one"

- Politically related issues (17) (LW13, LM 1, EC 2, Community 1)

Contributing ideas: "Lack of trust in the Ministry of Education and Government to keep promises, possible financial compromising as costs are known, what is meant by commitment to 21C learning environment, lack of information provided, are we just being frog marched down the Ministry line"

- Concerns about the consultation process (13) (LW 7, LM 5, EC1)

Contributing ideas: "is this true consultation, the process has been badly managed, validity of the survey with no checks on who responded and to allow noisy voices to be heard, earthquake is being used as an excuse, the process is creating more divisions in the community"

- Lack of recognition of previous consultation and decisions(10)(LW 6, Community 4)

Contributing ideas: "the outcome of the previous consultation not to merge has been ignored, it was already agreed to rebuild both sites, retain the status quo"

- Educationally related concerns (7).(LW4, LM 3)

Contributing ideas: "loss of small size classes and school, how will special needs learners be accommodated, we can expect disruption to learning"

Other options and concerns –

- Status quo (37) (LW 22, LM 4, EC 5, Community 6)

Contributing ideas: “If it ain’t broke don’t fix it, retain the two sites and upgrade them both, get on with rebuilding Lyttelton Main and leave the rest of us alone, put energy into rebuilding community facilities”

- Delay decision pending geotech reports (12) (LW 9, EC 2, Community 1)

Contributing ideas: “we need assurances for geotech reports”

- Pace of process (6) (LW LM 4, EC 2)

Contributing ideas: “manage the pace quickly and efficiently to mitigate implications, begin with a transition school with a new name and new identity, fast track the process”

- Lyttelton Main merge with Lyttelton West (6) (LW 4, LM 1, Community 1)

Contributing ideas: “Merge both schools onto Lyttelton West site with the West site remediated”

- Alternative site found (4) (LW 1, LM 1, Community 2)

Contributing ideas: “investigate other sites such as the old convent site, or land near Lyttelton West”

- Split site (1 for 1 against) (LW 2)

Contributing ideas: “Use both sites and have eg junior, senior site, split site not a good option”

- New school, new site, new identity (2) (LW 2)

Contributing ideas: “ create a new school with a new identity, a new Board of Trustees, a new philosophy that reflects the eclectic nature of our community and a new school environment”

- Use available literature to underpin decisions(1) (LW)

- Consider Early Childhood in the plans (1) (LW)

The draft executive report was written by the facilitator and made available to both Boards of Trustees for their responses. Several adjustments were made over time to ensure the opinions of both communities were reflected.

The final executive summary and associated documents were then sent to each Board of Trustees for their approval.

The following statement is from the Lyttelton West Board of Trustees.

“At our meeting last night the LWS Board chose not to ratify your report and instead to send a report to the Ministry prepared by three of our board members. No further changes were requested to your report.”

Response from the Lyttelton West School community to
the proposal by the Minister of Education that Lyttelton
West School and Lyttelton Main School merge on the site
of Lyttelton Main



Prepared by the Board of Trustees, Lyttelton West School
Jillian Frater (Chair), Diana Feary (Principal), – –

Executive Summary

Key findings

- Almost two-thirds of parents at Lyttelton West School (LWS) do not support the proposal to merge Lyttelton Schools on the site of Lyttelton Main School (LMS).
- Of the parents of LWS who supported the proposal, a number of perceived advantages were commented on, with three themes being consistent. These were: uniting the community, having a modern new school and increasing the numbers of students in years 7 and 8. Support for the merge was conditional on the Ministry being able to obtain enough land, the new school being well resourced, the maintenance of the special relationship of LWS with Rapaki, and the coordination of the new school with community facilities. The recent positive ERO report received by LWS was noted with particular reference to the high levels of Maori achievement in terms of National Standards.
- In submissions from LWS parents who did not support the proposal, five themes were clear and consistent;
 - i. loss of the unique culture at LWS;
 - ii. concerns about the LMS site;
 - iii. dissatisfaction with the Ministry's decision-making process (particularly the lack of information);
 - iv. questioning why a successfully operating school would be closed; and
 - v. concerns that many children from west Lyttelton would not be able to walk to school.
- Suggestions for alternatives to the proposed merger included retaining the status quo, delaying making a decision on the proposal until further information is obtained and creating two campuses using the two existing school sites.

