

Question on Notice

No. 508

Asked on 6 June 2014

Ms D'ath asked the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (Mr Langbroek) –

QUESTION:

With reference to recent media revelations that the Queensland Government has been in negotiations with St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace regarding the sale of a block of land that had been committed to Brisbane Central State School—

Will the Minister advise (a) the date of the first contact between the government and St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace regarding the future of the land, (b) a detailed list of all contact between the school and the government (including meetings, emails, letters and phone calls), (c) details of all contact between the Minister or his office and the Member for Brisbane Central regarding representations on behalf of or in the interests of the college, (d) the results of any valuations on the land (net present value and/or market value) and (e) whether the government will honour its commitment to transfer the land to Brisbane Central State School, which is currently overcrowded as a result of the Newman Government's decision to close and sell the Fortitude Valley State School?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question.

While I appreciate the Member's interest in Brisbane Central State School, it would be inappropriate for me to waste the resources of my Department, and my office, in conducting a fishing exercise based on a conspiracy theory.

Should the Member wish to obtain documentation, I would suggest she follow the appropriate avenues through the Right to Information process. As she would know, all Ministerial meetings are released monthly because we are an open and transparent Government.

In regard to the facility arrangements for Brisbane Central State School, my Department is conducting a Master Planning process for schools within the Brisbane Central area. This plan will determine the requirements for schools.

Unlike the Labor Government, the Newman Government is planning for the future. We have established the Schools Planning Commission to accurately map demographic demand for new schools in this state, so that we can allocate resources in the most efficient way.

Brisbane Central State school will receive a \$1 million boost to refurbish the Queensland Health Building purchased by my Department. This will give the school capacity for up to 400 students — a total not likely to be realised for some years.

While I will not rule out arrangements for the future use of the land, I can assure the Member that as a Government we will be continuing to work with all of our school communities to ensure our facilities are managed appropriately and contribute to positive learning environments for students.