



Speech by

Michael Choi

MEMBER FOR CAPALABA

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CAPALABA STATE SCHOOL; CAPALABA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr CHOI (Capalaba—ALP) (11.20 p.m.): I am pleased to advise the House that Capalaba State School and Capalaba State High School in my electorate of Capalaba will be amalgamated into a P-12 campus in 2005. I went to visit Capalaba State High School in 2001, just before I was elected as the member for Capalaba. It was a fine school with suitable facilities, but it did not take long for me to realise that there was something not quite right with the school. The teachers were great, but there seemed to be a lack of direction. The students were committed but they did not seem to have any sense of pride in the school. In fact, parent participation in the school P&C was extremely poor. Public perception of the school was also below average.

I knew there was fundamentally nothing wrong with the school but certainly public perception needed to be changed. I invited the then minister for education, Dean Wells, in February 2001 to visit the school, and I am grateful for his visit which helped to lift the profile of the school. In late 2001 the school was fortunate to have a new principal, Mrs Kris Holme. I have seen this fine principal at work in the last two years and she has certainly turned the school around. Teachers now have a clear sense of direction. Students take pride in their school, in their uniform and in their work. Parents' participation has also increased. Every time I go to the school there is a strong sense of optimism in the air.

Having a new captain at the helm, however, is not sufficient to turn around the tide of change as far as demographic changes are concerned in my electorate. Both the primary and secondary schools are losing enrolments. The schools need a major infrastructure change. The district manager of Education Queensland, the principals of both schools and I believe a P-12 arrangement is the solution to the problem. It is a bold step for the school. I have carried out some consultation with parents, and I have found that the absolute majority of them welcome the idea.

I believe the establishment of such a P-12 campus at Capalaba, by amalgamating Capalaba State High School and Capalaba State School, would provide the opportunity to develop a cohesive preparatory to P-12 education program, and a combined enrolment would be possibly 1,100 students. A geographic proximity and close link between the two existing schools in terms of common family provide an ideal context. Public confidence in local public education will be rejuvenated, I believe, by allowing the leadership structures across both schools to provide curriculum continuity and a united vision for the school environment. The high school and the state school cover close to 20 hectares, with the two sites separated simply by a fence. I am looking forward to the day when I can help the students and the principal to tear down the fence and provide the good people in my electorate with a P-12 school arrangement.