

Hon Chris Hipkins
Education - Minister
State Services - Minister
Leader of the House
Ministerial Services - Minister Responsible
WELLINGTON

16 November 2018

Dear Minister,

This is an alert.

In the ethic of no surprises I write on behalf of the Rise Up EBOT to inform and alert you that today: (A) three parents have withdrawn their children from enrolment in our new State School; (B) some of our existing charter school teachers who would be good additions to the new school staff plan to end their service without seeking re-employment.

This situation arose today after a 6:00PM fono meeting yesterday which we (EBOT) called to meet the parents and their families and discuss our plan to move from our current location to Atkinson Avenue in Otahuhu (1.5KM away). That meeting was attended by our full EBOT. At our invitation Ministry of Education officials Messrs Rob Giller and Richard Nowland very kindly attended. We expected resistance and criticism from some parents and teachers.

In last night's one hour meeting our EBOT and Messrs Giller & Nowland were clear: we have one option; we must move. We were explicit about the genesis and circumstances of today's situation – circumstances and parties beyond the control of both the Ministry and the outgoing Rise Up Trust have combined despite our efforts to reduce choice to a single option.

From today's first and second hand reports the criticism appears to be: (1) our EBOT and its preceding Rise Up Trust Board are criticised for not doing enough (with respect to which specific objectives is unclear at the moment); (2) the Ministry officials have not provided sufficient documentation to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the students at Atkinson Avenue.

We have also had reports that some parents and/or disaffected supporters will go to the media if they get no satisfaction from our EBOT. It is important to record here that our EBOT is not and has not been in complete agreement with the Ministry officials from time to time. Our EBOT knows they are doing a terrific job overall under adverse conditions. As this situation is new and unfolding I reiterate that this letter is an alert only – to keep you informed. Our EBOT will continue to do all that is necessary with help from your officials.

With thanks and appreciations.



Sally Ikinofu
Chairperson
Rise UP Academy EBOT