

25. MAIREHAU HIGH SCHOOL - PROPOSED RELOCATION

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Development	

The purpose of this report is to advise Board members of the proposal to relocate Mairehau High School from its present site in Hills Road to a site east of Marshland Road.

BACKGROUND

Members of the Mairehau High School Board of Trustees and the Principal Neil Lancaster met with the Mayor and representatives of the Shirley/Papanui and Burwood/Pegasus Boards on 25 August to seek Council support for the proposal of the school to relocate to a site east of Marshland Road.

The meeting was attended by local Members of Parliament Lianne Dalziel and Tim Barnett. Chrissie Williams and Carole Evans attended on behalf of the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board and Ingrid Stonhill and Dennis Hills on behalf of the Shirley/Papanui Community Board.

A press release (attached) issued by the Mairehau High School Board of Trustees and the Ministry of Education on 26 May 2000 outlines reasons for the proposal.

The Council's support for the proposal is being sought as the school's community consultation proceeds.

ISSUES TO CONSIDER

The School Principal and Board members drew the meeting's attention to the following.

1. The present buildings at the Hills Road site are in need of a major upgrade. They were built in the 1960s, are expensive to maintain and do not meet the needs of a modern high school, preparing students to live and work in the 21st century.
2. Since 1996, the school's roll has grown rapidly (1996:485; 2000:671). It is the fastest growing school in Christchurch.
3. Over 60% of the school's students live east of Marshland Road and a large proportion of the roll growth has come from this area. This pattern is likely to continue.
4. For many years people living east of Marshland Road have complained about the lack of a high school in their community. The Ministry of Education has sold land designated for a school in this area.
5. Projections for Christchurch over the next decade indicate that roll growth can be absorbed within the present Christchurch high schools. Therefore no new high schools are planned. The relocation of the Mairehau High School would fit this scenario.

The School Board of Trustees considers that a relocated school would:

- meet the needs of the area east of Marshland Road where there is currently no high school;
- overcome Mairehau High School's present development problems on its Hills Road site.;
- provide the city with a unique educational opportunity.

This would be the only new state high school to be built in the South Island in the foreseeable future. It would be:

- purpose built for its community.
- designed for information technology based learning.
- an answer to the long-standing problem of inappropriately located high school opportunities in northeast Christchurch.

Some sites east of Christchurch are being considered but will be subject to property negotiation.

At this stage the Community Boards' and Council support is sought to give further strength to the proposal.

The meeting advised that the proposal is supported by the contributing schools to Mairehau High School (both east and west of Marshland Road).

- Recommendations:**
1. That the Burwood/Pegasus and Shirley/Papanui Community Boards support in principle the proposed relocation of the Mairehau High School to the east of Marshland Road.
 2. That a letter be forwarded to the Mairehau High School Board of Trustees and the Ministry of Education to advise of this support.

For discussion