



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA  
**Ministry of Education**

# PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL CONSULTATION SUBMISSIONS

JULY 2021



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## **PURPOSE**

This document publishes all of the consultation submissions provided to the Ministry of Education (“the Ministry”) during the parish primary consultation process which ran from December 18<sup>th</sup> 2020 to March 12<sup>th</sup> 2021.

The consultation submissions should be read along with the following documents, which have also been published as part of the Minister of Education’s commitment to transparency:

- The [Parish Primary School Decision Report](#), which shares the Minister of Education’s decisions on the parish primary schools proposal. It also provides detailed reasons for those decisions, and critical supporting background information, and,
- The [Parish Primary Consultation Report](#), which provides an overview of the consultation process and a synopsis and analyses of the consultation submissions.

### **Anonymization and Redaction**

The Ministry attempted to ensure the anonymity of individual consultees. Therefore, consultation submissions were anonymized and redacted in order to remove names and personal identifiers of individuals.

However, in some cases, personal identifiers were not removed because to do so would substantially change the content of the consultation submission.

## Consultation Submission Index

Number	Unique ID:	First Name:	Last Name:	Title of Submission*	Submission method (e.g. response form, email, by hand)	Date of Submission:
1.	000001			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	12/19/2020
2.	000002			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	12/19/2020
3.	000003			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	12/19/2020
4.	000004			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	12/19/2020
5.	000005			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	12/19/2020
6.	000006			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	12/19/2020
7.	000007			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	12/19/2020
8.	000008			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	12/19/2020
9.	000009			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	12/21/2020
10.	000010			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	12/21/2020
11.	000011			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	12/21/2020

12.	000012			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	12/21/2020
13.	000013			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	12/23/2020
14.	000014			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	12/25/2020
15.	000015			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	12/26/2020
16.	000016			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	12/29/2020
17.	000017			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	12/30/2020
18.	000018			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	12/30/2020
19.	000019			Parish Primary School	Response form	12/30/2020
20.	000020			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/1/2021
21.	000021			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/2/2021
22.	7070999			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/8/2021
23.	711915			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/9/2021
24.	470141			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/11/2021
25.	269627			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/11/2021

26.	000101			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/12/2021
27.	638132			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/13/2021
28.	176551			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/14/2021
29.	611634			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/16/2021
30.	873693			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/18/2021
31.	223367			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/20/2021
32.	614594			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/21/2021
33.	325444			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/21/2021
34.	347910			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/22/2021
35.	286160			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/22/2021
36.	747373			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/22/2021
37.	892866			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/24/2021
38.	060273			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/25/2021
39.	544598			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/25/2021

40.	510689			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/26/2021
41.	524002			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/26/2021
42.	734443			Parish Primary School	Response form	1/27/2021
43.	751286			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/27/2021
44.	222884			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/27/2021
45.	785369			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/28/2021
46.	801893			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/28/2021
47.	800541			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/28/2021
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49.	663764			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/28/2021
50.	343163			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	1/31/2021
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52.	818348			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	2/1/2021
53.	159631			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	2/3/2021

54.	773227			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	2/3/2021
55.	611146			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	2/3/2021
56.	977640			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	2/4/2021
57.	557158			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	2/4/2021
58.	681240			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	2/5/2021
59.	727018			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	2/8/2021
60.	211954			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	2/17/2021
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62.	302484			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	2/21/2021
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64.	906123			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	2/22/2021
65.	306572			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	2/22/2021
66.	650392			Parish Primary School	Response form	2/26/2021
67.	048890			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	2/28/2021

68.	099461			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/1/2021
69.	981256			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/2/2021
70.	641618			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/2/2021
71.	958581			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/4/2021
72.	124037			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/7/2021
73.	559662			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	2/12/2021
74.	646300			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/8/2021
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76.	384273			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/8/2021
77.	972917			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/9/2021
78.	854418			Parish Primary School	Response form	3/2/2021
79.	166047			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/9/2021
80.	166874			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/9/2021
81.	254387			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/10/2021

82.	894597			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/10/2021
83.	617736			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/10/2021
84.	824795			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/10/2021
85.	232328			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/10/2021
86.	743223			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/10/2021
87.	140534			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/10/2021
88.	948274			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/10/2021
89.	588496			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/11/2021
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92.	334678			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/12/2021
93.	183688			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/12/2021
94.	622848	Port Royal Primary	Parent Teacher Association	Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/12/2021
95.	079993			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/12/2021

96.	453093			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/12/2021
97.	970231	Kaleidoscope Arts Foundation		Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/12/2021
98.	169904			Parish Primary School	Response form	3/12/2021
99.	937811			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/12/2021
100.	446888			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/12/2021
101.	561776			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/12/2021
102.	642170			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/12/2021
103.	033021			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/12/2021
104.	655900			Parish Primary School consultation submission	Response form	3/12/2021
105.	621186			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/12/2021
106.	903593			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/12/2021
107.	185026			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/12/2021
108.	118316			Parish Primary School Consultation Form Submitted	Response form	3/12/2021
109.	000023			THE ELLIOT PRIMARY SCHOOL	Email	1/22/2021
110.	000024			Primary School Consultation	Email	2/23/2021

111.	000025			HISTORY OF WEST END Submission Re West End	Email	3/1/2021
112.	000026			Question's for this evening's discussion	Email	3/2/2021
113.	000027			Consultation Meeting, Sandy's	Email	3/2/2021
114.	000028	Jennifer	Manders	RE: West End Primary School	Email	3/3/2021
115.	000029			Education Consultation	Email	3/6/2021
116.	000030			21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools & Libraries	Email	3/8/2021
117.	000031				Email	3/9/2021
118.	000032	East End Primary PTA		East End Primary Clarity to George Parish Community Response	Email	3/11/2021
119.	000033			Restructuring of the public education system	Email	3/11/2021
120.	000034	West End PTA		West End Primary School PTA Survey Results	Email	3/11/2021
121.	000035			Text.pdf	Email	3/12/2021
122.	000036			Intended Closure of the Saint George's Preparatory School	Email	3/12/2021
123.	000037	St. George's Preparatory PTA Executive		St. George's Preparatory PTA Response to the Parish Proposal	Email	3/12/2021
124.	000038	St. George's Parish Community		St. George's Community Response to Parish Proposal	Email	3/12/2021
125.	000039	Bermuda Education Network		Bermuda Education Network Parish School Submission	Email	3/12/2021
126.	000040			Proposal for MOED re West End School	Email	3/12/2021

127.	000041	Unknown		From Constituent (former educator)	Email	3/12/2021
128.	000042	Kimberlee	Tankard	We Transfer File	Email	3/13/2021
129.	000043	East End Primary PTA		Questions From PTA	Email	3/14/2021
130.	000044			Proposed Reform of the Island's Public Education System Submission Letter	By Hand	3/12/2021
131.	000045	Elliot Alumni		Elliot Primary Petition	By hand	2/22/2021

## Electronic Response Form Submissions

### Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000001

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Northlands primary my children attend the school

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Northlands is a wonderful school my kids have come a long way in their academics the staff is wonderful I feel would have to home school if Northlands goes

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: To many students in one school / classes causes some strain on kids that have learning issues and need 1on 1 help

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: I think we should leave the primary schools how they are

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Just leave the primary schools as is school closures cost parents more money to switch uniforms also for different schools

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Not familiar with neither schools too far for me to travel not prospect so much but I'm happy with where my children are at present their comfortable and their happy at Northlands

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

No

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000002

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Northlands Primary

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: With dwindling student numbers it makes sense. But really need to be careful not to overload teachers with extremely large class sizes which will leave our students worse off.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: We need three schools in Pembroke.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? Pembroke, heavily populated. Needs all three schools.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Yes (Agree)

Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: No specific reason.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Should be parish school.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Why spend more funds building a new school you should use Elliot for parish school and move Prospect students into Victor Scott and Elliott.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

None

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000003

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Heron Bay Primary My children attend there

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: I love the small schools for my children because they get more attention from their teachers when needed and able to learn and focus more in a smaller environment

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Because bigger schools cause more students to fall behind

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? No

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an I don't know

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: N/a

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: N/a

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: N/a

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? N/a

Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000004

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other/extended Family Member

St. David's Primary - former student [redacted]

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? [redacted]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? I don't know

Please share your reasons: St. George parish has two separate and completely educational needs. I think it would be best to have one school on St. George Island and one school on St. David's Island.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: I would like to see two schools in St. George Parish

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? Just St. George's

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

There is always going to be a need for special education and it would be better in the middle of the country.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

My only question is what is a signature school in the Bermuda context.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

Are there enough Government buildings in Devonshire Parish that can be converted for use.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

The one thing that I have not heard about in the reform of the school system, is campus security.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000005

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? St. George's prep and Clearwater

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: St. George's prep is the best school in the east and it should not close I would not put my daughter in east end!!!

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I do agree but east end should NOT be the school you keep open, the school is out dated and not In good shape. St. George's prep should NOT be closed

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? Keep St. George's prep open!!! My daughter will not attend any other primary school

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an Yes (Agree)

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: None

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: None

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: None

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? None

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000006

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Victor Scott I was a former student when it was known as Central School

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I always thought we should have Parish Primary Schools

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. I don't know

Please share your reasons: Haven't really given any thought

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? Not at the moment

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: I'll have to know more about it

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: I haven't considered it

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: I'll have to know more about it

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? What will become of St. George's Prep Northlands Gilbert Institute Heron Bay Port Royal and West End?

Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000007

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other/extended Family Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? East End - retired teacher St. Georges Prep [redacted]  
[redacted] Clearwater [redacted]  
Berkeley [redacted]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Understand rationale but having been in system many years as employee, parent, PTA leader and grandparent don't agree with current plan of action

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Overcrowding could become a real issue especially if birth rates increase. Smaller schools have a more familial feel and more one on one attention is a proven plus

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? Closure of St. David's primary will mean those children traveling on an already "sketchy" bus system

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Not sure of feasibility. Would need more specifics

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Again need more specifics

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: So what happens within other primary schools bringing them up to this new "standard".

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? Would like more info with specifics to be shared in timely manner

**Parish Primary School Consultation Form**

Unique ID: 000008

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):  
Student  
Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?  
Northlands Primary

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?  
No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: —

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.  
No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: —

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?  
—

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?  
No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: —

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: —

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: —

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals , including any alternatives? —

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000009

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? St. George's Prep. [REDACTED]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

It is important to have teacher parent relationships. A smaller family environment helps to achieve this. Packing schools full of children can contribute to students who need help the most going unnoticed. This also puts more strain on the teachers. The relationships families currently have with St. George's prep is invaluable and my children have been successful. The mental, physical and educational support received is also invaluable. The children have already been through so much, having to change schools and adjust to a new environment, new teachers, will be a detriment to their well being.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: As above.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, I cannot bear to think how getting rid of St. George's prep will negatively affect my myself and my children. Stability is key as we navigate through this pandemic, and the children have suffered enough. The teachers and principal at this

which is considered in questions 8-10)?

school are compassionate, accommodating and truly have the children's interest at heart. They have provided extra support for children in need, know each child individually, and have been able to do so due in part to the close knit family atmosphere and smaller overall enrollment. I would not choose any other school for my children and am extremely grateful for all of the teachers who are part of this family.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

I support a signature school but cannot comment on the individual schools being used for this transitions

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

As above

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

As above

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

Please, please don't close down St. George's prep. If I could send my children there until the end of their school career, I would.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000010

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? I attended The Central School now Victor Scott Primary

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Would need to know more information

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. I don't know

Please share your reasons: Would need to know how it would work

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? Just a question: If West Pembroke and Victor for example are The only 2 Primary Schools for Pembroke will the students at Northlands be merged into those 2 schools?

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an I don't know

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons:      Would need to know more

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:      Would need to know more

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:      I would need more information

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

I would like to see more information

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000011

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? my son goes to Prospect Primary School

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: in theory it is a good idea but in your plan you have not addressed special needs students

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: so that the the government resources can be put back into the school and with less schools the the resources will not be spread out so thin

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? no

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an No (Disagree)

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons:

my son is a special needs student and I have not heard any details on how you will be addressing special needs. and because there will be more children in the classes it is not a good idea special when it comes to special needs they need the class size to be small so they can get the help they need

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: have not comment

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: see question 8

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? I am very concerned how this change would affect my child and I would like for the government to give more information in regards to special needs and how this change would affect the learning that they will receive

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000012

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? My son is a student at St. George Prep

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: It's an AMAZING!!!! school. The professionals who work there make it such a good school and the location of the school is literally a lifesaver for us.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: We are very happy with the school

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? No

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an I don't know

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: Non

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Non

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Non

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? Non

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000013

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):

Parent  
School Staff Member  
DOE Staff Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?

St George's Preparatory School

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

People need a neighborhood school with high quality teaching not swimming pools.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Pilot this idea one school at a time to see if it is effective before going island wide. Where is the money coming from to build and renovate these schools?

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

It does not seem cost effective to close an aided school that funds its facility, custodian and secretary. St George's Prep has full classes and a waiting list of people in the community choosing it as it's parish school.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an

I don't know

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: I have been hearing about this idea for years but I've never heard specifics or data behind it.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: I need more information.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Where is the money coming from?

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? In times when we are all "tightening our bubbles", bigger schools are not the answer.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000014

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Purvis Primary. Parent

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? I don't know

Please share your reasons: A building in itself does not produce results.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. I don't know

Please share your reasons: It doesn't matter to regular man.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? No

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: See below

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: See below

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: See below

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

I think we are missing the mark. We need to identify what our student's ultimate goal is and where they need to start. I don't think the introduction of these schools will make a difference if the basic of a good education system are missed. I believe in three principles for a good education system: 1. Early intervention We need to foster critical thinking and focus on the children on Nursery and preschool schools. Focusing on their self regulation and emotional regulation first. 2. Focusing on our children loving education more than schooling. Focusing on schools is like a church stressing about building the house of the lord rather than focusing on the souls of their members. We now have more children who hate schooling but love to be educated. Food for thought. 3. Parent-child-teacher collaboration is key. So many times children are not involved in the planning and implementation of their education. "Nothing for us without us". Children are not

just leaders of tomorrow but today as well. My advice is for the educators and community to advise and plan and the politicians to support their view. Politicians should stop politicising education.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000015

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? St. David's Primary. Parent

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I agree with the need to reallocate resources and redesign the school system to better meet the needs of the students

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Bigger class sizes seem counterproductive Larger schools (merging) have not been proven successful i.e. past example of reduction in high schools Loss of community feel in schools by having parish schools

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? No

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect I don't know

Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: None

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: None

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: None

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? None

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000016

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Purvis

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? I don't know

Please share your reasons: I'm not sure if 1 per parish will be enough

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. I don't know

Please share your reasons: Bigger classes

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? Why is there a new school in Devonshire? Why not use the school which already exists?

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons:      Bad location

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?      No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:      Why can't this remain a primary school for Devonshire?

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?      No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:      Waste of money

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?      Try to use the buildings which already exist. Each primary school should have a feeder preschool. More information is needed on the signature secondary schools. How are they different from middle schools and what will happen with cedar bridge and Berkeley?

