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Batlagae Trust

Sacred Heart Colllege Planning Group

Barnato Park Management

Please give the following documents carefully
consideration for the next round of meetings to be held
this week :

1. The Sacred Heart - Batlagae - Barnato Park Project
2. Agenda for the week.
3. Proposed letter to Director of Education, TED.
4. Proposed letter to parents of SHC.

All the above documents are of a highly confidential
. nature .

SACRED HEART-BATLAGAE-BARNATO PARK PROJECT

(CONFIDENTIAL)

The following proposal is put forward for consideration after two meetings attended by members of the Board of Governors, the planning group of Sacred Heart College, the Batlagae Trust, and parent representatives of the Sacred Heart College pre-school. Experience over the past year in endeavouring to find adequate placement for the returnee students has taught us that we need to plan on a very confidential basis. While the controlling bodies of institutions in which the students are to be placed need to be fully consulted, the wider communities attached to those institutions need to be informed only on a "need-to-know" basis.

The proposal has the following advantages

- (1) in the various instances the number of returnee students is considerably lower than the local students,
- (ii) it should go a long way in allaying the fears of the parents of the Sacred Heart College pre-school,
- (iii) it provides a long term solution for the returnee students in the Johannesburg area at present of primary and pre-school age,
- (iv) it consolidates a SHC-Barnato Park-Yeoville nexus in control of education in the area, to be broadened through further negotiations around strategic sites.

AGENDA FOR WEEK 5 - 9 OCTOBER 1992

1. 5 OCTOBER 1992 : Meeting of SHC Planning Group to consider the proposal.

Presentation of proposal to Barnato Park Management.

2. 8 OCTOBER 1992 : Meeting of Batlagae Trust to consider proposal.

3. 9 OCTOBER 1992 : Letter sent to the Director of Education, TED.

SACRED HEART - BATLAGAE - BARNATO PARK PROJECT
(COFIDENTIAL)

PROPOSAL FOR DISCUSSION

(Sacred Heart College Planning Group (NJM, MTW, JW, BW, and DB), Batlagae Trust, Barnato Park Management)

First Phase

1.

The grade 1 and grade 2 classes of Sacred Heart College are accommodated on the Observatory campus from January 1993. In the classrooms and administrative offices vacated a two-stream junior primary phase (grade 1-standard 1) of the new school be established. This will accommodate all the returnees in the junior primary, who will still be in the minority. Batlagae helps with R300 000 to fray part of the the costs in 1992 to create the space on the Observatory campus. There will be sufficient office space for Batlagae Trust at Yeoville.

Two special remedial classes be created in Sacred Heart College senior primary department to accommodate the standard 2 - standard 4 returnees together with some students from Sacred Heart College. Batlagae funds one teacher and Sacred Heart College the other.

A standard 5 class be created at Barnato Park High School as part of its bridge programme. Batlagae Trust funds one teacher at Barnato Park, also to help with possible standard six students needing extra assistance. Standard six returnees are accommodated at Barnato Park.

Phase 2

1.

Funds are raised in 1993 to create a pre-school on the Observatory campus, or to take over a government school to house the pre-school.

The community school at Yeoville then adds on its senior primary phase which will bring in the students from the Sacred Heart College senior primary special classes together with other local students. The two teachers funded by Batlagae also transfer to the community school.

Dr K Paine
Director of Education
Dear Dr Paine

After deliberations with the Batlagae Trust, and also having consulted with our teaching staff and parent community, the Board of Governors of Sacred Heart College would like to set up with the Batlagae Trust a model C primary school on its Yeoville campus. We would like you to convey this request to the Minister.

A very constructive meeting and far-reaching discussions on the provision of education in the area were held with the Inspector of Education and a representative of the Johannesburg East school board.

As previously suggested, the plan will entail a phased withdrawal of Sacred Heart College students from the Yeoville campus over a period of two years. Having taken careful note of the main needs, we would like to begin the new school with a two-stream junior primary phase in January 1993 (Grade 1 to Standard 1, possibly starting with Grade 0), and then adding on the senior primary phase in 1994. The anticipated enrolment in 1993 will be between 170 to 200 students. The final enrolment will be 400 to 450 students. After consultations and careful planning, we have managed to create temporary placement for 1993 for the senior primary students in special Classes to be set up in other schools.

The Management of Sacred Heart College and the Batlagae Trust will staff the new school, enrol students, and set up of the management council or governing body, all in accordance with the regulations set out by the department.

We take this opportunity to thank you for your assistance and we look forward to working closely with your department in this venture.

Yours sincerely
(For Board of Governors of Sacred Heart College)
(For Batlagae Trust)

Dear Parents

For several years there has been the need to consolidate Sacred Heart College on the Observatory campus. This would entail the transference of the junior primary classes and the pre-school from Yeoville to Observatory. At the end of 1991 parents were informed of this policy intention.

The main reasons for this decision are (i) to consolidate Sacred Heart College into a three-stream junior and senior school, (ii) to create a common ethos in the primary school, which the existence of two campuses made difficult, (iii) to enable the College to have an outreach to disadvantaged students in creating a facility at Yeoville that would specialise in preparation of poorer students for access into secondary model C schools.

This withdrawal began in 1992 with the re-location of the standard one classes at Observatory. The grade one and grade two classes will be moved to Observatory in January 1993.

Plans have already been drawn up and building operations commenced to accommodate these classes. These plans entail the re-location of the senior library in the rooms at present occupied by the tuckshop and the religion education department. The new tuckshop in turn will be located in the old kitchen complex. A new kitchen to serve the tuckshop and school functions will be part of the new facilities under construction. New senior art and religion education rooms will be built on top of the store rooms on the sides of the hall. The old art rooms, at present in the junior quadrangle, will be made available for the expanded primary school, as well as the present senior library. The workshop will be re-located next to the old laundry buildings, and the present workshop and adjacent rooms will be converted into the primary school administration and staff-room.

The Minister of National Education has given permission for the establishment of a state-aided primary school to be established on the Yeoville campus. In January 1993 the junior primary phase (grade 1 to standard 1) will be commenced. The senior primary phase will be added on when the necessary finance has been procured for the re-location of the Sacred Heart College pre-school on the Observatory site. Hopefully, this will be in the course of 1993.

The new primary school at Yeoville will concentrate on remedial programmes to prepare students for access into public secondary schools. It will be a natural feeder for Barnato Park High School, which becomes a state school again next year. The school will be established by a committee composed of Sacred Heart College management, Barnato Park management, the Batlagae Trust, and members of the local community. In its final format the school will be handed over to a governing body partly elected from its parent community. Since the teachers' salaries will in large part be paid by the state, the annual fees are anticipated to be between R1200 and R1500 per annum. I believe that the Sacred Heart College community as a whole needs to grasp this wonderful opportunity to help in the reconstruction of education in Johannesburg. There is a desperate need for the emergence of the type of school we envisage, as the old "white" schools, even with their recent limited opening up, can no longer function in a relevant way with the demographic changes in the city. The history and experience of Sacred Heart College over the past fifteen years needs to be shared. Generally as members of the more advantaged sections of our communities, in one way or another, we have an obligation to share our knowledge, influence, and resources with those who would not otherwise be able to have access through education to those advantages. Education in "new" South Africa will never be made to work without this outreach, which will also often entail difficult sacrifices.

Yours sincerely
Dr Neil J McGurk
(Headmaster)