

Submission
No 41

INQUIRY INTO CLOSURE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Mel Parr
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Partially Confidential

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in relation to my experience at Murrami Public School.

Two of my children were attending the school at the time that the announcement was made in regards to the amalgamation. I have another child who was due to start in 2015 and another in 2016.

The meeting requesting all parents attend was extremely confronting and straight to the point. There was nothing we could say or do to stop the amalgamation. We were led to believe it was for the best. We were pretty much offered whatever we requested in their attempt to win us over. Parents heartstrings were pulled at and, quite frankly, we were manipulated.

The whole situation would never have reached what it did if the school had of had a different principal. As a previous member of the school's P & C, we had only been told that if we couldn't get the numbers up, we would lose either teachers and/or resources.

When the community meeting took place to update the locals of the situation, the principal, was quite rude in his manner and dodged many questions. Many went unanswered.

It is my belief and the belief of many that the amalgamation should not have occurred as early as it did. Many people asked the question of what we could do to stop it and we were given the very short answer of "Nothing!!" It has been said that there was sufficient consultation with the community. There was none. It was a statement, not a question of "What can we do to prevent this from happening?"

My third child did not attend Transition as I didn't feel it was right to transition her at a school that would not exist when she started school.

I originally chose to send my children to a school in town. However, when I called to organise the enrolments, I was told that the Dept. of Education had advised the school that applications for enrolment were not to be accepted without the parent first speaking to the principal of the previous school. I could not hand in my applications.

I do not like dealing with . I find him to be arrogant. He tries to speak down to people as if he is talking to a child. I have had many dealings with him and the majority have ended badly. He instantly gets his back up and is defensive. He does not see things from any angle bar his own.

I only chose to send my children to Murrami as I liked the small school environment and didn't want my kids to be lost in the system.

As for Adrian Piccoli, he is no better than His article in the newspaper was pathetic. Put him in the shoes of the parents from Murrumbidgee, and I can assure you he would feel very different.

Whitton Public is not as close as he has said. Everything is not peachy like and Adrian are making it out to be. The behaviour of most Murrumbidgee kids has changed dramatically. Most have changed for the worse.

The manner in which the uncalled for amalgamation occurred is disgusting and disrespectful to the children, parents and Murrumbidgee community. would not even attempt to run the school on a trial basis as one teacher. He only pushed for the amalgamation as it placed him in a higher ranking permanent position.

I do not feel, at any point in the process, that the children, parents and wider community were even a consideration. Protocol and legislation were breached and everything was rushed.

People need to be held accountable for their actions. , Adrian Piccoli and the Department of Education are a disappointment and have let many people

down. The fact that they don't seem to give a crap is disgusting. They should be ashamed of themselves.

There is many secrets as to why Murrami was closed and why the decision was rushed and any other circumstances pertaining to its closure. Murrami will become a ghost town. People will not stay as there is virtually nothing out here.

As is, I have made the decision for my children to change schools to a school that is closer, regardless of there being no bus.

Disgusting! Disgraceful! Disconnected!

Yours truly,
Melanie Parr