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000017

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):

Parent  
Other/extended Family Member  
School Staff Member

WIMS- attended high school there [redacted] sons presently attending [redacted]

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? [redacted] St. Davis Primary [redacted]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

Revamping our education system is long overdue however parishes schools are concerning as the limitations imposed by such will negatively impact BPS.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

The concept although in principle has merit, it will create a new narrative that our society must equip for.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

I truly support this restructuring however the buildings need to be considered for other such purposes to meet the community's needs. Cultural centers inclusive of all segments of the population can benefit from buildings and land that will no longer utilized

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Presently the presenting concerns demand such

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: The present needs of our young people demand such

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Purpose built is almost always ideal, however the purpose comes into question. What will be the true purpose and have our conclusions been vetted to ensure we have targeted the correct needs

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

The curriculum is my concern. The analogy I will use is as follows, "dressing the part is not too difficult, anyone can clean up and wear attire for the occasion but will they follow through and exceed the expectations." That said, are we going to invest in our talent pool and create a robust curriculum that will ensure these proposed buildings are equip with ALL the tools to be successful... Infrastructure Accessibility to technology Educators that

are truly invested Curriculum that allows teachers freedom to teach as well as providing rigor for students  
Opportunities to gain experiences outside of our borders with IT Behavior Management Techniques that will ensure population is equipped to manage varying situations effectively Social engagement cross island that will foster community and island pride

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000018

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):  
Other/extended Family Member  
School Staff Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?  
Berkeley Institute - ██████████ Sandys Secondary Middle - Family members attend

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?  
Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:  
I support the findings presented in the proposal. I believe parish primary schools will: 1. Increase equity & access - we will no longer have primary schools within each parish competing against each other instead of working collectively to improve teaching and learning 2. Be more cost effective, 3. More effective use of resources 4. Greater number of effective teachers/mentors in the same building who can mentor, model and support 5. More engagement from parents - combined PTSA will be stronger and more organized

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.  
Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I support the findings in the report and the factors used.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish,  
no

which is considered in questions 8-10)?

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I support the reasons given in the proposal.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: I don't know enough about the structure and function of this school.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: The factors studied supports this option.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? Is there any consideration for Child Development to be included in this school transformation plan? Can the function of Child Development be further expanded to support parents and students to develop literacy, behavioral and social foundation at an earlier age? Maybe a partnership with health that starts during pregnancy.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000019

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):  
Parent  
Other/extended Family Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?

West End Primary [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?  
Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I understand the rationale and agree the outcome could be beneficial as far as cost savings and community support.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.  
No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: I think some of the other parishes would benefit from having 2 primary schools (especially with the addition of P7 and P8 as well as Covid-19 social distancing requirements) but agree that 3 schools in one parish is too many.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?  
I think it will be beneficial to keep 2 primary schools in St. George's, Southampton and Sandys especially with the addition of P7 and P8 and keeping in mind the new normal of social distancing.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

I understand the rationale behind it seeing as the Dame Marjorie Bean school is in close proximity and the transition will be easier.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Instead of giving up this location and having to build a new Devonshire Primary School, this building should be repurposed and one of the Pembroke Primary schools can be used as an alternative education signature school. This may save on some of the building costs

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Instead of building a new Devonshire School, utilize one of the Pembroke primary schools or a primary school in Paget (still considered central) for the alternative school as stated above. T.N. Tatem is also sitting available in need of refurbishment and is already large enough for an alternative school.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

I agree that all of the schools are in need of upgrades and many of the upgrades in the proposal can be done immediately - dedicated school buses, individual devices, updating curricula, assessments, instruction, programmes and services. Electrical, plumbing and HVAC system upgrades can be done in the summer while school is out. Drastic changes like school closures should be done very gradually as these kids have been through enough with Covid-19 changing everything. If we keep more of the schools open, there will be enough space for P7 and P8 to be added with the existing school structure. I do agree that some schools will need to close in order to free up some money for upgrades to those remaining open.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000020

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? West End Primary- Alumni & parent of a student  
Secondary Middle School- Alumni & parent of a student

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Demographics were carried out that proved that due to children needing a certain number of square feet per child we could not close any schools in Bermuda. There have been no town hall meetings showing anything different . And the schools you are considering closing were built on the backs of our ancestors and who have been and still are the strong hold for our governing party. Why are we willing to keep a school whose sole reason for existence was to keep us out... Please research Somerset primary beginnings and then ask the people of the community and ask their grandparents and parents were they able to attend the school.... Right now your proposal is actually fighting against the community which actually voted you in. Please take a step back and look at who you are actually affecting.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Show me the proof of when our demographics changed and we can now service 15 children in one classroom and

give them the mandatory space per foot that is need for each child. Southampton is the largest parish. I don't see how it is geographically possible to only have one school in Southampton and it's not centrally located in that parish.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

I think this government needs to remember that the schools they are trying to close were built on the backs of our communities who have supported them tooth and nail. West end primary is a prime example how you are trading profits over legacy. I come from generations of west end alumni who couldn't even step foot on Somerset primary land with being degraded or shun away. And west end primary is set up as a 2 stream school all the way through with separate offices for counselors, music, computer labs ,arts,physical education and a separate library. I know that logon park preschool is on Somerset primary land,but why can't it be relocated to Daniel's head where you have plenty of space for not only a preschool but also a community center. Aren't us tax payers paying for those properties as well.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

I draw back to showing me that demographics have changes and we can financially do that. Where is the money coming from to make the changes needed for this proposal.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

Same reasons as above.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are

No (Disagree)

repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Please share your reasons:

Where are we getting the money from to build a whole new school... Taxpayer are suffering enough and I cannot see financially how this is viable.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

Please listen to the communities. I'm not opposed to a 2 tier system as we had that before the introduction of middle schools. I am opposed to closing schools after just a couple years ago it was explained in detail that we could not close any school in Bermuda. I am hoping alternatives like adopt a school programs are offer to exempt companies to ease the people's purse and some good talks are had at town hall meetings as to how the voting public can be apart of improving our schools and not closing them down. Thank you.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000021

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):

Other/extended Family Member  
School Staff Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? [REDACTED] Prospect Preschool and my grandson attends Northland Primary.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

To close schools, class sizes would automatically increase as West Pembroke for example is oversubscribed every year as it is.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

Not sure

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

No

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an

No (Disagree)

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: Prospect Primary is the parent school for Prospect Preschool and is a neighborhood school.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Same as my above response.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Where is the money coming from?

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? No

Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 707099

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):  
Parent  
School Staff Member  
Other Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
CedarBridge [Redacted]  
Northlands [Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?  
Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted] I saw first hand what happens when you take children out of their communities and chuck them all in together. We didn't have community support. There are some extraordinarily good primary schools and some pretty dire ones. Starting again but making sure all school governors have lived in the area at least five years and are given real power with budgets and hiring would be a huge start. I honestly think we need to revisit reading recovery. It became unfashionable in the early 2000s but it was tremendously successful. Kids don't get enough exercise, and putting 'magic mile' straight into the curriculum would benefit staff and students alike. Good luck and thank you for putting our children first!

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish  
Yes (Agree)

primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

Please share your reasons:

Bermuda is a wonderfully neighbourly country. More than others I've lived in. Older Bermudians tell me what excitement they felt at playing other schools at sports, and the pride they felt for their school. I think that's lost.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

I think some thought needs to go into making the green spaces really suitable for all types of play. If you go and look at Northlands, you will see that the boys take all the space and the girls are huddled around the outside.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

Education isn't one size fits all. It's a great idea.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

Elliot has never been great. It was the only one available to my son when he was five, so we were lucky enough to go private. Giving it a total overhaul and purpose would be great.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for

Yes (Agree)

Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Please share your reasons:

It makes sense. We have a plummeting birth rate which shows no signs of reversing. With far fewer children we can offer better education.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

Just that I really support the fact that this government is being brave enough to streamline primary education, which will necessitate redundancies or halt new hires. We need to put the money into learning rather than seeing education as a source of guaranteed employment for life no matter what the outcome. Good luck ( I don't mean that sarcastically!)

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 711915

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Harrington Sound Primary School- child currently enrolled and another child to be enrolled [REDACTED]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

Agree that there are too many primary schools spread across the island for the population size and are currently unevenly used. Also, Government is unable to maintain/up-keep all schools currently because of lack of resources, resulting in poor conditions of the schools.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. I don't know

Please share your reasons:

Agree with Pembroke being allowed 2 primary schools because of the parish size. However, St. George's should be reconsidered and possible look at St. David's as a separate parish. You will have more than the 300 allotment of students trying to enroll in one school. Maybe the land behind the top of the school can be looked at.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, N/A

which is considered in questions 8-10)?

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Signature schools are needed to enhance the interest of those students who are not academically focused. This location has plenty of green space and is centrally located.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Elliot Primary School has been considered a school that is not often considered or talked about anymore. Great location and space to upgrade.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Here we are closing schools, what's the need to build a newly primary school? If the boundaries are going to expand and the increase in intake in the surrounding schools, there should be adequate amount of space for Devonshire students to find enrollment close by. Harrington Sound Primary is not too far neither would

Victor Scott. This parish would be too congested if a new Primary School is created along with signature school being repurposed.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

The schools that were automatically selected because they were the only school in the parish - in particular Harrington Sound Primary, based on the score rating, this school scored extremely low on the scale especially for safety. Some schools that are being closed scored much higher. I hope this is not over looked and is addressed.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 470141

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Victor Scott Primary (formerly The Central School) former Student

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? I don't know

Please share your reasons: I need more information

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. I don't know

Please share your reasons: What about the children living in St. Davids ?

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? Will there be transportation for the children in St. David's if they have to go to East end Primary? Also how will the students currently attending Port Royal and Heron Bay be merged into Dalton E. Tucker?

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Will it be an Exceptional Signature School for Special Needs children?

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: What type of Alternative Signature School will it be?

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Where will The New Devonshire Parish Primary School be built in Devonshire?

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? Like I said will there be transportation for the children from St. David's?

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 269627

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other/extended Family Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? St. George's Prep - grandparent of student and former student.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: It all makes a lot of sense.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: There are a lot of children in St. George's parish (including St. David's ). But definitely close St. George's Prep as they have negatively affected many black children, especially boys, through racism and bias over many, many years. It's still continuing today.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? No

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an Yes (Agree)

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: Makes sense

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Makes absolute sense

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Makes sense

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

St. David's primary school, it's community presence, building and large field should remain as a signature school.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 000101

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?

Firstly, I would like to say that I do agree with the idea of phasing out middle schools and reverting back to just primary and secondary schools. It just worked better that way in my experience. But I think in such a small place as Bermuda, we don't necessarily need a school in every parish. Maybe this is more relevant in larger countries but not in 21 square mile Bermuda. As a parent, the main thing is the time taken to travel to school. And even then, how long should a commute time take? Is 15 minutes a reasonable commute time? You can go a long way in 15 minutes, practically two parishes no matter where you live on the island. Even at 15 mins, our total commute time would be much shorter, I am sure, than most countries. Plus, we are used to long commutes to school when required. From 11 years old, myself and many other children from the east end travelled every day to Warwick on the bus.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

There are parts of St. George's parish (i.e., St. David's) where I am sure the commute time will be longer than if a child in parts of Devonshire, commutes by road into either Pembroke or Smiths parish, (unless a small ferry could go across St. George's Harbour, with a connecting minibus that meets them at the dock?) Instead of parish boundaries, which are antiquated, I believe the natural geography of our roads, bridges, etc. should be taken into

consideration. I simply don't think it makes common sense to keep Harrington Sound open, which has a lower score than St. George's Prep, just due to its location. Couldn't most Smith's parish children have buses take them to Devonshire, Hamilton parish or St. George's in 15 mins? This seems like a more common sense approach to me.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

No (Disagree)

It would be such a shame to close St. George's Prep.

Please share your reasons:

[Redacted]

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

It makes sense, due to proximity with DMBHA.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an

Yes (Agree)

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: I agree with repurposing schools as much as possible, rather than building new buildings.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: I don't think we should build any new schools because building costs are too high. Better to not have a school in Devonshire but instead offer busses to schools in other parishes. Or what about repurposing parts of Whitney if that is closing as a middle school?

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: It costs too much to build a new school. It is cheaper to repurpose if the conditions aren't too bad. Therefore, what about repurposing one of the other schools that is closing and bussing students in?

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? I agree that we need to make changes. My parents never had to pay for my education until I went to University. Public schools should always be the first choice for every parent I think. But I wouldn't close the schools that are actually producing great students just because of land and buildings. A school isn't the land and buildings. A school is much more than that, it's the ethos, the principal, the

teachers, staff and the parents all coming together as one. I encourage you to please take what is working and try exporting that someplace else first, rather than just cutting them away abruptly and forever. Once they are gone, they can never come back. Thank you for your consideration.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 638132

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Northlands - my daughter attends and hoping eventually my son will too.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Leave things the way they are - it's working.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: No - too many kids in one class - someone will get left behind.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? No

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an No (Disagree)

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: No

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons: It doesn't involve me

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

I don't know

Please share your reasons: It doesn't involve me

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

Keep Northlands, it's the best school in my district and my daughter is happy and doing exceptionally well. I would like my son to have the same success!

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 176551

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):  
Parent  
Other Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?  
Port Royal Primary School and Sandys Middle School. I am the Parent of children in these two schools.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?  
Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: The rationale seems reasonable to me.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.  
Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: it is needed from a budgetary perspective.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?  
No comments.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?  
Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I agree with the transformation plans.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I agree with the transformation plans.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I agree with the transformation plans.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? No comments.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 611634

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Port Royal

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I agree that Bermuda is far behind in relation to 21st-century education (and 21st-century practices in general). Our STEM is lacking, particularly in the technology area; I hope this revamp will address that and set our children up for the real world (outside of Bermuda).

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. I don't know

Please share your reasons: As long as the classes aren't overcrowded.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? N/A

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an I don't know

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: N/A

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: N/A

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: N/A

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

The dress code should be addressed as well. Our girls should not be forced to wear dresses and skirts like we are in the 1800s. Pants should be the standard uniform for everyone (if there needs to be a uniform). It is not fair that the girls are forced to wear skirts/dresses and risk their undergarments showing if they actually want to play and have fun like normal children. Also, adding stockings in the wintertime isn't enough to keep them warm.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 873693

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other/extended Family Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Grandparent of a former Port Royal student. [REDACTED]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I agree in principle that there are too many primary schools for the present population. I have my doubts about the proposed solution.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: I think some consideration must be given to geography and to transport.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? I think that Southampton, so long and skinny, should use the centrally placed school, Port Royal. A parent living in the east of the parish and working on town would have to backtrack miles to take a child almost into Sandys and then add to the massive rush hour traffic on the single road back east. I also think that a parent living in St. David's would face similar inconvenience.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect I don't know

Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: lack of expertise.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Lack of expertise

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: If the above schools are so designated one must be built to meet the one school per parish proposal.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? None, except to say that this questionnaire is unusually clear and easy to respond to.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 223367

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent  
DOE Staff Member  
Other Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Purvis Primary- Prospective Parent

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? I don't know

Please share your reasons: We do agree with the rationale, but we want to see school demographics, population stats, and building plans to ensure that class sizes will be able to be capped at 15 students. Class size and building facilities are a concern of ours.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. I don't know

Please share your reasons: We do agree with this plan, but are gravely concerned that the government will close schools without adequately preparing the new schools for the amalgamation. We want to make sure the logistics of consolidation are prioritized, so that we aren't left with empty derelict buildings and under serviced, ill-equipped, overcrowded schools. We live near TN Tatem and can already see the building deteriorating into no return. We are also interested in learning what the closed schools will be used for. Will they be sold?

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation Yes, regarding Warwick parish. Is Purvis Primary capable of housing 300 students? If not, what structural

to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

improvements need to be made? When and how will this be done? i.e will the school buildings be worked on during summer holiday only, or while school is in session? Will summer be enough time to complete the renovations and/or additions?

