

I firstly like to thank John Barilaro, Department of Education and the Bungendore High School Action Group and others have to worked tirelessly to make this project become closer to a reality. It will be a huge asset to our community and an invaluable development for our high school students, no longer having to travel long distances for their education.

The school design looks exciting, compact yet practical and space has been used efficiently. Having the site and floor plans to observe now, are helpful in visualising the space and good to see a variety of outdoor spaces to be used.

There are a couple of items I wish to highlight:

Joint administration building – I think it is important that the ‘front office’ of the primary school should remain in its existing space. The distance between the classrooms and new joint admin building is considerable and not practical for primary students needing to visit the office for messages, check in and out for late arrivals and early departures. I would be concerned for the safety of the infant children having to crossing the road to go to the sick bay for example. Even if most of the staff provisions are moved to the new building, a ‘front office’ needs to be kept in its existing site.

The proposed design of the new admin building having a front reception, as well as a separate high school student entrance, is a good plan.

Student access to the oval during breaks – The latest information suggests that the students will not have access to the oval during their lunch and recess breaks. I highly recommend this is reviewed, as it is important that those students, who enjoy ball games and athletics, have access to burn off their energy during their breaks. The oval has very limited use during school hours by the public. The observed community use is during the weekends, early morning fitness and in the afternoon/evenings for sports training.

With the development of our local sports hub over the near future, the use of this oval during the day will become even less and potentially even on the weekends, as clubs move to the better facilities.

As students are an important part of our community, and the future of its development, I think they should have full access of the oval during school time.

School Hall/Gymnasium – The latest information suggest that the high school students will use the primary hall for any performances/concerts. It is disappointing that there have not been made provisions for a stage, audio/lighting setup and backstage in the high school hall as the primary hall doesn’t not have these provisions either. The primary hall stage acoustics are not favourable and for reason, it is not used for any musical performances other than class items.

Currently the primary school has a huge music talent and many students have represented the school in the annual District Art Festival, Choral Festival, and Sydney Instrumental Festival at the Sydney Opera House. The school holds a successful ‘Bungendore’s Got Talent’ show every year and the string students are involved in Bungendore Youth Orchestra. Drumming, recorder, guitar and ukulele lessons are given to primary students at different years.

It would be a missed opportunity to not foster, and provide the needed facilities, for these talents as we can finally keep these students in our community, rather than being dispersed to various school come year seven. To provide a sound room, dressing/backstage and stage would be a huge

advantage to these students. A sound room could also be used to encourage other arts such as pod casting, filming and recording.

Having a proper facility available to the community for performances if something missing from our community.

A big thank you in appreciation for the work so far and look forward to the construction phase next year.

Rose Ernst