

Submission
No 92

INQUIRY INTO THE BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION PROGRAM

Organisation: Bonalbo Central School
Name: Mr Laurie Lawrence
Position: Teacher
Date received: 7/06/2010

From: "Lawrence, Laurie" <l
To: "gpscno2@parliament.nsw.gov.au" <gpscno2@parlia...
Date: 6/7/2010 10:01 am
Subject: BER Bonalbo Central School

CC:
The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam,

Attached is an email/letter that was sent to the project manager for the science building at Bonalbo Central School on Thursday 3/6/10. To date their has been no reply.

The science facility will be a tremendous addition to Bonalbo Central School. However, with a few changes, it could have been much better. The underlying problem is that it would appear that the school is not considered as the client.

A change of policy/guidelines would improve the outcomes of such programs in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Laurie Lawrence
Science teacher Bonalbo Central School

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain
privileged information or confidential information or both. If you
are not the intended recipient please delete it and notify the sender.

Barbara Beir,

Re: The New Science Facility at Bonalbo Central School

Benefits

The construction of the science building at Bonalbo Central School is nearing completion. This will be a great facility with teaching space, laboratory space, safety features and energy conservation etc. The surroundings will be landscaped and the building will be linked to the rest of the school with covered walkways. It will have the latest access to technology, including such things as an interactive white board.

Who Is The Client? (for a project such as this?)

It should be noted that BCS is a small school in a low socio-economic area. The school therefore attracts extra funding which, amongst other things, facilitates smaller classes. This means more teacher time for students with higher needs, and a reasonable range of senior subjects can be offered.

More classes need more classrooms but the building formula does not recognise this and some classes are at present conducted in a crowded Science preparation room or conference room or library (which others need to use).

The new lab will be beneficial; it has a teaching space, laboratory space and seminar room. *At times there will be a class in each of these simultaneously.*

BCS will have two laboratories; one in the older brick building. Management would be much easier if they were both in the same building rather than transporting fragile or dangerous goods between buildings across the busiest walkway in the school grounds.

Request was made for both rooms as laboratories. Answer: NO

Request was made for another external door on the Western side. (Access to the laboratory space is via the teaching space. Also the regulation two exits from the lab are both in the same corner; not good if this is the location of a fire) **Answer: NO**

Request was made for an extra internal door. (Getting from the staffroom to the teaching or laboratory space can only be done by going outside. Indeed, also through the teaching space to get to the laboratory) **Answer: NO**

CLEARLY; Bonalbo Central School is not the client. A client would expect consideration from the project managers re the issues above.

Who Should Be The Client?

The basic building cost, including internals, is about \$1.1 million. The budget for the project was \$2million.

Remaining was \$898,000. The old lab is to be converted to a library/English room. The second lab needs repairs. These tasks would use some funds. The school had to choose a range of related projects such as landscaping, shade structures, pathways to utilise the remaining funds.

Ultimately the end user is the student. The student receives the lessons. The interactive whiteboard will add to some lessons, but students may expect more of the new facility.

Request was made for approx \$20,000 worth of data loggers and probes. These are highly accurate scientific instruments. It is mandatory that students are exposed to them. They facilitate high quality scientific investigations. This would mean something special for the student. **Answer: NO**

CLEARLY; Bonalbo Central School students are not the client. They have a right to expect something special from such an investment.

Who Is The Client?

For whose benefit are the decisions being made? Whoever they are, they must be the client. Should they be the client?

I await your response to the issues above; especially the data loggers. Of course, you are not obliged to provide such a service as it would appear that we are not your client. However, we do wonder who could provide advice as to who the client is. They would need to be informed.

Thanking you,

Laurie Lawrence
(Science Teacher)

Narelle Gray
(Science Teacher)

Lyn Amos
(Science Laboratory Assistant)