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

If there is a need for an exceptionalities school, then we agree, as long as we are still integrating students and placing students in the least restrictive environment.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

Same as above. If there is a need for an alternative signature school, based on data, then we agree, as long as placing children in the least restrictive environment is still upheld. Please provide more information as to what the curriculum would look like for an "alternative education signature school". We are not clear on what kind of school this would be and who it would serve.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or

Yes (Agree)

disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Please share your reasons:

Please share the plans and timeline as to how this will happen. Building a brand new school is an expensive and long venture.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

We feel that small class size is a privilege that Bermudian students have and we hope that this amalgamation will not be regretted in the future. We would be interested in reading the research you used to support this plan of action, particularly studies that cite academic gains for lower income students when school mergers are implemented. We recognize that Bermuda is unique and the research on school consolidation will not adequately represent the demographics of Bermuda but we hope that all of the decisions being made are research based and carefully planned. Thank you very much we hope you have read and considered our concerns.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 614594

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Paget Primary

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: It's convenient for my area.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. I don't know

Please share your reasons: Can't really comment.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? Some parents may have difficulty trying to get their child to school on time based on how far away they reside from the school. Is the government going to ensure that the bus issue is resolved to ensure students get to and from school safely. Many students are still having problems due to the shortage of buses.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: This is outside my parish.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: This is outside my parish.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Not my parish.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? N/A

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 325444

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other/extended Family Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? None

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: See below

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: See below

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? The consolation document states that one of the aims of the closures is to establish primary schools as a community focus for their parishes. In the case of St. David's Primary the proposed closure removes a school which is already a community focus, and replaces it with East End Primary, a school which is miles away from St. David's, which will have children having to travel significantly to attend, and which is so far removed socially and physically from St. David's that it is likely that very few parents or members of the community will ever visit the school. St. David's Primary should be considered a special case and be retained to continue its role as a community school.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale I don't know

for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: No opinion

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: No opinion

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Funds better spent on upgrading existing facilities

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? All the physical changes in the world will make no difference until proper accountability is established throughout the system and ineffective teachers eliminated.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 347910

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? St. David's and St. George's prep. As two schools our child was planning to attend

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? I don't know

Please share your reasons: I think generally having parish schools is not a bad choice. However, there are more negative feelings about the approach and communication.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: I am not fully in disagreement but St. David's is the only exception for me at this time. If you closed East End but kept open at George's prep and St. David's. I would be more on board with the plan. There is a concern that the best schools on the island are being shut down and that is not going to make future parents happy. Communicate and make sure the best practices of these schools are saved. Without that there is a problem.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, I wish the department would be more transparent. The department has gotten defensive to any negative feedback. It's not fair to not be transparent and then get defensive when parents ask questions. I expect more.

which is considered in questions 8-10)?

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: I need to know more

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: It sounds like a good idea

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: I need to know more about why it is needed and the timeline.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? Please be more transparent and communicate fully to the community about the timeline. This issue doesn't just affect parents of current kids but parents of 1-4 year olds. They are important to engage

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 286160

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Business Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? St George's Prep. Alumni

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: I disagree with the blanket approach being applied. I don't understand the rationale.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: I do not think 1 primary school per parish makes much sense. Some parishes are more populated than others. What is the purpose of using parishes as the deciding factor for primary school locations?

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? What were the deciding factors for choosing one primary school vs the other? For example, why was east end primary chosen over St. George's prep? There may be good reasons for this decision but I don't feel as those deciding factors have been shared. Seems like a coin flip which isn't ideal when making decisions like this.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an I don't know

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: Na

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

Please share your reasons: Na

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Please share your reasons: Brick and mortar solutions won't help fix the educational problem Bermuda faces. The focus should be on the curriculum, teacher accountability/tenure, right sizing class rooms, etc.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

Na

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 747373

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other

[REDACTED]

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?

[REDACTED] I currently have a grandchild attending St.Davids Primary school.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

The primary school enrollment has dropped progressively over a number of years. Schools can work effectively if class number are over 10 to 15 students. Resources can be better distributed. Teachers better motivated to teach students. My grandson is currently in a class of 9. That is a waste of teacher resources.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

I agree with a couple of concerns. Gilbert Institute was identified as the school for students with hearing loss. Teachers were trained and classes had equipment installed to assist these children. Be mindful when determining where the children with hearing loss are reallocated. They do not belong with the population at Dame Marjorie. Be

careful when placing students with other special needs together. Under the old model of special schools, students at secondary schools would not come to school until later in the day because they did not want other students to know where they attended schools. Be careful how you assign special programmes.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

St. Davids Primary school is in a close neighbourhood. I know that parents use a minibus service to get their children to school, or they walk them to school. Several are receiving financial support. We also have a breakfast club at school for children. I believe that closing this school will be a real hardship for some families.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

I need more information on the actual makeup of the school population .

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

more information needed

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or

Yes (Agree)

disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Please share your reasons:

Both schools have structural issues that need to be g.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

We are going back to what education was for signature schools. You may or may not recall that we had schools at secondary level that were dedicated to vocation etc. Schools at one time did go to P7. We also had a school for students with behaviour problems. We need to be careful that we are not bringing a system that labels our children.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 892866

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Francis Patton primary school as I live in the neighborhood.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I think that public education in Bermuda is shockingly bad. It does not prepare Bermudian students who are not privately educated to participate in the Bermudian workforce and thus sows discontent and feelings of "two Bermuda's" when children are older.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I agree, due to decreased enrollment in schools.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? I think that St George's prep school is an excellent school and any teachers or the head teachers should be well utilised if the school is to close down.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an No (Disagree)

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: There isn't very clear reasoning in the document for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Yes, I do agree Elliot primary school has good facilities for this purpose.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Yes, I think this should be fine.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? I would prefer if we stopped doing a "Bermudian first" approach for teachers and actually worked for our children by finding the best, most qualified teachers we could, whether Bermudian or not. I would also prefer if schools were forced to publicly publish their attainment and test scores to allow children to choose which schools to send their children to.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 060273

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? PortRoyal Primary School my children attend this school.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

Though having reviewed the consultation proposal on paper the ideology is somewhat a good idea however there are concerns with implementation. The concern that with Berkeley as an example a state of the art school did not turn out state of the art children, top notch education and leaders of tomorrow. In fact it's been continually on the decline. Areas densely populated of lesser income families the issues may remain the same. So a Parish where the majority are lower class income is not going to be more effective. We note parents who can afford to have their kids educated already has an advantage. How does the government anticipate to bridge that gap when resources are needed? Again though the school facility is essential. The first and foremost are excellent teachers, resources and support. Focus on the consistency in curriculum is important. The SGB has brought more confusion and lack of a robust tool to increase the learning. Having one Parish school where effort is concentrated sounds great in theory will it address what is lacking? If the Government currently lacks the fortitude to have great teachers a change in building is another means to mask the existent issues. Where teachers are doing well in school what will happen to those teachers. I've seen schools who don't deal with

bullying in a larger environment would this be ignored and teachers stretch in a 300 student school. Giving our children the very best is only certain when what is proposed is translated what accountability is in place if these are not done. For example the introduction of Modern Foreign language. But what if after the proposal is agreed the department does not follow through with what is proposed. For example the ministry should present data to confirm that the ministry will have Foreign language school for the 10 Parishes.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

With only 2000 and lesser students registered in the primary school 18 schools sounds excessive. Further the consolidation and the refurbished/ modernized larger school where maintaining fewer schools is more sustainable in the long term makes sense.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

The fact that affluent people tend to live in one location on an economical level is disproportionate. Having parents of a lower income support a parish compared to parents of a higher income support a parish it will appear it's a division of a class and more widespread rather than bring a standard.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

The introduction of "catered" learning to an individual's abilities is important especially when it comes to athletes and others as the case may be. However, not only students with exceptional abilities could be students with certain

exceptional circumstances as well as those who learn differently if not catered in their school then. Foremost the parish school should accommodate. However if it appears that a sufficient number of students falls into the same category then yes and exceptional school is doable.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: It is great to bring 21st century skills for our students and equip them with education that translates/ creates a path into 21st century career.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: As above

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? In the meantime, more focus should be to make sure our children are receiving the assistance needed for their education and reinforce the main subjects English, Maths, Science. The Government needs to include Foreign Language as soon as possible at Primary level to demonstrate its commitment to change. Studies has shown that learning anything at a younger age especially when it comes to language is best. The advantage of being bilingual is numerous. Further in most parts of the world being bilingual is the norm and in school from day one. It's a must to move with the times that language is taught in

primary school. It is imperative for this to be considered and included in the reform plans

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 544598

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Elliot Primary

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I agree with the pressing need to revamp our education system and create new purpose-built schools for our children. Having read the proposal, I can appreciate the idea of parish primary schools.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Living in Devonshire, and an Elliott alumni myself, I believe that the community surrounding and supporting a school is critical in the educational journey... which is why I believe Elliot should be the site for the Devonshire Parish Primary School.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? No.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: N/A

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Elliot is a big part of Devonshire... In fact, when I read the 'vision' for the parish rallying around a primary school, I immediately thought it described Elliott. From Wolves football club operating out of Elliott's field, to the parents that basically support and maintain the school. Over the years, Elliott has had strong relationships with the businesses that have moved into the area and last year (if Covid didn't stop us) Elliott would have showcased the community/business/family support for the return of the annual fair. Back in the day, Elliott fairs would be the best on the Island! Elliott has been a hub for families, just look at Good Friday - how many people enjoy flying kites there. I believe the neighbourhoods surrounding Elliot need the open green space and a PUBLIC centre of educational excellence for their children (preschool & primary). I believe it would be best for Elliott to be repurposed as Devonshire's Parish primary school.. at the Elliott school site, with the same or similar name. :)

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary No (Disagree)

school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Please share your reasons:

Speaking specifically about Elliott: I would ask you to think about what will happen to that parish/area if you pull Elliott out of it and move it to Roberts Ave: you will destroy that community. Think about what's left..... Somersfield, a bright shining example of what Elliott could have been .... which will marginalize the families left behind. Then there will be a signature school for everyone across the Island to benefit from... but again not those families and kids in that area. Think about how many homes and kids live in Devonshire... surrounding that area... and yet you want to bus them out to Roberts Ave.on the cusp of Pembroke? So when we get home, we can see others enjoying what was our home; our neighbourhood... But where does that leave the families of Devonshire? There would be NO green open space for us.. just private property. The same thing happened to the large public field, which is now the Barn... year after year we lose our space in Devonshire to businesses and organisations that benefit the entire Island: Somersfield and their traffic, Lindos and their traffic, Mr Chicken and their traffic, The Barn and their traffic, ... I don't think you could understand if you don't LIVE in Devonshire. However, my family does LIVE in a Devonshire - three generations and without Elliot in Devonshire (particularly this area) the future generations of my family may still live here... but they won't be RAISED in Devonshire like their ancestors, because there will be no roots, no community, just centres for people passing through. I have so many questions about the new school: where would my 5 year go to enjoy green space? How many young kids will be able to walk to school at the new location? (adding buses/air pollution and traffic congestion) Plus there is another school near the dump/close to town? How will the school be impacted by the events at the National Stadium (noise/traffic/etc)? The

design for the new school, the green space, multiple fields, safety and security, etc.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

Ultimately, I feel like if you can recommend repurposing Elliott for another school then you can put the same effort in repurposing/rebuilding Elliot to be the best parish school for Devonshire. The space can accommodate the students from Prospect. Use the current site for Success Academy to create a new space.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 510689

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? SANDYS MIDDLE SCHOOL PAGET PRIMARY

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Every child is different and has a different way of learning. For my son he has always done better in small groups/ classes, where he would have more 1 on 1 interaction with the teacher.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Same as answer 5.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? Same as 5

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an No (Disagree)

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: Same as 5

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

Please share your reasons: Not sure

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Please share your reasons: ...

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

I think the ministry needs to keep in mind that every child learns in a different way and how can we ensure our children are provided with the best education possible.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 524002

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?

Elliot Primary School

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

I agree with the general idea of a parish primary school in each parish because it is similar to the concept of a community or neighbourhood school. At that level, children need to feel connected and a part of the community.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

Presently the birth rate is down significantly which is reflected in the low enrolment levels at the primary level. Having one parish primary school is more economically prudent. I also feel that if the professionals who are responsible for delivering the primary curriculum are held to account, those parish primary schools would thrive and even compete on a national scale.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish,

One of the comments I have in relation to the proposal itself is that the timing of its release was not the best option. Many of the parents and the residents as a whole have been living under undue stress because of the Covid situation and the ramifications of that on their children's

which is considered in questions 8-10)?

education, their economic status and meeting their financial obligations. This proposal could have been put in abeyance for at least another year or so.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

Since Prospect primary is due to close and it is centrally located, I think the idea of repurposing it is a good one.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

I disagree with the rationale to repurpose Elliot primary school for many reasons: (1) The history of Elliot takes one from a one-room schoolhouse built by 12 freed Black men (former slaves) back some 200+ years ago to a school further along on Jubilee Road to the present site of the school on Hermitage Road. In my mind the legacy left behind and the vision of those 12 Black men to build a school so that their children could receive an education is something to be celebrated, not re-branded. (I have a feeling that if Mary Prince had been allowed an education, she would have attended Elliot primary!) (2) The site on which Elliot is built is ideal for THE parish primary school. There is additional land near the sand pit on the western side of the school to build a pre-school that could be incorporated very easily at the present site. (3) The present school building was NOT built in 1951 as stated in the proposal but sometime in the mid-60s according to some members of the Alumni Association who attended during those first few years. WOULD it not be more cost-effective to upgrade the present facility than to build a new school on the Margaret Carter Success Academy site on Roberts Avenue? Further, it is important that children at the

primary level be exposed to and have at their disposal open spaces. The present school site has that whereas you would have to create this space at the Margaret Carter Success Academy which at present has a concrete building and a tarmaced parking area. The MCSA is also too close to a main thoroughfare (Palmetto Road) for children at the primary level. (4) The present Elliot has many community partners who try to assist the school in any way they can. I refer to The Elliot Trust who annually sponsors scholarships for students pursuing post-secondary education; The Elliot School Alumni Association which distributes Xmas hampers yearly to families in need whose children attend the school and whose members assist with the school lunch programme when it was permitted; and The Wolves Football Club. The school has grown from a neighbourhood school to a Community school.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

I STRONGLY DISAGREE because I feel that the present site which houses the primary school is the ideal location for the parish primary school after the necessary upgrades. Wouldn't the cost of a new school be more expensive than to upgrade the present facility and build on a pre-kindergarten wing?

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share

When I looked at some of the schools which are due to remain open simply because they are the only schools in their particular parish, Elliot primary which equalled the score in some cases or scored higher in some categories,

regarding the proposals,  
including any alternatives?

needs to be considered as THE PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL  
for Devonshire based on the rubric.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 734443

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Northland's Primary School, [REDACTED]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: I think that the primary schools should remain as is and do away with the middle schools. Add back the 7th year to primary schools and then use the middle schools and revert them back to high schools.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: I believe that the primary schools should remain as is. There isn't enough capacity to consolidate primary schools. And Northland's is one of the better schools in Pembroke.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? As stated above. I don't think the best decision is to remove and reduce primary school to one per parish. Keep the primary schools as is. It makes more sense to change the middle schools into high schools.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale No (Disagree)

for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: I don't believe there are enough students island wide to dedicate a whole school just for that reason. Are there figures that can be shared to support this need?

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: I don't believe there are enough students island wide to dedicate a whole school just for that reason. Are there figures that can be shared to support this need?

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: I think this is a waste of money that the government doesn't have. Invest in having dedicated teachers aids for the students that may require such assistance.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? As mentioned above. I believe that the primary school levels should remain as is. The class sizes are just right, students benefit from smaller classes so that they can get the best out of their learning environment. It will be too much to add in 80-100+ students into each primary school. There isn't sufficient room in the school's proposed to remain open. You can then add one year back into the

primary school level (p1-7) then utilize the middle schools as high schools, as was previously done years ago. This would make the most sense.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 751286

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? I consider myself to be associated with all Public Schools as I believe we have an obligation to provide an exemplary public education system to all children in Bermuda.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

It would seem that one of the most compelling reasons for this proposed change is the continued declining student enrolment in public schools which has been the trend for several decades. This is indeed disturbing and results in among many things a poor use of resources, and gross inequity. However, in all these years, I have had the impression that this trend was simply accepted as a given by the Education Ministry and little if any effort made to look at why such trends continued to occur. The lowering birthrates of course needed to be accepted, but the increasing flight of parents and students from public to private schools seemed to be accepted also as something else we had no control over. Thus the solution...was always ... primary school closures..and here we are again.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: It seems to me that population density should decide school location not simply parish boundaries ...if such decisions were to be made in pursuit of equity.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

No

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons: Need more information

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons: Need more information

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

I don't know

Please share your reasons: Need more information.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

I do have some questions regarding: Transitioning from P8 to a Signature Senior School - Social Promotion? Choosing a Signature Senior School - Who, When, n How? Proposed Curricular Changes - Cambridge? Where are the Teacher and Principals Unions on this? "Re-Building the plane while in flight" - What happens to the passengers and crew? Role of an Education Authority? Are there any cohorts among the current student population that the current system has served well over say the past 5-10 years? If so, what are they and in what areas has there been success based on valued added educational pedagogy, strategies, programmes or services?

