

The North East Secondary Education Committee (NESE) was established in 2008. Our role is to advocate on behalf of families for secondary education in North East Christchurch. Our recommendations are made after consultation and aim to meet the majority of the community's needs. NESE's Management Committee members are all parents and grandparents from the local community.

NESE considers the provision of a local secondary school in North East Christchurch is still a priority. A local secondary school would provide stability for families and businesses in the area, while catering for the growing subdivision developments.

#### NESE's Key Messages

- Our local community is determined to achieve a local secondary school.
- Secondary education planning must involve local input to achieve the best long term outcome.
- A local secondary school would support the rebuild of our community.
- School zones and catchments should not cross arterial roads. Primary school zones should fall inside a secondary school zone where possible.

#### Education Renewal in Greater Christchurch

NESE made a strong submission on secondary education to the Ministry of Education in April 2013. We believe our proposals and recommendations fitted in well with the Ministry's stated objectives. Copies of our submission were also sent to our database, local MPs, City Councillors, the media, local residents' associations and real estate agents. In October Minister of Education Hon Hekia Parata announced that all Christchurch secondary schools would be retained. Some of the points made in NESE's submission were reflected in the announcements. These include prioritising access for local students to local schools, as well as new enrolment schemes to maximise access to both single sex and co-educational secondary schools.

#### Education Lobbying

During the year we corresponded and met with other decision makers in the Ministry of Education. These include Peter Hughes the Secretary of Education; Peter Walsh the Strategy and Planning Manager for the education renewal team in Christchurch and Karen Sewell Consultant to the Ministry. Our ideas have been heard and generated good discussion. We feel encouraged to hold onto our dream of a local secondary school.

#### 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 MPs, Christchurch City Councillors; Burwood Pegasus Community Board members; as well as local school principals and other business and community leaders. We have benefited greatly from their advice and encouragement. Our community has a strong desire to rebuild and enhance the infrastructure in North East Christchurch, which includes vision a for local secondary education.

#### Partnership Schools

Legislation providing for partnership schools was passed in 2013. Amanda Williams had a comprehensive exchange of ideas with Catherine Isaac Chair of the Charter Schools/Partnership Schools Working Group. NESE's position on partnership schools is that we're keen to talk to anyone interested in developing secondary education in North East Christchurch. However, the Committee feels that any proposed charter school or partnership school should be additional to a strong and comprehensive state education network.

### Marketing and Publicity

NESE has engaged our community on the issue of a local secondary school. We want to hear people's ideas and we believe everyone should have an opportunity to have their say. We undertook three major marketing activities in 2013. These were great opportunities to promote the concept of a local secondary school to new people and to candidates standing for office.

1) The Parklands Mid-Winter Fun Expo in June attracted 2-3000 visitors. Committee members talked to people constantly for nearly three hours at NESE's stall. We conducted a survey of attendees. Our survey questions revealed figures similar to past years. Families prefer children to get to school by either walking or biking; co-ed secondary education is the preferred option over single sex; and having our children attend secondary school in our own community is highly valued and what most families want for their children.

2) Local Body Candidate Forum 10 September. NESE hosted this forum for the local body candidates on the topic of "Secondary Education, Water Parks and other issues affecting North East Christchurch". 86 people attended. Chris Lynch did an excellent job as MC and gave his time free of charge. 18 candidates attended. We had good feedback from meeting attendees and candidates.

3) By-Election Candidate Forum 12 November. The topic was "Secondary education, employment, recreational facilities and optimizing natural resources". Eight candidates spoke and answered questions. 120 people attended the event. Chris Lynch was the MC again. Feedback from candidates and the audience was that it was well run and a good worthwhile event.

NESE is supported by about 1000 families and individuals subscribed to our email newsletter. We sent a newsletter to our subscribers in May, as well as invitations to the forums. The Christchurch Mail wrote an article on NESE's education submission in April; one on NESE's local body election Forum in September and about NESE's By-election Forum in November. Newstalk ZB gave us good publicity with community notices promoting the by-election forum. They also mentioned the forum during morning show and posted information on their Facebook page. NESE's website was updated during the year with new FAQs, the April education submission and recent media articles. Our Facebook page is a good tool for distributing short messages quickly.

### Fundraising

There were no specific fundraising activities in 2013. We received some donations at our forums. The year's expenses were paid with money raised in 2010. Fundraising will need to be undertaken this year. We would welcome donations to assist with NESE's 2014 expenses. NESE is a registered charity so donations of \$5.00 or more are tax deductible.

### NESE's Management Committee 2013

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.

Amanda Williams - Chairperson

Greg Morehouse - Vice Chairperson

Angela Wilson - Secretary

Kerri Rowlands - Treasurer

Committee Members Aaron Gilmore, Rae Mills, and Elissa Smith.

### Community Support

The Committee members would all like to thank and acknowledge the many supporters who share information with us and contribute in other ways. We are extremely grateful for the ideas and support we continue to receive from the community.

Amanda Williams  
Chairperson