

The North East Secondary Education Committee (NESE) was formed in 2008 following growing concern in the community about local high schooling options in North East Christchurch. NESE's Management Committee members are all parents and grandparents from a wide cross section of the local community.

NESE's Management Committee 2011

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| - Chairperson, Amanda Williams | - Helen Haggitt |
| - Vice Chairperson, Neil Lawrence | - Rae Mills |
| - Secretary, Amanda Hill (until August) | - Greg Morehouse |
| - Secretary, Bridget Hanrahan (from August) | - Elissa Smith |
| - Treasurer, Kerri Rowlands | - Vanessa Tappenden |
| - Aaron Gilmore | - Angela Wilson |

NESE's aims and objectives:-

- To promote and advocate to advance secondary education in the North East of Christchurch.
- To be an advocate for parents and children in the North East of Christchurch.
- To be impartial in its investigations and to address the majority of the community's needs in its recommendations.
- To promote and advocate for the development of a local high school in the North East of Christchurch.
- To raise funds for the development of a local high school.
- To support the development of a local high school through fundraising to provide extra resources, facilities and opportunities.

Achievements in 2011.

Our Committee constantly works hard to meet very tight time frames. We made excellent progress in our first two years by always preparing for the next phase ahead of time to maintain a constant momentum. We were making good, steady, progress. In 2011 we had hoped to make further significant progress towards our community's goal of a local high school. We expected an announcement from the Minister of Education early in term one of 2011. Unfortunately, February's earthquake significantly altered the domestic landscape, interrupting last year's schedule.

While there was a pause in our activities, we didn't give up or cease in our efforts. We stood back long enough to gain perspective and a clear vision. We then decided our extensive knowledge of this area's education requirements would be best used by becoming involved and participating in plans for the educational rebuild of North East Christchurch, as well as greater Christchurch.

Issues, trends, predictions and planning.

The earthquake on 22nd February 2011 caused significant disruption to high schooling across Christchurch with many high schools subsequently sharing campuses in split shifts. Avonside Girls' High School and Shirley Boys' High School were badly damaged. Both schools have now returned to their original sites and are using existing undamaged classrooms as well as relocatable classrooms. A decision on the future of these two schools will be made within the next two years.

Since February 2011, 4000 students have moved schools. There have been roll losses at some primary schools including Burwood Primary School in our catchment area, as well as Avondale, Aranui, and Banks Avenue schools. Fewer high school students changed schools, with approximately 1000 leaving Christchurch. Many teaching jobs have also been lost.

Student capacity at Avonside Girls' and Shirley Boys' is reduced and may remain so in the interim. Student numbers attending both Aranui and Linwood High Schools are also down. However, overall the remaining capacity citywide is still not enough to provide for the remaining students.

The Ministry of Education's priority at this time is to focus on house and land decisions to determine the long term education needs for this area. Innovative short term solutions may also include reassessing the restrictions on integrated schools, reviewing high school zones and making long term decisions on the future of Avonside Girls' and Shirley Boys' High Schools.

New land for housing is going through consent stages in many areas of Christchurch, particularly in the North East, North, and South West. These developments will initially cater for resettling Christchurch residents who will continue to use the existing school network.

In addition, a projected influx of 30,000 people is expected to come to Christchurch to assist with rebuilding the city. Some of these people will bring families with school aged children. It is likely that many will settle in Eastern Christchurch, as housing may be more readily available.

Schools in Christchurch did not have to submit their July 2011 student roll statistics. This has made it difficult to gather robust school data. Christchurch City's Census was cancelled after the earthquake. This has resulted in student number predictions and projections only. In the past Christchurch population predictions made using insufficient data have fallen well short of the actual population growth. Education decisions must be based on sound information. Getting accurate, current, student roll data and making robust, evidence based projections will be critical for education planning in 2012.

NESE considers the provision of a local high school in North East Christchurch is still a priority. This would provide an anchor for families and businesses to stay here. It would cater for the growth of local subdivision developments and service families commuting from North of the city.

Education models to research and consider.

In seeking to fill the secondary education needs in our local community, we must consider all options presented. It is important to acknowledge that school models in the future may not follow a familiar model in their governance, structure or building design. Our Committee's role is to investigate thoroughly, be impartial and address the majority of the community's needs.