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 222884

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Non-Profit Service Provider

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Dalton E. Tucker - grandchildren attend Primary schools PRIDE programmes

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: The findings of the SCORE and this Consultation Report are all agreeable reasons.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: The decline in enrollment, health, safety and aging of the buildings - I agree all reasons as reported.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? No

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an No (Disagree)

exceptionalities signature  
school?

Please share your reasons:

Is there a reason why the exceptional school is being moved from where it is currently located? Sorry I don't remember a mention of the building's assessment. I would recommend refurbishing and using Prospect for the Devonshire school since it is slated to be refurbished.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

My concern is the location of this site for the alternative school and the proposal to mix the ages and grade levels on site with other potentially high performing students. It seems to be too many services on the site.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

If the Dame Marjorie Bean School is refurbished it can still be used for the exceptional students and Prospect Can serve as the New Devonshire School.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share

I applaud the work that has gone into collecting data for this proposal. It is time for change and I wish us all the best and remain hopeful that we will be successful. Thank you.

regarding the proposals,  
including any alternatives?

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 785369

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other/extended Family Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Berkeley Institute - grandson in S1

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Declining birth rates = declining enrolment. Most of the school buildings are old and we need to prepare our children to succeed within a 21st century environment.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: For reasons stated above, in addition to which, it would help to bring about more community unity with businesses and other organizations within that parish - develop a greater appreciation for each other.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? No

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

We need to address the challenges currently existing within this underserved population - the repurposing of Prospect Primary School is an ideal location.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

Location - easy access - lots of space - vicinity to mental healthcare services

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

To better serve our children with a purpose-built facility

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

It's about time!

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 801893

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): DOE Staff Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? East End Primary

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I was never an advocate of Middle Schools and was not in agreement when the Government of the day instituted that change.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Think children should attend primary school in the parish they live in.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? no.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an Yes (Agree)

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: I think these schools that offer specialized care should be centrally located.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Think there should be one and this campus is better than what is currently used.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Like the concept.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? no.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 800541

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Parent of a Harrington Sound Primary & Whitney Institute student

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I agree that spreading resources through 18 school is a mighty task and that the birth rate is declining. It makes sense to have less schools to utilize the teachers and resources accordingly. I understand that schools selected will be refurbished but there will be a lot more students in one building especially if the year levels will extend by 2 years. Also I'm sure covid19 is not going to disappear anytime soon so how will the schools be able to adapt? For example, Harrington Sound Primary, the traffic is already horrendous with more students it will be a total nightmare.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. I don't know

Please share your reasons: It depends on how many students will be in each parish. Some parish schools may get overwhelmed while others may not.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, I can only comment on the experience I have has with the schools my children go to (have gone to). As mentioned above, Harrington Sound Primary has some issues with traffic and mold. The teachers seem to be fine. When my

which is considered in questions 8-10)?

oldest daughter went to St. George's prep, the environment was great. From the campus to the teaching, it was 5 star which is why it is a high performing school.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: We need a school like this as each child learns differently.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: We need a school like this as each child learns differently.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: It depends on the cost. If the government is already in a deficit, how will it finance this? Look at what happened with the new Berkeley building.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? Should this proposal move forward, what is the timeline for the schools being refurbished? Will it be done during the summer? If so, what will happen if it's not completed by the beginning of the new term? The school uniforms should be simplistic as they are costly to purchase.

Especially if schools have summer and winter uniforms. Parents should have ample time for transitioning of clothes before it's made final. There should also be more minibuses to transport kids as some will have a longer journey getting home. I hope the people in the education system have given their input as they are the ones doing this everyday. They would know the areas that need improving in regards to the students/teachers needs. It's a known fact that the buildings itself are falling apart. Plus, there seems to be a disconnect sometimes with teachers and the ministry sometimes. This became obvious during the lockdown and remote learning periods. Lastly, the proposal does not have indicative costs associated with this proposal.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 925327

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other/extended Family Member  
Non-Profit Service Provider  
Business Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Northlands, Victor Scott, Dellwood, Prospect - Family member in school, participants in our youth program

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Change is needed by introducing a more robust and systemic to improve the standard of learning and reduce the inadequate educational results currently being achieved.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Many advantages to this model. Reduced public transportation requirements, ease of access to after school activities, redevelopment of neighbourhood interaction (know your neighbour and their children and vice versa - rebuilding of the Village and hopefully mutual respect throughout the island which is currently very low)

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? The education instructional level of each school must be monitored closely and regularly to ensure each school is meeting the required standards. If not, some parents will demand their child be allowed to go to a school out off their zone or parish which is producing better educational results.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

I believe the use from Prospect and Elliott should be switched.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

I believe the use from Prospect and Elliott should be switched. Elliott maybe a better site for exceptional learning. Also the enrollment at this school should be lower than Prospect.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

There is no school currently existing to meet the new requirements

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

Not at this time.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 663764

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):  
Parent  
Business Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?  
Port Royal Primary. Parent of student attending Port Royal Primary. Previous student/ Alumni of Port Royal Primary

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?  
No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Citing "we believe" this proposal will lead to all students, and not just "pockets" of students having successful education outcomes is simply just a statement supported by no evidence. Last time the Government "believed" in redesigning public education for improved educational outcomes, a different school consolidation ended up taking place with the public secondary schools, to create Cedar Bridge. The results of which continues to contribute to the public's skepticism of public education standards, aiding in lower public primary school enrolment, while subsequently helping to create the oversubscription and subsequent waiting-lists for Bermuda's private schools. While the consultation document makes a brief mention of its failure, it makes no acknowledgement of the similarity that their new proposal has to this old proposal that created an even larger scepticism around public education - and helped fuel the decline in public school enrolment, as more parents sought placement in successful private schools. There is an aversion of the government to admit the decline in public school enrolment has coincided with an increase in private school enrolment and waiting lists. Approaching a problem with denial in itself creates more problems. Citing the need to consolidate schools due to declining birth rate is a false

flag, when private schools have primary classes with waiting lists for student entry. Citing public schools have to offer more subjects and essentially a larger curriculum, yet globally (via the OECD) educational performance at the primary level is judged based on English, math and science - which could be argued as fundamentally sound given the cross-over application of these subjects - at best dilutes a child's chance at fundamental educational success, and at worst leads to them having deficiencies in the foundations of higher-level concepts that will be expected of them in the latter years of their academic pursuits. The only people calling for "radical" changes in reality, seems to be the Government. Most people want effective teaching changes, and for the school properties to be clean, sanitary, and safe. I can't recall any parent I've spoken to requesting anything radical. The Government is proposing reducing the number of properties providing educational services to save money, before reducing the number of Government Ministers - I believe at a minimum the Ministerial salaries should be moved to being performance-based before they seek to close down public primary schools. It would seem the Government's proposal is, in at minimum - in part, focused on reducing costs associated with maintenance and funding of multiple physical locations, and pays little homage to the successful education planning of other smaller nations. The idea of consolidating schools seems akin to former strategies employed by public primary and middle schools found in the US and UK. Both countries sought initiatives to "streamline" public schools a decade ago, and both are experiencing their own national public education crisis - currently recording year-on-year lower national testing scores in core subjects (math, English, and general sciences). The culture shift proposed does not require new facilities. It can be implemented in the existing schools, if they are not already. I would argue that most primary schools are currently taking measures to do so, and also that there are also merits to rules and structure. Calling a proposed primary school a "hub" does not equate to actual harmony - pragmatically, I would think by increasing the

number of students and families, there will be more diverse opinions, more needs requiring attention, which equates to more bureaucracy. In many ways the Consultation document seems detached from realistic scenarios of augmenting student populations, while citing reasons (such as "culture" changes) that don't require school closures. There has been no evidence, or a lack of detail, on how the Government's strategy will align with successful primary-level education strategies employed in small nations, such as: 1. Increasing teacher stability (maintaining the same teacher-pupil relationship for a number of years, often +5 years). 2. Improving teacher quality by requiring teachers to have a masters degree, 3. Instituting smaller class sizes (< 20 pupils/teacher), 4. Implementing a focus on learning rather than targets, homework and testing. I also deplore the use of buzz words, such as "profound", "powerful", "visionary", "sustainable", "holistic", "dramatic improvement", "diverse programs", "dynamic roles", ect. - without any communication of the detailed strategic objectives, detailed deliverable components, or detailed expected outcomes. To say teachers will be required to have the necessary experience or certifications - without stating what they are - is opaque at best. The focus on vocational and technical programs at a Primary school level is almost as unwarranted as it would be at the kindergarten level. Primary school should focus its energy on building the foundational use and proficiency of core subjects - which are used in every vocation they may encounter later on in life.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Saying the "time has finally come" to close successful schools, before there have been attempts to publicly revamp teacher requirements, qualifications, and

recruitment seems short-sighted, and also like the focus is on cutting future cost and not improving educational standards. Saying "all teachers will have the qualifications and certifications needed... to improve education outcomes" is vague - what qualifications exactly? Have certifications been proven to improve education outcomes? In places like Finland, all teachers have Masters - they have some of the highest performing students. In places like Switzerland, they have the highest amount of PhD student per capita - each Canton has numerous public primary school level options, and a child is enrolled in the school within walking distance (they also encourage children to return home for a full lunch meal, but I won't put that on this government). It seems like a plan that will see larger class size, or larger number of total students per teacher, which has also been shown to be less effective for overall learning. Even if class sizes are below 20 pupils, the chance that teachers will have to engage with more than 20 pupils increases, as school population increases - meaning their ability to be attentive and empathetic on a 1-to-1 basis is undeniably diluted. Also, the math in the Current:Future state needs to be explained a bit - it seems a bit biased towards the proposal. Facilities - most of the proposed facilities are going to be reused, the age of the building should be effectively the same. Also, there's no detail on the cost of the re-purposing the existing building vs. repairing them? The mention of 40sqft requirements from SCORE appear somewhat arbitrary, but even if it is preferred, there is no mention of the average class dimension - only that "almost 60%" of classrooms are not 40sqft, but how far off are they on average from this benchmark by school? Rather than viewing this measure as binary, it's spatial, and can be looked at on a distribution of how far each class is from 40sqft (if we wish to use this benchmark), and provide a range for the desired numbers of students for the given space of each classroom - rather than close these spaces. Presumably, based on the binary criteria employed in this Consultation document, a classroom measuring 30 sqft was viewed as unable to support the benchmark class size - it seems some of the

criteria lacked the flexibility the Consultation document seeks to promote. I also do not understand the scoring - Dalton E. Tucker was given 6 more points in their green space score than Port Royal - who was used for reviewing the scoring implemented? Were these scores validated by the administration of each school? How does one rank "expansion capability"? What is the purpose of the Maximum Score cap? Frankly, to not use student performance when ranking schools is highly concerning - I understand a student's performance is attributed to numerous factors, but to say a school's merit shouldn't be based on the academic performance of it's students is highly concerning, and raises questions about the expertise involved in these scores. It's very odd as the Cambridge test examination results are used in the appendices to support the Consultation proposal - based on poor test scores - yet student performance is not used when scoring schools. All public schools are already "Community schools" - there's nothing in the Consultation research that supports building one school per Parish. The research states more public engagement leads to higher likelihood of student success, but it doesn't quantify that level of engagement. "Increase in the number of parents involved in services" - how much of an increase? an increase over what amount? There seems to be very little quantitative analysis in the Consultation doc. There's the budget of existing expenditure, yet no budgets for the cost of performing this proposal or variations of it - how can anyone compare the relative costs?

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

Not really, other than I think a child should be able to walk to school - and should have the ability to develop a multi-year bond with their teacher. I think instead of opening new schools, the money should be invested in furthering the academic endeavours of teachers and those interested in teaching careers, through educational grants (not teacher training) that allows them to attain masters degrees.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale

I don't know

for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons:

I agree with the rationale, I just think there are a multitude of locations that could be repurposed for this, particularly near Hamilton. If the DMBHA has truly been outgrown relative to the number and needs of children with learning disabilities - then yes, another location should be repurposed - there are so many buildings that can be repurposed that are not in use, why use one that is in current use and provides kids that live near there with the opportunity to go to an existing community school? The "transportation" service proposal for all schools, including an exceptionalities school is concerning. What is the current track record for public bus transportation? The public transportation system is underperforming now - why should any parent take solace in it being included as part of this overall proposal, or that it will perform better under this proposal?

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

I think it's helpful for those kids to feel somewhat inclusive to other kids who don't suffer from the same behavioural problems. I think ostracising these kids into a single location, may allow that specialist teachers won't have to travel back and forth between schools as much, but I think the kids themselves will miss out on the opportunity to learn through positive and negative interactions with kids who do not have severe behavioural problems.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school

No (Disagree)

respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Please share your reasons:

If you wish to draw on the work of Rosalyn Black, it's possible to do so using the existing academic infrastructure, as collaboration exists in the form of PTAs which are involved at every existing public primary school. There are also philanthropic endeavours from various corporate institutions, which perhaps can be improved upon through further government consultation with various corporate entities - opposed to building new schools, where existing school buildings exist and can be improved with a budget that might be augmented by corporate institutions, especially in lieu of massive proposed tax reforms, also being put forth by the Government.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

There's so much jargon in the Consultation document about "21st Century" teaching and facilities, yet at the core the assessment, both locally and globally (via the OECD), is performance in English, Math and Science. While I appreciate the desire for high-tech solutions rooted in modern day trends, most of the focus at the primary level should be on these very fundamental subjects, from which all technologies are rooted. In a way, this can be done with 20th century facilities, with access to a 21st century internet connection. Facilities can always be improved, but the reality is the ability to effectively convey concepts to children is rooted in a teacher's deep understanding of the concept - in order to distill that information. My experience, in dealing with what is considered a "successful" public primary school, is that the proficiency of science and math is lacking at the teaching-level. I believe established educational success in Switzerland and Finland is rooted in the fact that they mandate that public teachers have their masters, it reinforces their ability to provide a

high-level of state sponsored education. I have seen people I went to school with, who had trouble at high-school level math and sciences, go on to become public primary school teachers in Bermuda. If the government's focus was promoting math and science based educational grants for university students, with competitive teacher salaries, I think they could save themselves the cost of restructuring the entire public primary school sector. Many of the points put forth in the Consultation doc do not require closure of existing schools, nor the building of new ones. They require effective leadership and management that can be instituted at existing schools through better employment practices. Employment strategies seem to be glossed over, if completely overlooked. I think the Government should consider soliciting further corporate sponsorship (in lieu of income tax reform) for Bermudian students seeking educational careers so they can achieve masters degrees, with particular focus on Maths and sciences. Then, it should take the money it's budgeted for the school consolidation/closing/new building and raise the salaries of classroom educators, trenched by academic-seniority (not years of service), while placing a cap on the salaries of educational advisors and management.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 343163

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): School Staff Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? The Harrington Sound Primary School

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: \*\*\*

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: \*\*\*

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? \*\*\*

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

Presently holds a functional program - extending this program within the present location is a sound decision

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Perfect location for a Parish Primary School - reasons of which have been submitted prior...

