

Media Release 22 April 2010

On Wednesday 21 April the North East Secondary Education (NESE) Committee presented their case for a local high school to the Education and Science Select Committee.

Aaron Gilmore MP presented the petition and proposal. The community of North East Christchurch was represented by eight NESE Committee members who travelled to Wellington for this meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Trevor Mallard. He took a keen interest in the issue being familiar with the area's historic struggle to achieve a local high school. During the presentation MPs were receptive to the social benefits of a local high school for the local community as well as adjacent communities. The Select Committee took a strong interest in the large number of children attending local primary schools.

The case for a local high school is focused around issues of pupil numbers, community social needs and environmental sustainability.

The Select Committee was impressed with NESE Committee's preparation, presentation and knowledge. The Select Committee agreed that the need for a new high school was becoming evident.

Local Ministry of Education representatives were present to answer the Select Committee's questions. The Select Committee has asked the Ministry of Education for more detailed information on some points.

The Select Committee will consider all the information and make its recommendations to Minister of Education Anne Tolley in the weeks that follow.

NESE and MOE representatives will meet in the near future.

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NESE is a sub-committee of the Parklands Residents Association.