



Meeting Summary - 26 October 2018 - Rise UP Academy EBOT

Richard Nowland

Thu, Nov 8, 2018 at 5:21 PM

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Hi Sita,

Below is a summary of the meeting held on 26 October. Rather than minutes we have put forward the main discussion points of the meeting and summarised the actions to be taken following the meeting. Could you please provide the name of your parent representative that attended so I can add this to the list of attendees.

Attendees:

Ministry of Education: Sandra Orr, Yvette Guttenbeil-Po'uhila, Selio Solomon, Richard Nowland;

Rise UP Academy: Sally Ikinofu (EBOT Chair), Sita Selupe (Principal), Uluomatootua Aiono, (please provide name of parent representative);

Property for Rise UP Academy for 2019

After an extensive property search the Ministry have secured a lease for L2, 36-40 Atkinson Ave. This was the only property that met the brief established on 2 July that could be guaranteed to be available at the beginning of Term 1 2019. It is suitable and legally able to operate a primary school of 100 students from.

The interior of the premises can be configured to meet the needs of delivering Rise UP Academy's unique educational character. The floor space is approximately 700m² with excellent natural light. While it is not typical for a primary school to operate from a commercially leased premises the Ministry has a number of other educational facilities operating from commercially leased premises; e.g. some Health Schools, Special Schools, as well as other primary schools operating in multi-level buildings. The interior space (classrooms and admin areas) will ultimately be very similar to that of a primary school operating from more conventional property arrangements.

The Ministry acknowledges that if more time had been available, or if the Rise UP Trust had previously been able to secure the school's existing premises on a longer term basis, a different option may have become available.

82 Wyllie Road

The proposal made to the Elders of the Manakau Pacific Islanders Presbyterian Church (Samoan Group) Incorporated was to lease approximately 1 hectare of land at the road frontage of 82 Wyllie Road. The Elders considered the Ministry's proposal and made a counter offer of approximately one third the land area. Due to the associated risks of a smaller and potentially unsuitable area of land, securing a ground lease, and being granted legal approval to operate at Wyllie Road it was determined that the Ministry's efforts should be put into securing the available option of L2, 36-40 Atkinson Ave. 82 Wyllie Road has not been precluded from further consideration. We could not make any commitments at this meeting about this or any other specific property being the long term home for Rise UP Academy.

26 Rosella Road:

The Ministry is responsible for the provision of the education schooling network and is providing Level 2 of 36-40 Atkinson Ave. The Ministry actively sought engagement with the owners of Rosella Road to enter into negotiations for a lease on this property. On the first occasion in July the potential owner declined and on all subsequent attempts the owner did not engage with any of our requests to discuss a lease.

In a meeting on 6 September Richard Nowland and Spyros Vatselias advised the Rise UP Trust board members and Sita Selupe that any engagement by the Rise UP Trust and 22 Rosella Road owner would a) be to establish a line of communication with the property owner as the Ministry could not contact them and, 2) the Trust did not have the Ministry's authority to act on its behalf and any discussion with the landlord about a lease should be managed directly by the Ministry. Referring again to 26 Oct meeting – the EBOT advised the Ministry that the Rise UP Trust had negotiated an arrangement, somewhere between a verbal and written agreement to lease, with the owner of 26 Rosella Road. The EBOT were advised that the Ministry did not have any control over the actions of the Rise UP Trust but advised that the Trust should not proceed with any lease for Rosella Road. The Ministry agreed to consider the potential of using Rosella Road as a temporary contingency if L2, 36-40 Atkinson Ave was not ready in time for Term 1.

Discussions with Rise UP Academy Parents & Community

The EBOT has a responsibility and opportunity to present the premises being provided to Rise UP Academy as the best place to deliver its special educational character. Level 2 of 36-40 Atkinson Ave represents an opportunity for Rise UP Academy to make a positive step forward and the EBOT and school leadership should be proactive in communicating this to its community.

Concerns regarding 36-40 Atkinson Ave

The EBOT raised several concerns they have about the Atkinson Ave premises and location:

Main concerns raised by EBOT
Learning environment
Drop-off – pick-up area and internal site traffic
Traffic on main road
Play area. No grass or green area.
The interior of the premises is an impediment for special learning and special learning styles
Internal noise levels from all students and staff being on same level
Diminished parent interest
Staff wellbeing, recruitment and retention
Co-locating with potentially high risk students from Pacific Advance Secondary School
Environmental effects
Parents cars and parking
Junk food establishments and signage in vicinity of premises
Visitors won't get parking
Community perceptions against Rise UP Academy for not going to Wyllie Road

The Ministry agreed to separate these concerns into categories of responsibility. The potential of resolving each concern can then be assessed and if deemed resolvable mitigations for the concerns can then be discussed.

Key issues and actions:

Rise UP Academy EBOT requests:

- use of ground floor premises; and
- a commitment from the Ministry that all reasonable steps to confirm Rise UP's permanent location will be as soon as possible; and
- that the school operates from Rosella Road until it is satisfied all health and safety issues at the Atkinson Ave premises are resolved to their satisfaction.

Final comments:

The Ministry are committed to working with the Rise UP Academy to ensure that Level 2, 36-40 Atkinson Ave property meets all agreed requirements.

The Ministry will respond to the concerns raised by the EBOT in a subsequent letter.

As discussed previously this week both Rob Giller and I will attend the whanau fono on Thursday 15 November.

If you have any comments on the above please let me know.

Kind regards

Richard

Richard Nowland | Programme Manager – Property – Partnership Schools Transition | Consultant

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We get the job done *Ka oti i a mātou ngā mahi*

We are respectful, we listen, we learn *He rōpū manaaki, he rōpū whakarongo, he rōpū ako mātou*

We back ourselves and others to win *Ka manawanui ki a mātou, me ētahi ake kia wīkitoria*

We work together for maximum impact *Ka mahi ngātahi mō te tukinga nui tonu*

Great results are our bottom line *Ko ngā huanga lino pai ā mātou whāinga mutunga*



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