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Reasons submitted prior

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

\*\*\*

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 309770

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Victor Scott- Child in attendance

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? I don't know

Please share your reasons:

Will the ageing schools be renovated or rebuilt to accommodate the larger numbers of students? I think it is a good idea to centralise education but will the new schools also be receiving an update in curriculum and staff development?

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. I don't know

Please share your reasons:

It seems like existing schools are in very accessible areas. Closing schools may create new difficulties for parents who may have to find alternative transport arrangements for their children. I am also not sure that the school access ways and public transportation can accommodate an entire parish worth of drop off and collections.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish,

Devonshire Parish- Roberts Avenue will need an entire facelift to accommodate a newly constructed school. How will the demolition and new build affect the families that live in that area? Then how will Roberts Avenue be able to accommodate the traffic that is expected for a parish school? St George's Parish- How does the government plan

which is considered in questions 8-10)?

to make this school accessible for the many families in St Georges? What plans are being made to ensure the traffic in St Georges flows seamlessly? All parish- Will the government be introducing breakfast clubs for parents that need to drop off children early since parish schools may not be as accessible for early work times?

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

This is a good location. Will there be work done to make the school bigger?

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

What systems will be in place to separate primary and secondary aged pupils? Will the school receive any additions/modifications to make it bigger and more accessible?

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

How much will Roberts Avenue need to be transformed in order for it to accommodate the increased traffic and

other factors that will affect the families that currently live there? Is there a building plan/design that is available?

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

I do not agree with P7 & P8 being at the primary schools. I think that if this is to happen, a great deal of attention needs to go into how these 'maturing' year groups will be separated from the younger children. I believe that additional consideration should go into moving all children to senior school after finishing P6 or P7. I believe that there is a really good reason for separating children in these developmental stages and that we should consider how other schools manage/group their pupils.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 818348

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):  
School Staff Member  
DOE Staff Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?  
The Berkeley Institute - [REDACTED]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?  
I don't know

Please share your reasons:  
I require more information. I feel as though the curriculum and the way that it is delivered has a major impact on the educational outcome of students. Differentiated instruction is beneficial for all students as well as experiential learning experiences.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.  
I don't know

Please share your reasons:  
From a historical perspective, I feel that people will be very sensitive about the closing of primary schools. If it is done correctly with the proper curriculum and resources, then it has the potential to be successful.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?  
I think that it is important to take into consideration the COVID restrictions that are now in place. If we don't make the physical change, we can reform the education system by implementing a national curriculum that is reflective of our culture and is in alignment with the 21st century way of life.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

I think it is important to ensure that students with exceptionalities have more options to attend purposeful schools. I also believe that students will be able to get access to OT, PT and Speech more efficiently if they had a larger purposeful built school. Opportunities for inclusion can be created in different environments and through community programs.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

If the Ministry of Education can provide students with buses to help transport them to the school this will be beneficial. We have to remember that this school isn't in a central location for parents who may live in Somerset.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Just concerned about the amount of time it will take for the school to be built and the cost factor.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

I want to recommend a transitional program for students with Autism & other learning exceptionalities. Students who are in High school particularly need additional educational years. Especially when K. Margret Center is oversubscribed and can't accommodate new clients (the current waitlist is 4 years). Parents require support and students with ASD or exceptionalities deserve the opportunity to learn skills to enter the workforce.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 159631

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other/extended Family Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? St. David's Primary

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

We are a tight knit community. Concerned about the families that live in the housing complex that walk their children to school and can't afford after school or pick up service. What will happen to the school building if it closes? There are no after school programs what about the parents that work in Hamilton and would have to go to St George's first to pick up their children and then come home to St. David's? At least in St David's you have Sunbeam nursery that picks up children and they have to be dropped off by 5:00. At least over here you have most people have a family member or someone that can collect the child but if they are in St George's, how is it going to work? That means that the pickup and delivery service cost will go up because of the longer distance for them to pick up and deliver. A lot of people over here walk their children to school. Also I consider St David's Primary School to be one of the best academic primary schools on the island I went there my children went there my grandchildren go there and I have another one that will be starting there in September and I cannot get up and go St George's every morning and go every afternoon to pick him up physically. And I can go on and on. But I would prefer to put these questions and my concerns forward on the zoom meeting

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: I disagree I feel why try to fix something that isn't broken

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

I would like to join in on the meeting and hear more proposals and comments.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I would like to hear more about that proposal

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons: I would like to hear more about that proposal

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or

Yes (Agree)

disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Please share your reasons:

I'm in full agreement with signature schools

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

if there are going to be two schools closing in St George's Parish why can't East End and St George's prep move over St. David's

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 773227

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

Prospect Primary School - My son attends [REDACTED]

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

I concur with the need to reduce costs by closing schools that are underutilized. I am concerned about the effect of this on children on the Autism Spectrum, and where the current support received at this school will be moved, or if it will be removed outright with this proposed closure.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

None.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

None.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons: I'm uncertain as to how that affects support for students on the Autism Spectrum.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons: N/A

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Uncertain where the funding for a brand new school is coming from, with the government coffers decimated from covid-19 and previous decisions.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

Not at this time.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 611146

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?  
Elliott Primary. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?  
No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: N/a

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.  
No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: It feels like we don't have a choice as to where to place our children for school. It's limited. There would be more children in a classroom.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?  
No

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an  
I don't know

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: N/a

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: I think that Elliot primary should be renovated to become the primary school for the Devonshire Parish.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: N/a

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

I recently registered my son to start P1 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Starting a new school is a nerve-racking thing for a 4 year old and now dealing with the covid-19 and having to adjust to all that to than having to move to a different location if this proposal falls into place and starting all over again. I think that it is alot for all the children to handle and to get adjusted to.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 977640

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other/extended Family Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Port Royal and Dalton E Tucker (Southampton Glebe)

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Declining birth rates in my opinion are driving this change and rightly so. Some of the changes required are to carry out a full review of Principals, Staff and the DOE to ensure that all persons are truly equipped with the 'right' skills. I am in agreement that the condition of infrastructure of all Primary schools should be considered in which ones to close whilst at the same time noting schools that lend themselves to expansion in the future.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Economic climates dictates

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? Dalton E Tucker (Southampton Glebe) - I am glad that my Primary alma mata has been earmarked to remain open. This school has a huge following of former students and still supports Dalton E Tucker today.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

Exceptional - not sure what word means in this proposed change. If exceptional means separating the so-called 'bright' or high achievers, then I would not be in favour of it. This would continue what is currently within the system now as far as Teachers and DOE having 'bad' perceptions of the students and ultimately the School.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

Alternative education signature school - if that means children with 'special' needs like Autism and any of the other 3 and 4 letter abbreviations that have come to the fore in the last 15 years or so.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

No building of new schools

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share

Not at this time.

regarding the proposals,  
including any alternatives?

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 557158

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? St. George's prep

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Whilst I agree in improving the public education system, and think it's an excellent initiative with this consult, there are many excellent schools here, I attended paget primary and Warwick academy when public- as mother could never have afforded private school And it was an excellent education, great teachers and I don't think investment should be made in buildings but in the teachers, teacher resources, programs and students, the facilities are least important in my view. Looking at other countries with meager facilities the education system is excellent and they are progressive, it's not the buildings. The return on investment of dollars and time would be much greater investing in people than buildings, facilities etc. St. George's preparatory should definitely not be closed. It's a huge success giving Bermudians a private quality education For free for decades. Instead why not model other schools on this success and expand private sector and community partnerships. Closing St. George's prep will surely widen the have- and have-not gap, just like when the small secondary schools closed to make way for cedarbridge those with the means to afford it took their kids out of public school and paid for private education. In Finland, know for one of the best education systems in the world, I

believe all the children, of means and of little means attend the same primary schools. It's important to keep this equality, because causing disruptions and closing primary schools that excel will cause more segregation of social economic brackets.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Results in closing of high performing schools

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

St. George's prep should not be closed - perhaps move east end to St. George's prep, keep St David's primary.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

No comment

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

No comment

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school

I don't know

respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Please share your reasons:

This is so much investment and capital in facilities - in my view investing in things, buildings and not people and programs is not the answer.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

Thanks and best wishes.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 681240

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):  
Parent  
Other Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?  
Elliott Primary - [REDACTED] son is a student

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?  
Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: The need to future proof our educational system

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.  
Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Better school environment & ability to better develop the skills of the school staff. Better facilities

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?  
I require more information on the new school and researched available to kids

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?  
Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: The reasoning is sound as there is need for improvement

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Choice

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: The need to have a modern environment with advance features

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? No

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 727018

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Neighbour, parent and former student of Elliot Primary.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? I don't know

Please share your reasons: As long as the opportunity for (at minimum) a decent education is afforded to all students which includes learning support or advanced learning, I agree with it.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. I don't know

Please share your reasons: I don't believe that location is as important as access to quality education for all. If the quality of the learning environment is good and equal across all parish schools, it shouldn't be a problem.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? No

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Yes (Agree)

Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: Truthfully, I neither agree nor disagree.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

The K Margaret Centre is already used for alternative education to a degree so it should continue and expand on its services to include the "alternative signature school". Additionally Elliot Primary has the property to add on a pre-school.

Please share your reasons:

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Elliot Primary should be the location of the newly built primary school. It has enough property to add-on if necessary. The school facilities and technology just needs to be upgraded.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

Fix up Elliot Primary to be the parish primary school.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 211954

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Elliot Primary School. My son attends Elliot Primary.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Disagree because there are some students that smaller class size works better for. Not all students can handle large classes. My son is one of those students.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Disagree because some kids will have to travel distances to get to and from school and it creates larger class sizes.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? Devonshire parish school proposal needs to be revisited.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an No (Disagree)

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: Location is not the best. The persons that will attend this school can stay at the facility they are at now.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Prospect Primary is where this school could potentially go. Having the students go from primary one straight through to high school doesn't give them an opportunity to enter into regular public school if there is change in that student and they can perform well in regular public school.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Disagree because the site chosen for the Devonshire Parish school is not a safe area in comparison to Elliot Primary's location. It is near the main road. The facility has no field. I believe that if there had to be a parish school for Devonshire it should be located at Elliot Primary. The facility there has room to build, has enough field space and the location again is safer.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share Consider class room size.

regarding the proposals,  
including any alternatives?

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 952698

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? West End Primary as a parishioner and as an alumna with longstanding ties to the school.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Although I have considered the full report and see the reasons and rationale indicated, I would like to take into account the outcomes of the parish meetings before making a final decision. I note that socio-cultural (people) factors, in communities where schools are located, seem to have been minimal in the considerations in the end...

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. I don't know

Please share your reasons: I would like to consider the outcomes of the parish meetings before making a final decision.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? Yes. I have comments to share related to the West End Primary School proposal. I request a contact via email so that I may send a word document to the appropriate place for consideration.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

I agree that DMBHA services need to be expanded. However, it is my hope that inclusion of the vast majority of children who have exceptional needs, i.e. accommodating their needs in mainstream, typical settings will remain as the philosophy of the Ministry. Children with exceptionalities need to be able to survive and thrive in mainstream society once they emerge from their public education process. I believe that it ought to be possible to enhance the skills of school personnel such that the BPSS will be enabled to do this even better.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

I agree with the need for such programmes as this school is meant to provide. My hope is that this setting will not become the only learning setting for a student, for similar reasons as noted above.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

There will be a need for another school.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

Yes. As indicated above, I would appreciate being able to submit my comments re: West End Primary School to the appropriate location as a Word document for consideration. Please contact me at your earliest convenience prior to March 12, 2021.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 302484

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? I have a child attending St. Paul's pre-school currently.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: The reasons and rationale are sound. Strictly looking at the numbers it would be a misappropriation of Government funds to maintain so many buildings that are near vacant at times.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Without access to all the data needed to determine the exact ratio each school would project to deploy I can only speak to the principality of the proposal. That said it makes sense to me. In fact, before reading the document I told my wife that 1 school per parish for most parishes made sense and that perhaps Pembroke, Devonshire and Paget would need extras as the most centralized parishes. Now with knowledge of the plan to incorporate an extra school in Pembroke, for the same reasons I thought it made sense, it is safe to assume the numbers dictated only 1 extra school was needed.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

Regarding Paget: With 3 main veins servicing the city from the west end (Harbour, Middle and South Roads), a school located on Ord Road is as ideal a location as there is. That said, have considerations been made for the increase of traffic that is sure to merge towards this common point? ie. Mini Buses at drop off points on Middle and South Roads in locations that would not disrupt the flow of traffic on those roads in a substantial fashion. As it pertains to the school itself I would need more information regarding the number of classrooms in order to determine whether or not the desired teacher to student ratio can be met. I do believe the property is structured in a way that there could be very distinguished areas for lower primary versus upper primary students; which is an important factor considering the range in ages from a P1 student to P7s and P8s.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

N/A

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

N/A

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as

I don't know

the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Please share your reasons: N/A

The document mentioned a shift from a culture that is focused on rules and consequences. Is it not the real world that we are preparing our children for? If so the real world functions on a very fundamental set of rules and consequences. Shifting the focus of the educators to

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

be more mindful of the students and perhaps learning better tactics for dealing with infractions of rules is a welcomed idea, and one that should be regularly visited, but a cultural shift from rules and consequences is very alarming. Having spent considerable time amongst teachers, a concern that I share is that constant change seems to be the only thing consistent. The frequent changes inhibit the systems that are being implemented from cultivating a culture of learning.

Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 509916

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? My daughter attends St. Paul's Preschool in Paget

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I agree that there are too many primary schools at the moment and its is prudent for the government to economize and adjust to the current needs.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: 1. I think that moving from 18 primary schools to 10 especially in the projected time frame may be premature and necessitates a more gradual approach to ensure that this will have minimal deleterious effect on our education delivery. 2. The current pandemic has shown us that smaller cohorts of students are beneficial for containment should there be another resurgence, thus there will need to be a delicate balance between economizing and being prepared for such eventualities.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) Even though there has been a decline in enrollment there has been a general increase in the numbers from Paget through to the western parishes and this merits

(except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? consideration. Perhaps keeping two or three among those parishes might be necessary.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: n/a

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: n/a

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: 1. I think that preschools are best located as a separate structure from primary schools. Children at that age ( 4-5 year old's) are impressionable and lack the social skills to integrate with primary school students especially when one considers a 2 tiered system that will have potentially 13 year old's in attendance. 2. Instead of building a new school, it would be more cost effective to refurbish an existing building for the stated purpose. With a plan in

place, it will be possible to achieve our vision in a more economical way.

1. One of the problems that has been highlighted in the past is the many attempts at change which has caused discontinuity in the school system. The curricula may be mal-aligned but it certainly is not antiquated as many such changes have occurred over the years. The government has proposed a shift from a "culture of rules and consequences". I would dare to suggest that the opposite needs to occur. We already have a generation of very entitled individuals who have thumbed their noses at the rules and never feel as if there should be any consequences. How we implement these ideas may need refining but there should be very clear lines regarding the rules and consequences. 2. I agree whole-heartedly that the infrastructure does need to be addressed but the improvements in our education outcomes can be achieved without gutting the system. We have consistently lowered the bar for students and parents, continually adjusting our grading system to give parents and students as little responsibility as possible. We can accept the social responsibility for our children but with the kind of support that allows for access to resources and accountability that allows each person to reach and attain the gold standard. 3. With regards to accreditation here are a few concerns: a) Accreditation is a rigorous process and usually costly. Where funding is already a concern, that money could be used in other areas with more pressing needs. b) Because it requires significant preparation it has the potential to detract from the goal of the institution and in so doing sometimes may not accurately reflect the credibility of the institution. The truest and most accurate reflection of an institution's prowess is its ability to consistently produce graduates that are of the caliber that has been outlined in the proposal. Perhaps we could strive to achieve this and then work towards accreditation. The Alternative: After closing (only) just the necessary schools. Refurbish one of the buildings as the 'test school' to reflect the proposed vision and test the students after two years to see if this

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals , including any alternatives?

system works for our climate. If the standards are met, by all means you can implement this across the board.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 906123

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):  
DOE Staff Member  
Other Community Member  
Other

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?  
St. David's Primary School - former student/past parent and community member

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?  
No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:  
With regards to St. David's Primary you will be removing a pillar of the community. There is pride that emanates from the school.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.  
No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:  
With the millions of dollars being spent on education reform, there needs to be social reform that mirrors the programming. Many of our parents are not effectively involved in the education of their children.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?  
NA

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale  
I don't know

for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: NA

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: NA

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: NA

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? We as a school system need to address the shortcomings of our system. Why are parents choosing private education? Why are parents removing their children from the public and choosing private as their option. Why are parents removing their children at the S3 level and sending them to boarding school? These are the questions that need to be addressed before spending millions of dollars on school buildings.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 306572

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):

Parent  
Business Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?

