



North East Secondary Education Committee

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Government decision pleases NESE Committee

The Government has announced that the Ministry of Education will complete an area report into the need for a high school in North East Christchurch.

This positive decision is the latest milestone towards a local high school achieved by National party MP Aaron Gilmore and the North East Secondary Education Committee (NESE).

The case for a local high school is focused around issues of pupil numbers, community social needs and environmental sustainability.

Aaron Gilmore MP and the NESE Committee presented a petition and proposal for a local high school to the Education and Science Select Committee in April 2010.

The Select Committee recommended a review of secondary school requirements in North East Christchurch, including consultation with the community to ensure adequate schooling provision is available for the area.

Minister of Education Hon Anne Tolley tabled the Government's response to the Select Committee's report in Parliament yesterday. Rather than following the Select Committee's recommendation the Government has instead directed the Ministry of Education to "complete a formal area report in a timely fashion". NESE understands an area report will avoid the need to duplicate work already done by NESE included in its comprehensive proposal and presentation to the Select Committee.

The area report will decide if there is sufficient evidence for the need for a new school and if so the Ministry of Education will consult with the boards of trustees of affected schools. A positive area report will lead to the establishment process.

NESE Committee Chairperson Amanda Williams says "the committee is pleased with this decision. A public meeting will follow to inform the community about progress towards a local high school and to answer the community's questions".

www.nese.org.nz is a good source of official NESE information.

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NESE is a sub-committee of the Parklands Residents Association.