Method

The proposal from the Minister of Education that Lyttelton West School (LWS) and Lyttelton Main School (LMS) merge on the site of Lyttelton Main was received by LWS on 13 September 2012. The LWS board of trustees was asked to consult with its school community and report on the findings by 7 December 2012.

A facilitator was appointed to collect the community responses to this proposal. Two community meetings were held, one at Lyttelton West School (31 October 2012) and one at Lyttelton Main School (30 October 2012). Ministry of Education staff attended the community meetings where parents asked questions and raised concerns. Data was collected using an online questionnaire. The questions asked were:

1. Do you agree with the proposal?
2. Please give your reasons
3. If you answered no to question one what alternative do you suggest?
4. Do you have any other comment or concerns?
5. Please describe your connection to this issue
6. Ethnicity

Although the survey was open to all, the results in this summary relate only to the responses given by Lyttelton West parents and staff as the responses from Lyttelton preschool parents and the wider community could not be separated on the basis of school. Responses from these two groups are contained in the charts prepared by the facilitator included with our response to the Ministry.

Qualitative data were analysed using thematic analysis.

Sixty-six responses from Lyttelton West parents and staff were received. Twenty-four responses were received from parent/caregivers of a child at Pre-school and 27 from interested members of the Lyttelton community. Of these submissions 50% of preschool parents and 56% of submissions from interested members of the community did not support the proposal.

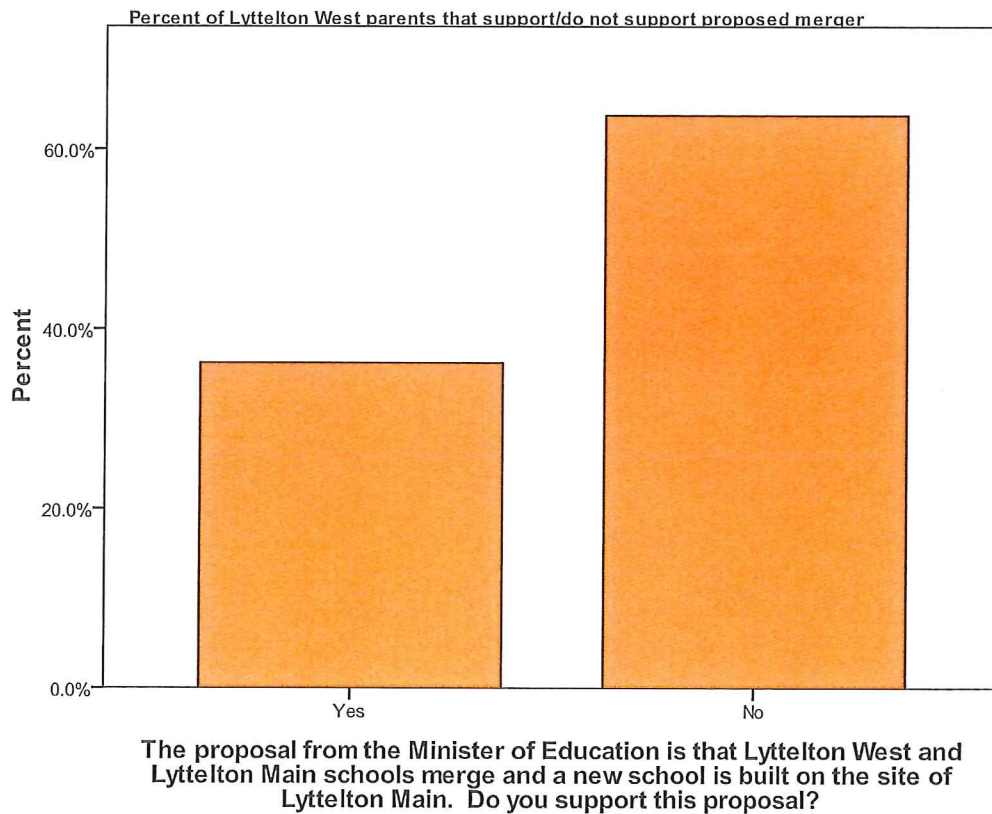
Results

The survey results are presented below, under headings of survey questions 1 to 3. Other comments given by respondents were considered in the write-up of these responses.