Parent of Paget Primary student [REDACTED] Heron Bay  
Primary School [REDACTED] West End  
Primary School

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Leaving the classroom size small is beneficial to the students. This will allow the student the advantage of the teacher's attention for a longer period of time. The teacher will be able to focus more and identify the student/s who will need the extra quicker than if in a larger class. The student will have a better opportunity to learn. Less disruption in the class. The student will display more confidence and will speak up and interact more, encouraging more Bermudian leaders. A smaller classroom will benefit the community as a whole and produce leaders.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Again, if the amount of primary schools is unchanged this will allow teachers to teach a smaller classroom, which has major benefits for the students and population on a whole. If the primary schools are reduced to one per parish (Pembroke being the exception), the classroom size will

increase and become problematic for the teachers across the island. There is no advantage to teaching a larger number of students. This will be a disadvantage and a set-up for some unfortunate students to fail. Those students deserve more of a chance.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

Yes. Heron Bay Primary School in Southampton parish should stay in operation. There is too long of a gap between Dalton E. Tucker Primary School and Purvis Primary School. Heron Bay Primary School as all primary schools in Bermuda is rich in heritage and history and should continue to service students in Southampton parish. This is an advantage. The same for West End Primary School in Somerset Parish. As a matter of fact, all Bermuda's primary schools are rich in heritage and history from slavery days. These historical buildings should not be closed, they should be cherished. We have historical legacies set in each and every primary school across the island.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

I believe that all primary schools should continue to operate and educate our primary school students.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Elliot school should remain a primary school. The new exceptional and alternative signature schools should be newly built together on the proposed Devonshire site. Therefore, eliminating the need to build a new primary school.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

There should be no need to build a new primary school if they already exist. The exceptional and alternative signature schools should be newly built on one site in Devonshire as a central location. Furthermore, the funds which would be allocated to build a new primary school should be used to renovate our historical school buildings and up-grade our educational system to the 21st century. Most of the time it is not the building that makes the child learn, it is the love and care the teacher gives with educating our young ones (smaller classrooms) no matter what building. It is the government's responsibility to make sure the building is safe for learning.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

Do not close any primary schools. Continue as is, allowing for the smaller classrooms. (Research has proven students in smaller classes receive more attention from the teacher, the teacher is pleased with their student's work. The teacher performs better in the smaller classes and is more encouraged to teach, the student performs better and attains higher grades). Leaving the number of primary schools as is will prove beneficial long term. The students become more confident learning and sharing in smaller classrooms. Students have a higher chance of speaking out, participating, and their voices heard. Bermuda's primary schools are big with heritage and slave history. I firmly believe they should continue as primary school buildings. Use the funds to renovate each school and up-grade to the 21st century education style. Money should not be the

deciding factor if several primary schools should close. Especially since a new primary is to be built. That money allocated should be used toward the up-grades. This is harsh and unfair to the historical legacy left behind by our ancestors. A legacy which should continue as they built it. As far as the community involvement; the community partners can invite the students in to learn by combining the groups from the various primary schools as they like. Keep the current P6 students in their current primary schools starting this year (September 2021) moving them into P7 September 2021 until they complete P8. Merge the Middle1 teachers into the current primary schools (September 2021 changing the teacher's title to the P7 teacher). This will allow the current P6 student to remain comfortable and learn not disturbed with unnecessary change which will be too disruptive to learning. This is of zero benefit. The students may become confused at the process which is not necessary. The benefit is to allow them to stay now until the end of the school year P8. There are primary schools which are willing to do this now for our current 2021 P6 students.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 650392

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Elliot Primary Alumni

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I think these are excellent proposals. The Bermuda Public Education system needs a serious transformation because what is working for some students is not working for all. I find the proposals exciting and cannot wait for a transformation for Bermuda's students.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Let's use these resources to make a more equitable system for all students.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? N/A

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: It is close to where DAME is located now.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

I think Elliot Primary school should remain as the parish primary school. It has the capability to be renovated to accommodate what is envisioned for parish primary schools.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

The new Devonshire build should be used for the alternative school.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

N/A

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 048890

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other/extended Family Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? West End Primary Alumnae

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Declining birth rate Making it more cost effective to maintain and staff the schools

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Same as above

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? Totally disagree with the proposed closure of West End the historically disadvantaged black school while maintaining the historically well funded white school. This is an insult to the community who suffered from the past racism in the education of their children

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: I have not considered this as yet.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: I have been focusing on the primary school in my area therefore I have not considered this.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Same as above

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? I feel that there has been a total disregard of the historical background of West end. In order to get 'buy in' from the community you must consider the feelings within the parish. Without this you will be faced with a lack of support.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 099461

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other/extended Family Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? West End Primary School

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Unsure.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Loss of history when schools are closed down.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? West End School has a rich history within the community as well as Bermuda as a whole.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Uncertain re how this will function.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Unsure

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Unsure

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? Retain West End School

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 981256

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Heron Bay primary - Son attends school

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

The school I picked for my child better suited his needs as the classes were smaller and he was not in the same school as his football friends that would distract him. I believe parents should have a pick of where they send their child so they feel comfortable with their child being in a school that best suits them.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

We have an issue with "gangs" rising and sticking kids that are in the same parish will only fuel that problem. I would prefer to have my child go to a school not based on where they live if they have other options available.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? Because Southampton is a parish that has 3 schools, how about keeping 2 schools open so that those who are closer to say Heron bay do not have to backtrack to get their kid to school. We have issues now with mini bus prices and not enough buses for regular people. How will that help with traffic and people trying to go to work?

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

As good of an idea as it may seem, I believe that separating kids for special needs will cause more issues because they may be teased and bullied from other kids and feel singled out.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

I believe the kids will feel singled out and be teased and bullied.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Don't agree with spending money on a whole new school when I feel you should just renovate the 2 that you have and make one of them maybe exceptional if needed. But do we need so many Exceptional signature schools.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share

I believe there are a number of reasons that our schools had a decline in number and none of which these kids should suffer for. A number of people moved to England for better opportunities and also some sent their kids to

regarding the proposals,  
including any alternatives?

private schools. All the money we are planning to put into the school's new building can go towards the old schools and renovate them. Heron bay already has a garden that they tend too and the other schools you can implement they start doing that. Also if this does come into play is there a way to do it one parish at a time like a trial period to make sure all will run smoothly. Will the kids be at the schools as the construction takes place? What about their health with the sand and rock and machinery? There has to be a better way to improve the education system. Meet with the teachers and get their input because most of them have trouble with sharing a screen during a zoom meeting but you want to throw them in an all new high tech classroom. Hire more teachers so that they are not shared and stressed. Giving them a bigger class room will not fix the problem. I believe more thought needs to go into this before any action.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 641618

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? [REDACTED] West End Primary

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I always believed that the 2 tier system was best for Bermuda having experienced it first hand and observing it as a parent.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Less student enrollment into the public school system, makes it financially prudent to close under-utilised schools.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? I have strong emotional ties to West End Primary as this school has educated three generations of my family. The rich heritage of this school is outstanding and it has made a significant impact on the Sandys community. But I reluctantly have to admit it was the right decision based on the criteria used to choose Somerset Primary over West End Primary. I would urge that the Min of Ed do all it can to keep alive the legacy of West End Primary all be it at the Somerset Primary location. i.e. Change the name of the school to Somerset West Primary, Snaith Primary School, Doris Marsh Primary School or any name of an educator from the West End Primary School. If we have to give up

the location at least give the community a recognised name from its history. Somerset Primary's history is short compared to West End Primary.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: N/A

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: N/A

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: N/A

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? N/A

**Parish Primary School Consultation Form**

Unique ID: 958581

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other Community Member

West End: (1) several Godchildren attended and their children attend now [redacted]

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? [redacted]

attended several functions there over many years.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I never agreed to introduction of Middle Schools for Bermuda

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Not only financial sense but also all community and citizenship- building (e.g. contribution to Parish Councils later in life).

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? West End: 3 general questions here then specific questions in last post of this feedback form. General: 1. What are the estimated costs to refurbish Somerset Primary and West End each to be fit for purpose? 2. Could uplifting West End (at its present site) be deemed as reparations for the past pain and discrimination (facilities, resources, etc.) that

privileged Somerset Primary? 3. What message does it send to Black families today that its own Government would dismiss their generations of hard work supporting West End's community culture and legacy in favor of Somerset Primary (with its history not merely of discrimination, but also of the flight of Whites with the advent of desegregation)?

[REDACTED]

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

do not have sufficient insight into likely impact

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

as a former Acting Magistrate in Family Court, I understand that certain students may need specialized and WRAP-AROUND attention and services. If you have not done so, it would be invaluable to consult with Family Court Magistrates. However, I don't have enough information about the long-term impact of separating / labeling students in this way.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary

Yes (Agree)

school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Please share your reasons:

with one caveat - given cost overruns for new construction, if you overspend on the new school, you may unintentionally under-budget where it might be necessary -- e.g. to refurbish West End. The words "equity" and "community" appear liberally in your Consultation document. These values must be applied to all parishes.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

re West End vs. Somerset Primary: Overall, WE has a 5 point lower weighted score than SP. Based on their scoring system, WE loses out to SP mainly in the category of Land / Properties conditions — especially Area, boundaries, community services, type of road, green field space and expansion capability. WE also lose out on 'accessibility'. In the Safety and Health category. I don't know the definition or weighted values of e.g. Community Services, boundaries or how expansion capability is assessed. It may be possible to quibble with e.g. the importance of "boundaries". Also - I hope you assigned sufficient weight to bus route / accessibility - there is a practical advantage to West End that parents are reasonably concerned about (more than boundaries or even field size). But my problem is not as much about the scoring- or whether there were errors or conceptual biases in assigning the score values. Rather my problem is the fact that all of the score categories are technical/ physical. There is no score category for 'community / legacy / cultural value'. Given SP's history of racism and White flight, I doubt that anyone could raise a credible argument against the premise that WE would not only score infinitely higher in this category vis a vis Somerset Primary, but also would likely rank amongst the highest community (true original Parish) schools in the island. The fact that it has the oldest continuous PTA ought to mean something. Especially for a community with a relatively stable population over the generations - history, lived experience and community attachments are critically important. Although you take such considerations into account in arguing for a Parish system, you do not do so at

all in the scoring categories. You should. That would be equity. Too much of Bermuda's history, cultural and legacy value has been lost, dismissed and undervalued. We can thank Ms. D. Hunt and Mrs. C. Simmons for their histories of West End -which I'm sure you have reviewed - as technical elements alone are deficient. In my considered view, it would be a form of reparations for West End to be uplifted rather than rewarding Somerset Primary for its tainted past. Reparations do have a cost (maybe shave off some of the inevitable cost overruns of the new school in Devonshire?). But the benefits of reparations far outweigh the physical considerations. Thank-you for this opportunity to add my 3 cents.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 124037

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Francis Patton Primary - my son goes there

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: I agree on having a 2 tier level education system. I fully don't agree with closing 8 schools. I think you can still improve the existing primary schools and close down the school with lowest enrollment without necessarily closing all 8 schools that are up for closure. Use the funds to improve buildings and technology.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Some of the schools that you want to close have excellent reputation and the community is not very pleased with the idea of closing them down. St George's prep and Port Royal are very prestigious schools that deserve a chance to keep open.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, Keep St George's prep and Port Royal open. They are excellent schools and deserve a chance to get improved and modernized to serve their communities better.

which is considered in questions 8-10)?

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Because of low enrollment and the huge need of a school for children that need extra help.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Because of low enrollment and the huge need of a school for children that need extra help.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Devonshire Parrish deserves a new and better school.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? I am very excited about the changes to come. Scared about the drastic changes that will be done when some schools close. I would like to know more regarding funding and timing for all construction and equipment installation for the new schools you are planning to build. How is this change going to affect Francis Patton? We love our

principal and staff and we would hate to see them go. I would like for my child's class to continue together all through grade 9. How is the ministry planning doing all the construction that needs to be done to have "Parish Schools" ready for a new school year. Is my child going to be waiting for his school to be built? It is very scary to think about all these questions. In this covid 19 era, where is Bermuda getting the billions of dollars to fund these changes.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 559662

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):  
Parent  
Business Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?  
My son [REDACTED] has attended East End Primary School [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] St. George's Preparatory School [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?  
No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

The reasons and rationale are poorly thought out and presented. There is no data showing how much the initiative will cost, how long it will take or where the money will come from. This vital information must be provided before deciding to close schools. This should have been the starting point, and the document that has been presented cannot be considered, by any professional standards, as a proposal. It is just an idea, at the most amateur level. It is thoughtless and harmful to have put children, parents and teachers through this degree of distress for a consultation that has no merit. It is telling that the document which has been compiled so incompetently by our education leaders, could have been better put together by the students of the schools they target for closure. It is a complete embarrassment.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for  
No (Disagree)

Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

Please share your reasons:

The type of facility children learn in has very little influence on educational outcomes. The key differences, per the PISA study that is quoted in the consultation document (and many other studies) are: 1. Pupil to teacher ratio 2. Teacher training 3. Teacher experience 4. Teacher salary We already have the answers to education reform, why aren't we focusing more on the variables above, and spending in those areas, rather than spending on building a huge school that nobody in St George's wants? Contrary to the consultation document, this reform is not equitable for parents, teachers OR students. We do not resist this initiative because we want any particular school to stay open, we resist it because it is a terrible idea for all the schools in St George's Parish.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

Where is the data that shows there is a community demand for this change in St George's Parish Primary Schools? Please direct us to it, we don't believe there is a community call for this kind of change - my son has attended two of the three schools in St George's, and both have been excellent. Parents, teachers and students in this parish are satisfied with the facilities and the locations. Many of us have built our lives around these schools. We don't want to see them become huge 300 student schools that will ultimately cause many social difficulties such as bullying and alienation. Larger schools are harder to control. Neighbourhoods with no schools are less desirable for homeowners and tenants. How can you justify closing St David's Primary School? This will force down the value of the homes in the area, landlords will suffer rent losses. It is not reasonable to expect families to add 20 minutes commute each way daily, to get from St David's to East End. It will be at least 40 minutes extra driving per day, as there will be new congestion to deal with in St George's, with 300 - 400 parent and staff vehicles trying to take the same route and drop-off/pick/up. How can you justify adding 40 minutes to a daily commute, taking people's time in such a way. The initiative would further neglect the

community of St David's, and would kill small businesses such as after school care providers, and others, who rely on the local school community of parents and children. St David's will be further cast aside by this relegation.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: We're not in a position to comment.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: We're not in a position to comment.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: We're not in a position to comment.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? The alternative is to spend the resources of time, energy and money committed to this project, in a different manner. Spend it on variables that have the most influence on educational outcomes for our children. Namely, teacher training, experience and salaries. And leave the schools in St George's Parish as they are.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 646300

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):

Parent  
Non-Profit Service Provider

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?

