

22 March 2019

Dear Nikki,

ATKINSON IS UNSUITABLE | SECURING OF ROSELLA AS INTERIM SOLUTION

Situation

1. On Monday 18 March 2019 Ministry officials presented us with a choice; Atkinson or close.
2. You intervened, and on Tuesday 19 March 2019 Minister Hipkins directed the Ministry to work with Rosella Road to find a better solution for Term 2 2019.
3. On Thursday 21 March 2019 you stood with us at Atkinson Avenue.
 - (a) You viewed first-hand the hostile environment. You experienced the assault to the senses. Atkinson Avenue contravenes the Health and Safety Act 2015. The Ministry does not have assurances that internal, external physical and emotional wellbeing, plus quality learning for our young children can be successfully managed by Term 2.
 - (b) You heard the anguish in our parent and board's voices. They were sure that this insult would not be imposed on a high decile school.

Complication

4.

5. On Monday, the Ministry said:
 - (a) The Ministry's support stops with providing an acceptable infrastructure, and that it is the EBOT's job to manage the safety of the children and whanau
 - (b) They did not bring the requested independent expanded Health and Safety report including the emotional and physical wellbeing of students referenced in the Act. The Ministry did not have the results of this report when they decided on Atkinson. (We have attached our initial Health and Safety concerns).

(c) Further, Mr Giller said it was our lack of engagement that was hindering the project completion date.

6. On Thursday, you commented on the difference between Minister, Ministry and Rise UP accounts of events. The Ministry property team appear to be actively subverting the process.

(a) Monday's assertions by the Ministry that 'all we have to do is work together to find a solution' fell flat. You were expecting Sandra Orr. We were expecting Maxim. When phoned during the tour, Mr Giller said that they had only agreed to send someone who could open the door.

(b) On the Atkinson tour, new contradicting information was presented by the Ministry attendee. (See Rise UP Site Visit Minutes). This is yet another example of Ministry miscommunication.

7. The landlord at Rosella has had a signed ECE Agreement to Lease since January. Terms are for 10 years at \$400,000 p.a. He has delayed commencing ground works for this lease, to support Rise UP's quest to only inhabit a property that the EBOT can fulfil their duties as PCBU.

Resolution

8.

(a) The solution is to abandon the pointless waste of money and time in attempting to convert Atkinson Ave to something it will never be.

(b) Move quickly to clear the way for Rise UP to continue on the Rosella Rd site which has already been proven to serve the school well. The Ministry haven't provided us with 2018's structural Health and Safety report from Rosella. The Ministry have allowed Rise UP, as a state school, to remain at Rosella in Term 1 2019. To date, the Ministry have not signalled to Rise UP that there are health and safety concerns pertaining to Rosella Road. Rosella meets the emotional and physical wellbeing needs of students in the interim, until a bigger site can be procured.

(c) Direct the Ministry to provide review and provide analysis on the difficulties of other sites. They need to provide culturally competent property advisors to work with the several potential sites in our neighbourhood to provide a site that accomodates more than 100 pupils for future roll growth.

Conclusion

9. We are so proud of our parents, who, after benefiting from our whanau mentoring project, are demonstrating their participation and connection to the NZ Education system. They show resilience and adaptability. Together, we are raising leaders, one child at a time.

10. In 2018, during the teacher's industrial strikes, Minister Hipkins stood beside Prime Minister Ardern, as she thanked teachers for their service. She told teachers, "There is no you and us. There is only us. And if there is only us, that means that we have to take on board every challenge that you've raised."

Thank you for keeping our shared vision rolling, by fighting with us to continue raising leaders one child at a time. We are improving education outcomes for our 100% Maori and Pasifika learning community.

Yours faithfully,

Sita Selupe MNZM

Principal

Rise UP Academy