1.0 Do you agree with the proposal?

Almost two-thirds of parents at Lyttelton West School do not support the proposal to merge the two Lyttelton Schools on the site of Lyttelton Main (62.1%).

Graph 1



2.0 Please give your reasons

2.1 Responses from those that supported the proposal

Of the 25 parents of LWS who supported the proposal, all provided comments to support their choice with the following three themes being consistent:

2.1.1 Uniting the Lyttelton community

Sixty percent of those who supported the proposal commented that the merger would unite the community. For example, "more of a good Lyttelton thing ... unites the community". One parent commented:

Previously parents have talked about each school having its own personal culture/personality but we are all part of Lyttelton and we all chose to live here because of its own uniqueness. We should all be proud of Lyttelton and want to be all in one school together – as one community.

2.1.2 Having a modern, new school

Nine of the 25 parents who supported the proposal commented on the value of having "a well funded, well resourced new school". One parent commented:

The prospect of a new school, designed to enhance teaching and learning opportunities is too good to miss.

However not all that supported the proposal were convinced that the merge would bring increased resourcing:

I am not convinced by arguments of MoE or by the idea that we will have a blank cheque to have a school of our choice and design. I do not think that the increase in size will bring with it significant increases in resourcing (teaching staff in particular). We currently have a very high standard of education.

2.1.3 Increasing the numbers of students in years 7 and 8

Five of the parents commented that a benefit of the proposal would be increased numbers of students in years 7 and 8.

The increased number of children in the single school will provide opportunities such as greater number of children in years 7 and 8, so more likelihood of retaining those children in Lyttelton during those last years of school.

2.1.4 Support for proposal being conditional on being able to obtain enough land and enough resources

Some parents who supported the merger commented that their support was conditional on an appropriate amount of land being obtained.

One parent said:

One school for Lyttelton makes sense given the size of the population as long as green space and flat land is retained/shared/enhanced with the community and as long as there is enough space for children to get optimal levels of physical activity during their school day.

Another parent commented:

I only support a merger if an adequate amount of land can be purchased for the school site in adjacent properties, the process is well managed and there are sufficient resources to enable a modern high quality school that meets the community expectations to be built.

2.1.5 Maintaining Lyttelton West's excellent educational achievement

Parents who supported the proposal also commented their support was conditional on the maintenance of the excellent educational achievement currently achieved at Lyttelton West. A parent commented:

We currently have a very high standard of education with an excellent ERO report within the last two months, high levels of achievement by the Ministry's National Standards that highlight great results by our Maori children. A merger risks diluting those achievements and we must take it on faith that those standards will be maintained.

2.2 Responses from those that did not support the proposal

All 44 parents of LWS children who didn't support the proposal provided comments to explain their choice. These comments covered a variety of issues but five themes were clear and consistent:

- i. loss of the unique culture at LWS;
- ii. concerns about the LMS site;
- iii. dissatisfaction with the Ministry's decision-making process (particularly the lack of information);
- iv. questioning why a successfully operating school would be closed; and
- v. concerns that many children from west Lyttelton would not be able to walk to school.

2.2.1 Loss of Lyttelton West's unique culture

Many of the comments reflected a belief that "we know we have something special" at the school and a merger will mean a loss of that identity. The combination of students, staff, parents and setting means that "students are people not numbers". Coupled with the small size of the school, this means

parents and students feel valued, and appreciate the easy mixing of the age groups across the classes. One parent said:

I personally travel from out of zone to bring my child to Lyttelton West because of the small size of the school, the values it delivers and the physical setting of the school.

Many comments reflect the notion that “the merger proposal is likely to erode the distinctive culture with loss of our principal and other significant changes”. (This was mentioned in 24 submissions to the proposal.)

2.2.2 Concerns about the LMS site

There were many references to concerns about the suitability of the LMS site for a combined school. Submissions were primarily focused around the large, unreinforced masonry retaining walls and the small size of the site. One parent reported that “many parents fear this wall and fear for their children’s safety at the site” – a sentiment echoed by 12 submitters. As the geotech information on the safety and potential cost of remediation of the walls is not yet available, this was a significant issue for 15 people. Some expressed a concern that the “grassy” was likely to be created with backfill material and could be unsuitable for building on. While it is acknowledged by many that the LMS site is larger than the LWS site (by 0.3 of a hectare), many concerns were raised that the LMS site will be too small (at 0.9ha) for 340+ students, even if the NZ Police sections and the former Moda Photographica sites could be acquired. The multi-level nature of the Main site also raises concerns about the usefulness of the site for many. Putting it very bluntly, one parent said, “I absolutely hate the Main site”. (The suitability of the LMS site was raised in 22 submissions.)