Port Royal Primary School. My son attends.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

The rationale of what we must does not require parish primary schools. These statements can be done with existing schools and is not reliant on the parish primary school plan:

- Shift to an assessment programme that is varied, robust, relevant and enables students to demonstrate what they have learned in a variety of authentic ways.
- Shift to a system-wide research-based 21st century instructional model for delivering the curriculum.
- Ensure that all teachers in our classrooms and all leaders of our schools have the qualifications and certifications needed to improve education outcomes for our students.

Ideally, we already have parish primary schools. What I believe is that now the movement is adding two years of middle schoolers to the primary school framework, which will increase the number of students at the primary level. In doing this, we will have the middle school buildings that can be converted into signature schools. In saying this, I agree with the two-tier model. I don't agree with closing 10 primary schools to accomplish this plan.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish

No (Disagree)

primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

Please share your reasons:

I disagree with 1 school per parish in some parishes. I am not in agreement with 3 schools merging into one. I am ok with Pembroke having 2 primary schools, but I am not in agreement for Southampton Parish and St. George's Parish only having one. It would be good that in those parishes we have 2 primary schools. I also need to see a clearer picture on what the projected enrollment numbers would be for each school if there were 1 or 2 schools per parish, which should include the middle schoolers.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

I am not in agreement with the proposal as it relates to Southampton Parish. Ideally, if Dalton E. Tucker and Port Royal could remain open and upgrades can be made. I do have an affiliation to Port Royal and I am not keen on my son attending a mega primary school if 3 schools merge into one. Also looked at the interest of the school during the open houses and the amount of students that wanted to go to the school this school year because of various reasons, location, education standard etc. The school has not disappointed since my son has been enrolled. I believe it will be well received to keep the school and it would make sense in the plan. Also, keeping Port Royal open may help if there is an overflow at Purvis. In addition, maybe keep one school in ST. Georges and one school in St. Davids. Yes we are looking to improve the school structure but the plan should also take into account the accessibility of the residents getting to school.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

It makes sense

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

I am not sure. I need more information on the signature schools? For example, who gets to enroll in these schools and why can't some of these signature learning tools be implemented in existing schools so that all students at that level can experience it? I am an ex-student of Elliot so I do have an emotional attachment to the school.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

I am not sure, will Whitney School be repurposed as well after middle schools close? Can that building be renovated and used as a primary school? Or can Elliot be kept as the primary school and make a newly built signature school which would have all the bells and whistles of what the signature learning would be in that school?

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

I agree with the 2-tier school system. I would question the age that school finishes at. I finished school at 16 years old from The Berkeley Institute and now students are finishing at 18 years old because of the 3-tier model that we are currently in. Can we probe more on the fact that when we go to 2-tier the age of graduating with a high school diploma can change back as well? In this case, if students want further education, they can go to signature schools, Bermuda college and abroad to study between 16-18 years

old. I would reiterate keeping Port Royal open and maybe keep St. Davids open (or another school in St. Georges). This would lead to 12 primary schools remaining open and one potential new primary school in Devonshire with 7 primary schools closing plus middle schools. I am not confident that the community would rally behind these schools in their parish if they haven't done so already all these years. What is the plan if the community doesn't back the schools? I am also not confident in the ability for the government to maintain these schools after the renovations but some work is better than none. We are in a pandemic and families are not financially stable as they were before this time. This may also increase the number of students that will return to public schools because their family cannot afford private school. I also think the plan should account for a slight boost in enrollment numbers.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 189757

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Parent of child at St George's Prep [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
East End Primary

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

The proposal comes across extremely lengthy and amateurish and fails to consider basic key elements such as financing or how certain suggested improvements will be achieved - e.g. how will you achieve better quality tuition? What specific teacher training is lacking and will be provided. What specific changes will be made other than constructing new fancy buildings that the government doesn't have funding for and doesn't know where the money will come from? The presentation by the government was full of pretty pictures with no substance and no real questions were answered. School children could have put together a better proposal than this. Maybe the government should have started the process by consulting the key stakeholders - students, teachers and parents to see if they're happy with their schools and what they believe needs to change to achieve better results. Instead of hiring an external firm that doesn't have sufficient knowledge about schooling in Bermuda. Furthermore, the proposal is trying to apply a blanket approach to all primary schools in Bermuda, instead of assessing which ones are problematic and doing something about those specifically. Lastly, the buildings themselves will have no impact on quality of tuition if nothing is done

about the teachers, yet the proposal heavily focuses on buildings. It is currently unknown how much the new buildings would cost and it is not wise from the government, which is operating at a huge deficit, to propose such a big capital outlay, especially when the economy is still suffering from the impact of covid.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

I can't comment for other parishes, but in St George's parish it would not make sense to merge three schools into one. Perhaps East End Primary and St George's prep could merge due to their close proximity, but it would not be fair to St David's residents to close their school down. This would have a negative impact on St David's house prices and rents as no young family would want to live there and also create unnecessary congestion in St George's.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

Yes, see question 6 and also below. As mentioned above, building a mega school in the East End is an unnecessary capital outlay that nobody in the East End wants and the government can't afford. I believe all three East End schools are performing well and the government should focus their efforts on improving underperforming schools rather than trying to fix what's not broken in the East. Schools need to be looked at on an individual basis rather than using a blanket approach. Big schools are more intimidating to students, are more likely to suffer from problems with bullying, are more likely to result in a community spread of infectious diseases such as covid and most importantly, are unlikely to improve the quality of teaching, unless something is done about the teachers themselves. To improve the teaching, we do not need to improve the buildings. We should start with the teachers themselves.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: I don't know anything about Prospect Primary

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: I don't know anything about Elliot Primary

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: I think the government should focus on saving money and reducing the deficit, not extending it by constructing new school buildings, unless necessary or if it saves money in the long term.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? As mentioned above, the alternative is to assess schools on an individual level and focus efforts on those that are underperforming. In the current economic climate and given the large government deficit, efforts should be made to choose a solution that's effective, but cost effective at the same time. The government should use the well performing schools as an example and try to replicate their areas of success by making appropriate changes in the

underperforming schools. If it's been identified that teachers are not sufficiently trained or qualified, first area of focus should be on improving that.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 384273

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):

Parent  
Other Community Member

St. George's Preparatory

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

What are the plans to merge and facilitate these students? What disadvantages will they face if good schools like St. George's Prep are closed? Why Prep and not East End, when prep has a far better curriculum?

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

I agree to an extent - however, what practices are put in place to facilitate and maintain the academic standard of all students during this transition? are we prepared? Are the children at risk of long-term development problems due to the compilation of the introduction of Standard based grading, coronavirus + school closures all within a few years? I'm afraid that the constant transitions may be of a burden and disadvantage to some students who are unable to cope with drastic changes.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

As a resident of the St. George's parish, I believe that Prep should remain opened. Prep and St David's primary are the two best schools down the east. Why choose to keep east end and close prep? I don't understand why that would make any sense if prep is better, all round.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

I think if we are repurposing and merging then we need to be ready for these changes academically, financially and logistically. Having newly built primary schools in place before making any decisions of which schools to close seems prudent.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

I agree with the new reform and repurpose of primary schools. I am looking forward to the long term impact. However, with a son in primary school, it has been difficult enough with all of the changes. When standard based grading was introduced, it was evident that education workers were not prepared. Yet, the methods were implicated in the classrooms with little to no training for the teachers. My only hope is that these transitions are done with due care and are not done hastily or without deep thought and consideration.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 972917

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other/extended Family Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? St. George's Prep. Grandson

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? I don't know

Please share your reasons: None

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Students per class certainly will increase! Decreasing individual attention to those students that require it.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? Students per class certainly will increase! Decreasing individual attention to those students that require it.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons:       None

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?       I don't know

Please share your reasons:       None

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?       I don't know

Please share your reasons:       None

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?       None

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 854418

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? [REDACTED] Lagoon Park Preschool and Somerset Primary School

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

Students could benefit from a program/system that is tailored to their needs. Services could be more available (frequency and consistency) for students who require extra support if an specialist in on site rather than having to spend time traveling from school to school

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

Even when change might be scary for many of us, if planned properly could benefit students

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

My only concern is that certain students would have to travel longer distances compared to before where they probably lived closer to the school they attended. Are you considering assigning school busses to each school with a teacher or extra adult to supervise students? maybe some sort of route around the parish to accommodate and facilitate transportation for students and parents that will need to go to work. In the presentation, they mentioned vertical expansion in the schools. I am very concerned about that since some students might have physical

impediments that will interfere with them accessing the building.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Concentrating services for those students might make it difficult for families that don't live near the school.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: The idea of an alternative school is great but wouldn't it be better if the government is able to offer this in each parish? Why are we centralizing services and making parents and kids go out their way? What program/curriculum are we talking about? Who is going to be running the program? If we are talking about students that not only learn differently but have other needs (behavior, lack of family support, learning difficulties, emotional and social needs) how are you planning to meet them where they are and who will be responsible for it? What is the team going to be like? Is there in mind any type of program to support parents with Special needs (information/strategies) What would be the criteria for the students to be candidates for this school and will they have the opportunity of being included back to their school parish at any point? If so, are you considering a follow up program for the students and the teachers that will be welcoming them in their class?

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an Yes (Agree)

alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Please share your reasons:

Students in Devonshire should have access to a school in their own Parish considering that the other schools are going to be used for other purposes.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

I am concerned about the age difference between the students if middle school age students will be in the same premises. What is your plan in terms of bullying and sharing social spaces? How are students going to be divided and monitored during lunch and recess? Will they share the same schedule? During the presentation you mentioned the support of the community. How are you planning to do so if these days parents are not even able to go to school due to the covid protocol? Are the resources going to be available to all schools? In the proposal you said, "Five senior-level signature schools, each with 1 or more signature (or specialization)" Are students at this level allowed to choose the school they would like to attend based on their interest? \* Five senior-level signature schools, each with 1 or more signature (or specialization). Do students get to choose which school to attend based on their interest? \* would you consider having a two tier system where students of middle school age will be in high school level instead of primary level? The only reason it worries me is because their interests are different and it could also lead to bullying or any other inappropriate social interactions. \* Have you considered changing the age of students to start preschool, that way students could have a stronger foundation when they enter primary level as well as the identification of those who might need extra support in all different areas to be able to meet the expectations in a regular school setting? There are so many motor skills that are not being covered

at this level that could be addressed if students have an earlier start. \* After sharing with my child, a P3 student about the reform, she expressed her concerns about having older students in her school and how it could impact them since the covid on how limited the space is for them to share with their peers during lunch and recess. Have you considered the students' and teachers' point of view when writing the proposal? At the end of the day they are the ones that matter the most as they are the ones that will experience it once it is in effect. As far as I know, my daughter ignored the whole situation until we had a chat. Students and teachers will be impacted in many ways with all the changes, although some will be very positive others could be negative for them. Maybe a discussion directed to students in upper primary school, middle and high school levels could be a good way to get some feedback from them. When you said "Currently we have limited curriculum offerings and the majority of the curricula at the primary level are misaligned and antiquated" are you saying that you will adapt a new curriculum or change how you will be delivering the Cambridge curriculum? Before we expand the curriculum, wouldn't it be worthwhile to make sure our students are meeting the expectations with the current curriculum, especially in English and Math? Are students going to write the same exams when they get to P6 and M3?

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 166047

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Victor Scott I was a Student there when it was known as Central School

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I believe it's time that Bermuda got with time. What worked when I was going to Primary School doesn't mean it works today

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I believe it would work because it means Parish Primary Schools will be part of the Parish communities

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? No

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an Yes (Agree)

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: I personally feel that Special Needs children need special attention

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: I haven't given that much thought

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I agree because the location that is proposed for the new Devonshire Parish Primary School is an ideal location

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? Not right now

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 166874

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? None

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Have not researched

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Makes sense due to declining numbers

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? No

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: NO

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: No

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: We should use what we have. Furthermore, I am not under the impression enhanced infrastructure would result in better education. Berkeley is relatively new and did that result in higher academic achievement? In my opinion, before we completely overhaul the education system, why not do studies between students that excel in public school versus those who do poorly. If it is found that the biggest factor is parental involvement, then no matter what you do, changing curriculums, building new schools, you will get the same results. I would strongly recommend doing studies with the student bodies to get a better understanding of where the most significant issues are.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? I would recommend if there are any other schools that would be no longer occupied when parish schools are introduced, I would recommend repurposing them for trade school(s) that would be open to accepting any resident of Bermuda to learn trades. Repairing/refurbishing the other schools could be a way of applying practical learning. You can even partner with City and Guilds for

students to benefit from obtaining a certification. If not trades, then fintech and design.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 254387

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?

[REDACTED] Paget  
Primary [REDACTED] East End [REDACTED] St Georges Prep  
[REDACTED] Port Royal [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Saltus [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

The use of the Score system to evaluate the criteria for school closures is inadequate and the information given in many cases is inaccurate, especially using the age of the school building.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

If you look at your data for Parish schools, you already have 3 Parish schools Francis Patton, Harrington Sound and Purvis. All 3 schools do not have the required 300 students.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish,

I fail to understand how St George's Prep and St David's scored lower than East End when the demand for places at these schools exceeds places at East End.

which is considered in questions 8-10)?

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: A school for exceptional school is needed. I think the policy for inclusion has not been successful.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Not enough information has been given.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: What criteria is being used to select students and teachers?

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? As a retired teacher from both the public and private sectors, I have experienced the highs and lows of the Bermuda education system [REDACTED]. I have seen programs come and go, successful and failures. At the heart of all systems is the ability of teachers, principals, parents to

instill in the children the desire to achieve. I believe that is what you are wanting for Bermuda but you must start with those stakeholders. The buildings that house those students are secondary to the people who have to deliver education. Start in the right place. Before spending millions of dollars on the bricks and mortar think about spending those dollars on training the teachers, principals and parents on what makes for a good system. Send them to be retrained, have them involved in the change, show them they are appreciated. Children have not changed in the last 50 years, their environment has, the society has, the policies have. However they are still sponges wanting to know more, be excited by new experiences, wanting to feel good about themselves. Principals, teachers and parents all have a part to play in providing that. I do not have a magic wand to know all the answers but I do know the path you are on with these proposals will not have the desired results.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 894597

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):

Parent  
Other Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Port Royal Primary

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

we should consolidate our schools, due to the low numbers of attendance, that way our best teachers and resources will be available.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

the size of students has decreased over the years. amalgamate the schools, keep costs down and allow our children to receive the very best

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

no

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale

Yes (Agree)

for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: there are children that need the extra help

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I believe this would help the kids that need the special help/attention.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: why spend the money when we have primary schools that are being underutilized , we need to combine resources. having 10-12 kids per class is not the way to go.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? close some schools, consolidate others and have only the very best teachers be kept.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 617736

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):

Parent  
Other/extended Family Member  
Other Community Member  
Other

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?

Port Royal - family attends Dalton E Tucker [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

There are too many schools - none of which are effective at educating our children to their highest potential - if we consolidate the schools the best teachers & resources will be available to our children.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

The costs are too high to keep these underused schools open.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

no

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale

Yes (Agree)

for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: Yes, children with exceptionalities need extra space and resources and deserve a space designed for them.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Yes, children with behaviour challenges need extra space and resources and deserve a space designed for them.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: WHY SPEND THE MONEY ON A NEW SCHOOL???? The government needs to use the space that they already have - we cannot afford to build new.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? - we don't have enough money to build a new school - use the resources we already have - consolidating schools will give the children attending the best teachers & resources available - this gives the government the chance to fire teachers who are not up to standard - students will have a greater chance to meet children from different areas of the island - this could be benefits to the gang trouble as they get older.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 824795

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? I am a parent to students at St. George's Prep

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Closing half of all primary schools in one fell swoop is much too large an endeavor to be correctly implemented

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Large schools of 300 students will not benefit the students. Research shows that students will be more likely to excel in smaller schools.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? I strongly believe that closing down the highest performing school (St. George's Prep) is doing a grave disservice to all students.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an No (Disagree)

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons:

I do not believe that creating larger schools will solve any of the issues facing the public school board

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

I do not believe that creating larger schools will solve any of the issues facing the public school board

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Closing 8 schools to build a 9th does not make any fiscal sense

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

St. George's Prep is an amazing school, and should be held up as an example of what all schools can achieve.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 232328

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):

Other Community Member  
Other

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?

