



Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP
Minister for Education, Training and Employment

09 OCT 2013

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

Neil,

I refer to Petition 2168-13 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 11 September 2013 regarding the community consultation process used by Atherton State High School in applying to become an Independent Public School (IPS).

The Government is committed to open and transparent communication with all school communities. As part of the Department of Education, Training and Employment's Expression of Interest (EOI) process, all schools applying to participate in the IPS initiative are required to indicate the consultation that occurred with the school community. The EOI is an extensive document through which the school must demonstrate:

- that consultation has occurred across stakeholder groups;
- the school's capacity to assume greater responsibility for its affairs;
- the potential benefits for students and the broader school community; and
- the innovative educational programs or practices that the school will implement to improve student performance.

I am informed that Mr Tony Whybird, Principal, Atherton State High School, has conducted a comprehensive consultation process to allow public input into the process and I understand the school's application has received support from the community, parents and students. I also acknowledge that this support may not be unanimous across all members of the community.

The school has confirmed that consultation opportunities and activities were shared with parents through a number of channels including the school's eNewsletter, P&C meetings, parent, staff and student meetings, community forums, and the local newspaper.

The partnership between parents and schools in helping to enrich learning opportunities for students is invaluable, as is the continued fostering of positive relationships with staff at Atherton State High School.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me and trust this response addresses their concerns.

Yours sincerely

JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP
Minister for Education, Training and Employment