2.2.3 Dissatisfaction with the Ministry’s decision-making process

A strong theme of dissatisfaction with the MoE’s decision-making process was apparent. Many cited insufficient justification for the proposal. For others, the lack of information was the key issue:

“I cannot accept a merger outcome with the lack of current information. No geotechnical report is available for the current proposal at Main. The retaining walls are a massive undertaking to repair and no assessment has been made as yet.”

The Ministry’s reasoning is referred to as being “flawed” and even “ludicrous”. Submitters noted the lack of detailed plans and assurances the site is viable make agreeing to the proposal very challenging. Underlying this, several people pointed out the use by the Ministry of incorrect data concerning utilisation and out-of-zone learners. (An explanation for this was requested by the board in a letter to the Minister dated 28/11/12. As yet no explanation has been received.) The following quote summarised many of the feelings on this theme:

I find that I am unable to agree to the proposal based on the FACT that we do not know if the site “proposed” will even allow the proposal to be met. Specifically we DON’T know if the site is geotechnically sound, we DON’T know if the site can be

configured in a way that will allow the students and the teachers to fit in, we DON'T know what facilities we will retain or get should the merger proceed (*their emphasis*).

One parent commented:

I like the idea of building something better, but am afraid we'll end up with large class sizes and lose the intimacy that a smaller school provides.

(Dissatisfaction with the Ministry's decision-making process was raised in 16 submissions.)

2.2.4 Questioning why a successfully functioning school would be closed

It is clear from the comments that LWS parents see this proposal as a closure of the school and question why a school that is performing well would be closed. "Why close a succeeding school making a unique and significant contribution to Maori achievement"? Also highlighted is the school's unique relationship with Rapaki and the fear that "by merging the two schools the children from Rapaki will become an even greater minority and their identity will be further marginalised." One parent exhorts the Ministry to "Read our ERO report and you will understand why I don't want change". An ERO advisor commented during her recent visit to the school "bottle what you have here". Staff members commented that the ERO report also highlighted:

We [have] an unusually close relationship with our students and that this was helping all students, including Maori, to succeed. Why risk this?"

Furthermore:

Losing this school with its proven record, roll growth and results would be a real loss to the community after its long 125-year history.

(This issue was raised in 16 submissions.)

2.2.5 LWS Students not able to walk to school

Concerns were raised that if the proposal goes ahead, many students living in west Lyttelton will not be able to walk to school, thereby increasing the number of parents dropping off and picking up their children by car. Those that are able to walk will face heavy traffic on Norwich Quay, which is used by large trucks from the port travelling at 50km/hr. A parent commented:

"The new school has the main road full of tankers and trucks and fumes alongside you for 10 mins and then having to cross that to get to the township where you face bars and liquor outlets and shops. Which would you prefer?"

Another submitter reflected:

“The Ministry often states that it wishes to encourage children to walk or bike to school, but the proposed merger will have exactly the opposite effect as even more parents will drive their children to school.” (10 submissions were received on this subject.)

2.2.5 Other Issues

A variety of other issues were raised in submissions, such as the proposal being against the wishes expressed by the Lyttelton community in last year's survey and concerns that a merger would lead to larger class sizes. The loss of school choice with one school was noted several times.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the impact on our children is consistently mentioned in relation to all of the above comments. In particular the impact a merger would have on children who have already been subject to extraordinary circumstances:

I am also concerned that after everything that has happened over the past few years, more upheaval is the last thing our children need. Lyttelton West has remained a safe, secure, constant haven where our children have been cared for and nurtured, despite staff having their own stresses to contend with.

3.0 If you answered No to question one what alternative do you suggest.

Forty-one responses were received to this question from parents of children at Lyttelton West School. Answers can be grouped as follows:

3.1 Retain Status Quo

Twenty-five submissions sought the retention of the status quo as their preferred alternative.

