

## **Annual Report 2023**

The North East Secondary Education Committee Inc. (NESE) advocates for secondary education in North East Christchurch. NESE has been actively informing and lobbying politicians and the Ministry of Education since 2009. Secondary education remains a high priority for families in our community. Committee members would like to thank all our supporters who share information with us and support us in other ways. We are grateful for your passionate, ideas and encouragement.

### **Another Challenging Year**

2022 was another challenging year where Covid-19, illness, work and family commitments frequently took priority over NESE projects. Committee members don't always have enough time or energy to achieve our goals. But we will continue to strive to make a difference to benefit our wider community.

### **Secondary School Open Nights**

As usual, we compiled our annual secondary school open day list to help families plan their open day attendance. The open day schedule was posted on NESE's Facebook page, then shared to the People's Republic of New Brighton's page, Prestons Residents' page and Travis Country's page, generating NESE's most viewed post ever. Covid-19 caused three secondary schools to cancel their open days. Other secondary schools adapted to the challenge, holding virtual open nights and small group tours.

### **Local Body Elections**

About half of the Year 13 students were old enough to vote in the October 2022 local body elections. NESE asked candidates in the Burwood and Coastal wards questions of interest to teenagers and their families. These were:

- How will you encourage residents to attend their local schools?
- How will you increase infrastructure for teenagers? E.g. library spaces, computers, quiet reading spaces, playgrounds, skate spaces, basketball hoops and gaga dodgeball spaces?

Chair Amanda Williams received numerous lengthy phone calls and email exchanges from the candidates. These were excellent opportunities to discuss NESE's goals, achievements and vision for our community. Candidates' written answers were shared on NESE's Facebook page and on local residents groups' Facebook pages. The Burwood candidate statements were also emailed to residents groups in the Burwood ward area. The Coastal candidate statements were emailed to residents groups in the Coastal ward.

### **Communication with Families**

NESE's Facebook page currently has 208 followers. Facebook is a good way to communicate with our followers and to reach other local families when our posts are shared. Facebook statistics indicate our followers are all aged 35-54 and 80% are women. As always, there was good interest in our student focused posts. In 2022 our most popular posts were:

- Secondary School Open Day Dates for 2022.
- Enrol now
- Coastal candidates answer NESE's questions.
- Burwood candidates answer NESE's questions.
- Max Rashbrooke's article in the Press.
- MOE plans to reduce Chisnallwood's intake by 40% to 400 students.
- Check out your local school's newsletters and social media for opportunities to view performances.
- This is your opportunity to meet Avonside High School's New Principal.
- Council plans to reduce speeds around schools to 30km.

### **Investigating Secondary Schools Booklet**

NESE's "Investigating Secondary Schools" booklet is aimed at supporting the needs of families with year 7 and 8 students and their transition to secondary education. Families benefit from being able to make informed choices. The booklet is available from NESE's website [www.nese.org.nz](http://www.nese.org.nz) There is also a link to it at the top of NESE's Facebook page.

### **Chisnallwood Intermediate School**

Committee members attended Chisnallwood's community meeting on 19 September to discuss the Ministry of Education's intention to reduce Chisnallwood Intermediate's roll by 40% beginning in 2025. NESE will consider how the school can strengthen its case to retain a larger school roll.

### **NESE's Constitution**

NESE's rule changes agreed at the 2022 AGM were registered with the New Zealand Companies Office. They came into effect on 24 March 2022, enabling NESE's AGM, SGM and Committee decisions to be made by audio, audio visual, or electronic communication should the need arise.

The new Incorporated Societies Act 2022 introduces changes designed to make incorporated societies' structures and processes more robust, to help societies govern themselves, and to give societies and members more options when things go wrong. Many incorporated societies including NESE will need to rewrite their constitution to meet the additional requirements of the new Act. All incorporated societies will need to reregister under the new Act which comes into force in stages, between October 2023 and April 2026.

### **Building Community Networks**

NESE committee members regularly meet with people in the community to share ideas and gather feedback on education related issues. There were limited opportunities to network in 2022, but committee members made the most of the opportunities available through other work and community roles. NESE Committee members maintain good working relationships with elected officials and community leaders. We continue to benefit from their advice and encouragement.

### **Fundraising**

NESE runs on a shoestring budget with committee members donating their own resources and consumables. NESE's main expense is the annual website hosting and domain name invoice. We had some funds left from previous fundraising to cover this cost, but will need to fundraise again in 2023.

### **Current Goals and Issues to Explore**

Committee members would like to investigate the following issues. Please contact us if you would like to contribute your knowledge and time in one of these areas.

- Should schools have an equivalent to the "healthy homes" guidelines, enabling and compelling schools to achieve modern building standards in the classroom?
- Healthy schools should enable students of all ages to play outside. There is an obvious lack of play space and equipment for Y7 and Y8 children attending Christchurch's Y7 to Y13 schools. Is this impacting the mental health and well-being of students?
- Are there cycleways and safe pathways connecting all areas to their local schools?

### **NESE's Committee 2022**

I would like to thank NESE's Committee members for their continuing commitment towards achieving our community's education goals. Committee members are all volunteers from our local community. They are a dedicated group of volunteers who in turn are supported by their partners and families. NESE's Management Committee 2022 was Amanda Williams (Chairperson), Greg Morehouse (Vice Chair), Elissa Smith (Secretary) Kerri Rowlands (Treasurer) and Committee Member Rae Mills.

Amanda Williams  
Chairperson