

Annual Report 2013

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 2012

Amanda Williams - Chairperson
Greg Morehouse - Vice Chairperson
Bridget Hanrahan - Secretary
Kerri Rowlands - Treasurer

Nicola Elis, Aaron Gilmore, Helen Haggitt, Rae Mills, Elissa Smith, Vanessa Tappenden and Angela Wilson

NESE's aims and objectives:-

- To promote and advocate to advance secondary education in North East 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 secondary school in the North East of Christchurch.
- To raise funds for the development of a local secondary school.
- To support the development of a local secondary school through fundraising to provide extra resources, facilities and opportunities.

Following the earthquakes in 2011, NESE's focus evolved from building a local secondary school, to using our extensive knowledge of this area's education requirements to advocate for a common sense approach for education provision at all levels. NESE members participated in more than a year of education consultation. This has been a challenging time. Our Committee members have worked hard attending meetings and writing submissions, often within very tight time frames.

The Future Shape of Education

In 2012 the Hon Hekia Parata was appointed as the new Minister of Education. The Minister visited Christchurch many times last year as she became familiar with Christchurch schools. The Ministry of Education has focused on house and land decisions as a basis for making decisions on the education direction for Christchurch. The Ministry is in the process of making decisions on the futures of secondary schools and zoning throughout greater Christchurch. Primary and Intermediate schools across the city have proposals that their school communities are struggling to come to terms with. The recent announcements of land viability affecting Avonside Girls' and Shirley Boys' High Schools and the concept of a year 1 to 13 school in Aranui, signal there will be dramatic change in Eastern Christchurch Secondary Education provision.

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

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, building design, land ownership or funding. Our Committee's role is to investigate proposals thoroughly and impartially, with any recommendations addressing the majority of our community's needs.

Education Renewal in Greater Christchurch

NESE members attended various education consultations and focus groups in 2012. NESE continued to be involved in the development of education strategies for Christchurch City as a whole, with a special interest in ideas and proposals for the North East of the city. NESE has had strong input into the development of the draft education renewal plan through participation in workshops, attending school and community meetings and by preparing submissions. Copies of these documents are available on NESE's website. These include submissions to:-

- Draft Education Renewal Recovery Programme May 2012
- Draft Education Renewal Recovery Programme December 2012

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 year

committee members met or attended meetings with Green MP Mojo Mathers; National MP Nicky Wagner; Christchurch City Councillors; Burwood Pegasus Community Board members; Coralanne Child the Ministry of Education Programme Manager for Christchurch Earthquake Recovery; representatives from Ngai Tahu; as well as local school principals and other business and community leaders at Burwood Pegasus Networking Forums. We have benefited greatly from their advice and encouragement. Our community has a vision to rebuild and enhance the infrastructure in North East Christchurch. This vision centres around a strong desire for a local secondary school.

Charter Schools

Charter schools were announced under a government coalition agreement. They allow communities to run their own school with funding from the state. This schooling model can be used where the current inflexible model of schooling is not achieving well for its students. The concept has met with mixed reactions. We understand that a community will only elect to have a charter school if a need is identified within their community and the community wants a charter school. There are lessons to be learnt from overseas charter schools. We understand charter schools' accountability will be high.

NESE's position on charter schools is that we're interested to talk to anyone considering developing secondary education in North East Christchurch. Any charter school proposed should be additional to a strong and comprehensive state education network.

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. We sent a newsletter to our subscribers in August. We had a few radio slots and made the newspapers a couple of times. The NESE fence sign and large stickers on green wheelie bin publicity campaign has lessened as the signs experience wear and tear and graffiti. During the education consultation process we added their words "Restore? Consolidate? Rejuvenate?" to the fence signs with sponsorship from Classic Signs. Our fence signs still direct people effectively to our website. Our Website www.nese.org.nz has about thirty visitors a month. NESE also has a Facebook page.

Fundraising

NESE undertook no specific fundraising activities in 2012. We received some small donations at the AGM. Fortunately the year's expenses were minimal so were paid 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.

Valuing Volunteers

We have had a change in committee members during the year. In March we welcomed new committee member Nicola Elis. Helen Haggitt tendered her resignation in June when she retired and moved to Dunedin. Helen was one of NESE's founding members. Her connections and insight into the education system were valuable contributions which kept us on track. Vanessa Tappenden resigned from the committee in July when her family moved to Auckland. Vanessa's enthusiasm was helpful at many times when the road ahead seemed difficult. Bridget Hanrahan, our secretary is stepping down from the management committee at the AGM. Bridget was one of NESE's founding members. She was one of the NESE members who presented our case for a local secondary school to the Science and Education Select Committee in Wellington and she has contributed to NESE's documents and submissions over the last four years. Our committee members enjoy each other's company. We had dinner out twice last year, once at Little Saigon and another was a potluck dinner with our spouses.

The Management Committee is a dedicated group of people. 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.

I would also like to acknowledge the volunteers who continue to contribute in other ways. We are extremely grateful for the ideas and support we continue to receive from the community.

NESE's Key Messages are:-

- Planning for secondary education in North East Christchurch must involve local input to achieve the best long term outcome.
- Education planning must be based on robust, evidence based data.
- Our local communities are determined to achieve a local secondary school.
- A local secondary school would stimulate and support the rebuild of our community.
- NESE advocates for school zones and catchments which do not cross arterial roads and for primary school zones that fall inside a secondary school zone where possible.
- Any charter school proposed should be additional to a strong and comprehensive state education network

Amanda Williams
Chairperson