An alternative suggested in a submission is:

That Lyttelton West is repaired and Lyttelton Main improved to provide facilities we can share. We do this already, eg. Using their stage and lighting for our productions, and I think it works well. It links the two schools and makes sense from a funding point of view.

The two schools already share many resources and undertake joint activities for the benefit of students. Joint activities over the years have included major fundraising in the form of art auctions, a cook book (raising over \$140,000) and house tours, athletics days, joint kapahaka representation at the Christchurch Primary Schools Cultural Festival, technology classes at Christchurch East school, swimming sports, cross country races, speech competitions, talent quests and ski days.

3.2 Delay making a decision on the proposal until further information is obtained

Six submitters suggested a decision on the proposal should be delayed until further information is obtained. Further information considered necessary included:

- Geotech information on the suitability of the Lyttelton Main site.
- Verification that the Lyttelton Main site (which occupies five different levels and includes a major retaining wall) is large enough to accommodate the roll growth projected by the MoE of 340 students, a pre-school, a hall, a library, playgrounds and green outdoor play space.

One submission asked for a delay so that the community could decide for itself what is needed rather than face a forced merger as follows:

Due to the “unparalleled strength of this community ... this strength makes us more than capable of defining a future educational ethos for our children.”

3.3 Create two campuses using the two existing school sites

Three submissions suggested that two campuses could be created using the two existing school sites. The reasons given for choosing this alternative are that the Lyttelton Main school site is not large enough and the MOE is likely to consequently be forced to pay more money for adjacent or nearby land

A submission says:

Why not then save money and retain two current sites? They could either stay as two separate schools (status quo), or be one school but run as a junior and senior location.

Another submission says:

Years 1-3 at Lyttelton West (with preschool Busy C's retained on site)
Years 4-8 at Lyttelton Main.

One submission opposes a split site and requires all facilities to be on one site e.g. library, hall etc, without the loss of playing fields and playgrounds.

3.4 Other suggested alternatives

Create a new school on the old convent site further up the hill behind the centre of Lyttelton (1 submission).

Merge the schools on the Lyttelton West site and possibly acquire neighbouring land containing a derelict house on Webb Lane (3 submissions).

Create a new school for the whole community on a different site (1 submission).

4.0 Additional comments

4.1 Family Stress

Three submitters commented on concerns regarding the additional stress being imposed by the Ministry of Education as a result of the proposed merger. One submission concludes:

We have been through enough- we are a community struggling with all the other issues - many of us have no home and are thankful for the security our children's school provides amongst uncertainty and stress. How much more do we have to go through - the whole implementation of the plans completely disgust us. It epitomises incompetence and lack of understanding. I would not wish what our family has been through on anyone - I wish the Minister could walk a month in our shoes and see what we are still dealing with.

Another submission highlights international research showing that following disasters, the one thing that should be kept stable is schooling. Papers concerning Post-Disaster Japan (Parmenter, 2012) and the Civic Role of Mississippi's Public Schools After Hurricane Katrina back this up (Bowman, 2008).

4.2 Concern for the interim period until a merger

Another submitter worries about the three-year period proposed until a merger would apply. They comment:

The two fundraising committees have lost enthusiasm to fundraise - "why bother" parents are asking.

References

BOWMAN, K. (2008) Rebuilding Schools, Rebuilding Communities: The Civic Role of Mississippi's Public Schools after Hurricane Katrina. MSU Legal Studies Research Paper.

PARMENTER, L. (2012) Community and Citizenship in Post-Disaster Japan: The Roles of Schools and Students. *Citizenship and Community*, 160, 6.

Summary of Community Meeting - Lyttelton West School 31/10/12

Questions and Comments:

- Clarification of rationale behind the proposal
- BoTs memorandum of understanding
- Timeline towards April decision
- Addressing the geo tech needs of both sites
- Main site including the wall under geotech review
- Any other sites being considered?
- MoE prefers 1 site not split sites
- Current focus on Main site
- Stability of West site?
- Stability of Main site?
- Reminder of earlier merger consideration
- MoE desire to create a site better than would be possible if restoring each site
- MoE could restore each site to its current status but not to value added
- Financial concerns aired
- Budget for rebuild fits within the Christchurch rebuild
- Size and capacity of new building with flexibility to expand if needed
- Disposal of vacated sites explained
- Opportunities for Maori Immersion unit
- ECE possibilities discussed
- Level of community input in the design discussed
- Timing discussed – new school usually takes 18 months
- Urgency discussed
- West would continue operating until move to new site
- Main accommodated while building progressed
- Opportunities for shared community facilities
- Realisation that both schools are closing to create a new one
- MoE committed to providing a set of facilities that are better than they are now
- Survey explained

If this proposal is implemented it would offer the following opportunities.