In 2011 the Government made two significant policy announcements relating to schools:-

1) Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)

PPPs were announced by the Government in April 2011 and must now be considered for all large Government projects. PPPs enable the Government to form partnerships with private organisations to secure funding, enhancing the viability of large projects. The first PPP schools announced were a new primary and a new secondary school in Hobsonville, Auckland. They are scheduled to open at the start of 2013 and 2014 respectively. A PPP will now have to be investigated and considered when building any new school.

2) Charter Schools

Charter schools were announced under a Government coalition agreement in December 2011. Charter schools allow communities to run their own school funded by the state, similar to an integrated school but with more freedom. In the announcement Christchurch East was nominated as a suitable candidate for a charter school.

Lobbying and Advocacy.

NESE representatives met with the Ministry of Education in October to "shape the future of education", in a workshop as part of the social and future thinkers group.

NESE participated in Think Beyond's workshop run by Dr Cheryl Doig in November where the aim was to create high level guidelines for guiding education decisions.

Last year Committee members spent many hours researching and preparing documents to present to the Government and its agencies. These include submissions to:-

- Christchurch City Council Draft Central Plan
- Draft Recovery Strategy for Greater Christchurch
- Education Renewal Recovery Plan

Copies of these documents are available on NESE's website.

Education Renewal Recovery Plan.

NESE has had strong input into the development of the draft plan through participation in a number of different workshops and by preparing a submission. A Ministry of Education source has indicated the Education Recovery Plan will be considered by Government in February and then put out for public consultation in April, with the final draft available in June 2012. NESE will continue to be involved in the development of education strategies for Christchurch City as a whole, with a special interest in the North East of the city.

Forming alliances

The NESE Committee consults widely to establish good working relationships with influential people and major organisations, while continuing to connect with families and the local community in conversation. In the last two years committee members met or attended meetings with Mayor Bob Parker, Christchurch City Councillors, Burwood Pegasus Community Board members, Ministry of Education Officials, representatives from Ngai Tahu, CORE Education Services, Think Beyond, the Police Youth Crime Division, local principals and other business and community leaders.

We have benefited greatly from their advice and encouragement. Our community has a vision to rebuild and enhance the infrastructure here in North East Christchurch. A strong desire for a local high school is a focus of this vision.

Marketing and Publicity

NESE has engaged the local community on the issue of local education and a local high school. We want to hear people's ideas and we believe everyone should have an opportunity to have their say. NESE is supported by more than 1000 families and individuals subscribed to our email newsletter. In 2011 we sent two email newsletters. We had a few radio slots and made the newspapers a couple of times. The publicity campaign with NESE signs on local fences and large stickers on green wheelie bins has lessened as the signs experience wear and tear and graffiti. However, sign feedback and direction to our website is still proving effective. Our Website www.nese.org.nz had 1096 unique visitors in 2011. We also have a Facebook page.

Fundraising

NESE undertook no specific fundraising activities in 2011 and received no donations. Fortunately the year's expenses were less than anticipated so we were able to pay for our expenses with money raised in 2010. We would welcome donations to assist with NESE's 2012 expenses. NESE is a registered charity so donations of \$5.00 or more are tax deductible.

NESE's Key Messages are:-

- There is an ongoing problem with insufficient capacity in Christchurch high schools, particularly in North East Christchurch. Education planning must be based on robust, evidence based data.
- The community in North East Christchurch is certain a local high school forms part of the solution.
- The Minister of Education has a review of the options in front of her.
- A local high school would increase business and residential confidence, rebuilding our community while stimulating the recovery in North East Christchurch.

Thank you

The Management Committee is a dedicated group of people. All members were closely affected by the earthquakes and many faced other significant challenges in 2011. Education remains a high priority for our families. I would like to thank committee members for the commitment and enthusiasm they continue bring to this project.

We would also like to acknowledge the many volunteers who continue to contribute in other ways. We are extremely grateful for the support we have received from the community. Thank you all so very much. We really value your contributions and input to assist making our community stronger through the drive for a local high school.

Amanda Williams
Chairperson