- Larger peer groups for children (5)
- Less divisive community (4)
- Better learning environment amenities and equipment & toilets (13 agree 2 disagreed)
- Continuity of friendships for children from preschool to school (12)
- Twice the talent for choirs, band, sport (2)
- Better opportunities for sporting/art facilities (4)
- Larger green spaces (2 disagree)

- Use of harbour, swimming pools etc (3)
- Education research suggests that 300 is a good size for learning (1 disagreed)
- Class sizes less volatile
- Space for ECE to join cluster (4)
- Safer purpose built facilities(5)
- Long term planning to support our children and each other through to adolescence

If this proposal is implemented it would result in the following issues/concerns

- Loss of local identity (4 agree 2 disagree)
- Loss of autonomy for Lyttelton West community (4 agree 2 disagree)
- Less suitable location – close to town etc (5 agree 3 disagree)
- Kids walking further and traffic (4 agree 2 disagree)
- Car parking an issue especially at peak times (6 agree 1 disagree)
- Loss of small school culture (6)
- Disruption to children's learning and social levels (6)
- Lack of justified reasons for merger which may lead to eventual problems (3 agree 1 disagrees)
- Size of proposed site (5)
- Purchase of more land(5 agree 1 disagree)
- If it not broken don't fix it (2)
- Pace of merger – will West slowly die - slow withering of 2 schools (3 agree 1 disagree)
- Is it possible to speed up the process (3)
- 2 years of building disruption (4)
- Importance of community following disaster (3)
- West has no pubs to walk past on way to school – Main does
- I have no concerns merger is a great idea (1 disagree)
- Chaos of uncertainty (3)
- Future growth has not been considered (3)
- No Intermediate please
- Merger faster or not at all

Other ideas or proposals for the future of schooling in this cluster:

- Retain the status quo (12)
- Merge schools on a more central location (2)
- Retain both facilities with separate ages/purposes(11 agree 7 disagree)
- Make provision for ECE to continue as integral part of the plan
- A single modern school for our fabulous community(2)
- Lyttelton West site is still a viable site(3)
- Not broken don't fix it 2 schools are working well (6)
- Use our environment – boats/ pool
- Old convent site?
-

Meeting Notes – 17/10/12 – Lyttelton Schools’ Proposal

Present – board members and principals from both schools, Rema (facilitator)

The purpose of the current round of consultation was clarified i.e to respond to the Minister’s proposal for amalgamation of both schools into a new school. The response should be on the line of “yes we agree, no we disagree, other options.”

Timelines were discussed and set:

- Community meetings – 30th/31st October
- Survey ready for distribution following these meetings (survey monkey)
- Hard copy survey available for community responses
- Surveys close 7th November
- Student voice to Rema by 7th Nov
- Summary of meetings to BoTs by Nov 5th
- Executive summary to BoTs for review by Nov 30th
- Submission to MoE by Dec 7th

Discussion held re ‘community’ – decision to focus on the schools’ communities including preschools, with invitations to the wider community to respond.

Support in place for Maori and Pasifika groups.

Community meetings discussed: - **Purpose of meetings to offer as much information as possible towards people making informed decisions**

- BoT Chairs to chair meetings
- Invitations sent out via schools (Sue and Diana)
- Open invitations to attend either meeting (Sue and Diana)
- MoE representatives invited (Sue and Diana)
- Question time (Chairs and MoE)
- Responses to 3 questions (Rema)
- Explanation of survey and timelines
- Rema to record discussions and responses

Survey has been drafted and will be on survey monkey for trial by end of this week (Sue and Diana)

Summary of ideas shared at community meeting at Lyttelton Main School 30/10/12.

Questions asked at start of meeting:

Rational

The rational for the proposal is unclear eg geotech, erosion, future roll growth, zoning,

The survey:

Who is pulling the surveys together?

Is the survey better than the last survey?

Will data from the survey be used?

How is the survey being made available to the wider community?

Will the survey be made available to early childhood?

The report

Will the Board be able to check the MOEs report for accuracy?

Will the combined report contain any strong alternatives?

Options

Is there any information about what other options are available?

Property and Buildings

How do we put 14 or 15 buildings on the proposed site?

How much experience has the MoE had in designing and building in Lyttelton?

Will the vacated site be left to deteriorate?

Has the MoE explored buying additional land?

What constraints are there around the historic wall?

If the decision was to keep two schools on 2 separate sites would they be restored or would there be 2 new schools?

Is one school on a split site a possibility? Not ideal at the moment. (also in group activity)

Financial

Can the MoE change its mind about the costs for building on this site?

Is there a cap on the total Christchurch re-build?

Community

How are you going to engage the early childhood community?

Timelines

Is the 2016 date when the building starts or the new school opens?

General

A building design expo for 21C learning environment will be at AMP Show

The Boards are committed to move forward with the best of both schools being valued and the collective needs of all the students central.

Appreciation was expressed to the boards, principal and teaching staff in supporting the process.

Ideas expressed in the group activity.

If this proposal is implemented it would offer the following opportunities:

A purpose built school that can provide for our children's' needs now and into the future. (5)

An investment in one excellent school rather than 2 mediocre buildings (2 for 1 against) should invest in both (1)

Enhanced teaching environment - a new modern learning environment – well planned and environmentally friendly and sustainable – a model for others (8)

More opportunities for children

Bigger staff, more energy, more ideas, more PD (2)

Diversity of learners and diversity of education (2)

Better options for class compositions eg character classes

Critical mass for new developments eg IT, Te Reo

A language immersion unit (4)

More opportunities for senior leadership

Better opportunities and facilities for sport, music and drama (4)

More space to play and learn in (4)

Better community services eg hall- a real hub for the community (10)

United community (11)

Common identity (1 against)

Transition to secondary easier for children – know more peers (2)

Kindy friends stay together (4)

The Government gets a pat on the back

Cautions

Budget dependent

Implementation dependent

If this proposal is implemented it would result in the following issues/concerns:

There would be an impact on the school that is closed while the re-build happens (1 disagreed)

Need for careful management of both schools during transition

Staffing issues – principal, secretary, caretaker, teachers and support staff (5 agree 1 disagreed)

Loss of great staff and great school (1disagreed)

Lack of choice for parents (3)

Extra travel, distance and road danger for children, busy road, bus, (4 agree 2 disagreed)

Community impact with loss of green space and flat land (6 agree) (1 disagreed)

Identity of new school needs to preserve history of both. Non- used site being sold off and lost forever (2 agree)

Site for education only not for private preschool – use of space for school (2)

Class sizes – composite classes (2agree)

Parking an issue at key school times with more pick -ups and drop – offs on one site (3 agreed) (3 disagree)

Harder to integrate into the community with larger school

Space for 280 children? (1 disagreed)

Can we be assured there is enough money to create a good combined school? (4)

Non- used site being sold off and lost for ever

No early childhood option on west side (1 disagreed)

Time line doesn't allow for good transition (1 disagreed)

Cautions

Wording of question not equal

Other options for the future of schooling in this cluster.

Invoke the education act to voluntarily merge and get a head start on other building projects

Form one board now for both schools

Retain and rebuild and future proof both schools on 2 sites with some joint activities (2 agreed)

Remove zoning constraints (1 agrees 1 disagrees)

All home schooled

All children and staff move to west site to enable a clean rebuild and cement a close merger (1 agrees)

Invest in both and go forward together

Keep both with 1 board and 1 principal

Merge onto west site (2 agree)

Correspondence for all children with joint activities during rebuild

Buy enough land to rebuild 2 schools, plunked, hall, toy library, and ECC

Neutral site for new community school(3 disagree)

Recreational grounds with farm on site (1 disagreed)

Use kids for rebuild labour for work experience

Create a secondary school on west site for Lyttelton, Governor's Bay and Diamond Harbour.

Create a secondary school for Port Hills on old granary site at Heathcote (6 agreed 1 disagreed)

One school. 2 campuses one on west site one on main site(3 disagree)

Appendix 1 c