My children attended Gilbert Inst. for their primary education.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

Agree that birth rate and therefore school enrollment has dropped significantly so the number of schools needs to be reduced. The KEY consideration for these should be: high quality teachers and staff; give autonomy to the principal's re staffing; ensure that there is highly skilled and effective maintenance staff.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

From your report this would allow you to develop, restructure, refurbish and enhance each school. It would reduce the number of facilities that need to be maintained. Again - key is staffing and maintenance. If these are poor then all will be lost!!

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish,

I repeat the need for high quality teachers and staff; give autonomy to the principal's re staffing; ensure that there is highly skilled and effective maintenance staff.

which is considered in questions 8-10)?

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Given, according to the rpt., that Dame Marjorie Bean center has outgrown the facility then this seems to be a good solution.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Use Elliott for your 'new' primary school. It is too expensive to build a brand new school in this economic climate. Use Gilbert Institute for the alternative school - the access problem could be solved by rerouting access through Bermuda College.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: It is TOO expensive to build a brand new facility in this economic climate. You can develop Elliott as the exceptional signature school and use Gilbert for the

alternative school (addressing the access issue with Bda College

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

The report is very comprehensive and has a strong vision. None of it will work unless you have strong, talented, effective teachers and principals. When they do not perform well they need to be dismissed. Unfortunately, in government, even with evidence, they are not thus weakening the system. The buildings need qualified, effective maintenance staff. The college runs a facilities management course. All managers of government facilities should have that certification or equivalent.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 743223

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): School Staff Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? East End Primary – place of work

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? I don't know

Please share your reasons:

The last reform was pushed upon us (Minister Gerald Simons). The theory behind it was understandable and laudable. In practice it didn't work. The theory behind the present plans proposed for primary schools is good. This time if we do not get it right, we will have disaster. I understand the need to have equitable schools. I understand our history of inequality and the need to address the imbalances. I am concerned that the plan, without thorough detail and planning as well as a meticulous implementation will fail. I am concerned about how this will be financed. Less than a half page on this alone is very inadequate. We need more detail to decide. Furthermore, I believe that, "small is beautiful". It is good to have small schools with fewer children and neighborhood schools within parishes. I worry that parish schools of about 300 students may cause a school culture that is highly structured, impersonal and rigid. Can renewable energy like solar power be used to run all schools, whatever is decided to save expenses on electricity?

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for I don't know

Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

Please share your reasons:

Same reasons as for No. 5. Schools are not about buildings. Schools are about people. The people who place their children in the BPSS must value education and be supported to grow in taking education of their children seriously. There are adolescents in developing countries who do not have electricity who sacrifice to walk a mile or two at night to go study under street lights. There are likewise schools with classes of 50 students, a few of which get work permits to work in Bermuda because they have valued education. Teachers must be supported to help them develop. I see a huge problem in our system is that the goal of the Hopkins Report to improve the efficiency of delivery was not implemented and is also the reason why we are struggling as a system now. There have been cuts everywhere. Teachers have to do everything. Work needs to be reorganized such that there is more "behind the scenes support" for teachers. We have to scramble to organize materials, books in our libraries, make teaching materials by hand, design SBG assessments when private schools, from my understanding, already have scales and assessments prepared for them that are implemented and help align the curriculum. The way we organize work needs to be addressed. Can't some work be given to administrative-type assistants to run off papers, make teaching tools, etc. Teacher /staff development needs to be addressed in a very careful, intentional way.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

[Redacted]

[Redacted] I disagree with the St. George's Community response that schools that are underperforming academically should be closed. Our school [East End] may not yield high academic results

but it certainly is a school with hard-working teachers and a happy, healthy school community. Many of our students' [East End] parents are lower income folk or on Financial Assistance. They are not privileged people. We work [East End] hard to support many parents in many different ways. The government's aim to equal the playing field is a great idea in theory. It would be good to have a larger school of 300 students with a mix of all kinds of people from all kinds of socio-economic backgrounds. The mingling of diverse people has been shown to "lift" the folks who are not as prosperous, with those who are. It's HOW we do this that is important. I believe that a parish school, especially in St. George's needs to be planned very carefully, or we will end up having more people flock to private schools. You cannot legislate hearts and some people, unfortunately, still have attitudes of wanting to be separate. It is not always because of the legacy of segregation and racism; sometimes it is simply because of differences in cultural practices and values. I have skimmed the St. George's report and think that it does contain some comments that are well worth giving consideration.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: It is centrally located. We need something for the gifted. Yet, we need the gifted in the mainstream to interact with the "average" students, so to speak, to enrich them. I am undecided on this. How would an exceptional school look like? Would it be only for post- Primary 8 students? Would it be during normal school hours or a place to go after school. (I'll reread the Proposal).

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Yes (Agree)

Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

Please share your reasons:

Centrally located. Sadly, I believe that this is needed. Ideally it is good to have all children interacting but I know teachers in the BPSS who have their children in private school because they simply do not want their children to be exposed to some behaviours that the public school staff need to deal with. They know it slows down their own child's progress.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

This might be a good project to start in an early phase as a "pilot" for a 21st Century School. As stated earlier, our focus should be on people, not so much buildings. I am not well-travelled and I wish I could see more modern schools overseas.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

I agree to reverting back to a two-tiered system; I am concerned however that part of the motive in doing this is economies of scale and saving money. We need to put our children and their future first. We need to maintain building, yes. We need to find cost effective ways of repairing and maintaining school plants. But we also need to ensure that the people working in the buildings get support, professional development and their work is organized such that students move up the system in an aligned and coherent manner. A big issue is the lack of political will to implement a Foundation year in Primary 1. We must be humble and not delay. I understand this is in

the works in the form of introducing the Creative Curriculum in P1 and I will learn more about it. Although not Cambridge, I hope the education planners will implement it in September 2021. No more delays, please. It is hard to think critically about the plans and make suggestions when one is "in the trenches" and putting students first. I wish I had more time to provide more input but hope what I have contributed helps. This is a very complex project. I appreciate all the thought that is being put into school reform. Let's slow the process down a bit and consider the community's opinions. With all the Bermuda community has had to deal with because of the pandemic, you may wish to consider extending the deadline for feedback and have it in other forms such as focus groups, more town hall meetings and ask for feedback from individual school staff as a whole, as well as individual educators.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 140534

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):  
Business Community Member  
Other Community Member

Purvis

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

Historical reasons for multiple schools, i.e. segregation militate against schools which represent that legacy  
Economic reasons, such as better use of resources, falling student numbers, make sense

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except Yes (Agree) for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

Please share your reasons: See question 5

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

No

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

Because "The proposal to co-locate the new exceptionalities signature school and the K. Margaret Carter Center was recommended by parents of DMBHA, in order to provide a continuum of education, therapy and other services for students and adults. "

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

I agree with reasons in paper

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

It makes sense in the overall plan. There is a definite need for a new preschool in Devonshire. My daughter attended the Headstart Camp at Devonshire Preschool [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The building was awful and the location very inconvenient.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share

No.

regarding the proposals,  
including any alternatives?

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 948274

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Victor Scott (student) The Berkeley Institute (student, [REDACTED])

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I agree with the rationale for reducing the number of primary schools to create a more efficient system for student learning. Currently, we have too many primary schools, many with limited resources and many schools are not producing good outcomes. With parish primary schools, all resources will be better utilized, and that includes teachers, especially the resource teachers. I believe that the performing arts teachers will be able to do so much more, instead of wasting time on the road travelling between schools (if that is still the practice). I also like the idea of creating parish primary schools which will be the foci for their respective parishes.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: This is a good plan, and if schools continue to be grouped in zones then if there is a shortage of space in one parish, a neighbouring parish will accommodate the parents and students seeking primary school placement.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

No

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons: N/A

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons: N/A

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

I don't know

Please share your reasons: N/A

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share

1. In developing the proposal, I feel that the Parish Primary School Location Strategy should have taken more than physical factors into consideration. The strategy is all about facilities and buildings, but this is not the main factor which

regarding the proposals,  
including any alternatives?

parents consider when deciding where to educate their children. What about curriculum and learning outcomes?

2. The success of any school depends on having effective teaching. I strongly suggest that the relationship between schools and the Department of Education should change. Each school principal should have the autonomy to hire her/his own staff- that is teachers and support staff. I believe that this is one factor which distinguishes aided schools from maintained schools, in a positive way.

3. I do not support moving 11-13 year old students into the primary schools. Rather, this age group should be moved into the signature schools. In the UK these students would be in high school; in the US these students would be in middle or junior high schools. This makes sense developmentally.

4. On the issue of autonomy, since each parish school is to be a parish hub, it would strengthen the relationship between the primary school and the community if each school would have its own Governing Body.

5. Please ensure that teachers are qualified to teach the age groups to which they will be assigned. Also, it is critical that subject specialists are assigned to teach 11, 12 and 13 year olds, especially in the core subjects. One of the weaknesses of the Middle School system was that many primary school teachers were moved into the middle level but lacked the certifications needed to teach at that level. This must not happen again.

6. Please, please ensure that there are the necessary human resources at every primary school, without teachers having to be shared between schools. This leads to so much time wasting on travel when teachers should be in the classroom.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 588496

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? St. George's Prep. Parent

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

1. Cost. We are in a period of austerity with mounting debt. Replacing school buildings which are still functional is not a priority. This is not a cost saving measure. The cost is astounding and every Bermudian should be outraged that money is planned for this initiative when 20% of our population can't feed themselves. 2. You are closing the schools with the best results... ready for those scores to drop? I know I for one will be taking my daughter out of the public system if this plan goes forward. - isn't that what you wanted to avoid. If I cannot get a scholarship or aid for private school I will move to the U.S. as my daughter's education is that important. 3. Buildings don't solve the problems with education. Does the government have to be convinced of this again? What happened to Berkeley? did the scores go up after the new build? 4. There wasn't a consultation process with stakeholders. I know for a fact that closing Primary schools was not discussed in Plan 2022 discussions. 5. The rubric for making school closure decisions are flawed.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for No (Disagree)

Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

Please share your reasons:

This shouldn't be a blanket decision over the parishes. Each school and parish needs to be addressed individually. We need a school in St. Georges and a school in St. Davids at the minimum. The obvious school to close is East end. East End is small and is the lowest performing in the parish. It is also built on the site of a dump.. good luck building there.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

Yes. The Rubric is not a fair grading process. SGP has a bus that waits at the unfinished school for kids- why did we get less points for that, especially when your plan details dedicated school buses. St. Georges Prep has never flooded. Why did Prep lose points for that? The First criterion is the age of the school building. St. David's Primary is given 14 positive points as its building is younger than the others having been built in 1949. East End Primary is given 11 points as it was built in 1922. St. Georges Prep was given only 9 points for being built in 1923. To point out the obvious this makes no sense, why would Prep be awarded two less points for a building that is one year younger than East End Primary? The ridiculous thing is both dates are Wrong... SGP's original school building was built in 1924 but was rebuilt after Fabian in 2004. The middle building was built in 1953, the northern most buildings in the mid 1990s and the bathrooms were redone in the 2000s. Also the East End date is WRONG... it was actually built in the 1960s but on top of a dump. Why would SGP score lower the EE in community services when SGP is in the center of the community and more children attend SGP out of CHOICE. Why has Prep consistently been targeted as three classrooms are not wheelchair accessible. That can be navigated. How many handicapped children move through the public system. Accommodations can be made... the Child's class can remain on the lower level of the school for the Child's time at the school. This rubric is seeing problems where there are not any! SGP lost points for traffic congestion? there is no traffic congestion but there will be at EE with the St. Regis. There is also a striking paradox in the document,

where it brings up the inequality of resources which seems to reference aided schools, but at the same time describes the perfect model of a community school as one that includes “the generation of income for the school.” – page 24 of the “Consultation on a Proposal for the Introduction of Parish Primary Schools.”

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Am not informed enough about prospects to comment. Not enough information in the consultation document.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: I am not informed enough about Elliot Primary School to comment. Not enough information in the consultation document.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: I am not informed enough to comment. Not enough information in the consultation document.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

I believe that the primary schools should remain as is, and concentration and reform be within teaching and curriculum and not buildings. If the government blindly ignores the community feedback during a recession, then my thought is that it is a risky undertaking and doomed to fail. If you believe the theory that with new facilities and a single community school will change performance-- you need to prove it to a community which has no confidence in the ministry of education. You would need to do a pilot program in a LOW performing parish and after a few years measure student performance and if it worked in that parish it will assuage the lack of public confidence. One of the more recent reasons I have a lack of confidence in the Ministry is that over the summer I took part in the Facebook zoom meeting with parents and the education commissioner and other ministry officials. The entire meeting they talked about COVID protocols and how when school resumed in September every single classroom would have a remote link so that any quarantined child could log on and watch class being taught remotely and also that any teacher that had to quarantine would have a substitute but could log on remotely to help teach the class. you know what happened NOTHING. Evidently our school SGP drew up COVID regulations that the Ministry used as a basis to send to the other schools. The Ministry didn't even send anyone to mark up our school, and prep did it themselves. School also was late starting because the Ministry was late starting this in the public schools even though they had MONTHS. And what happened in December.... back to remote learning- no better way to make parents angry. What happened to the remote links in every classroom? That would be a start before you start promising 300 student brand new school buildings with 3D printing and swimming pools... if the ministry can't handle COVID or putting internet links in every classroom HOW WILL THEY DO THIS?

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 972456

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Gilbert Institute- parent of two students [REDACTED]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

To start I will share a quote from a Gilbert parent: "From personal experience, having had a child at both Paget Primary and now at Gilbert for the last 2.5 years, there is a significant difference between the schools. A smaller school is more likely able to identify any challenges with a child earlier. Moving my child from Paget Primary to Gilbert, I have personally noticed a significant difference in my child's self confidence and ability to focus within the classroom and with classmates." I agree with the premise that public education needs to be improved for ALL students. However, the consultation document and current government proposals as presented do not address the issues regarding the lack of funding and resources provided to the public schools, low staff morale as a result of the lack of resources and frequent changes in grading systems and curriculum. The consultation also does not address the social impact of closing neighbourhood community schools, already impactful community hubs pre-pandemic. Gilbert already is diverse in culture and ethnicity and advocates for educational success among its students via its strong parental and teacher support system in addition to existing community partners. The Parish proposal puts much emphasis on the existing buildings (which I agree need improvement), however the weighting and

transparency of the scoring is not adequately explained and it is not clear who has made such determinations. There are significant gaps in the information provided in the consultation document relating to curriculum, instruction, assessment, accreditation, teacher training, funding and time lines for implementation which make it difficult to make an informed decision with so much information not provided.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

There are significant gaps in the information provided in the consultation document relating to curriculum, instruction, assessment and accreditation, funding and time lines for implementation which make it difficult to make an informed decision on the proposal.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

Gilbert is the only primary school that services the deaf and hard of hearing. As such, students learn sign language as another form of communication in a conceptual and effective manner. The belief is that deaf and hard of hearing children learn and thrive better in smaller environments. As such, a student moving from a small school such as Gilbert (currently 120 students) to a much larger Paget Primary of an estimated 300 students will be impacted by such a change and the social implications of this have not been considered in the consultation document.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

How will this proposal be funded and what are the timelines? This important information re financial implications and cost is not provided in the consultation document making it difficult to comment.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons:

How will this proposal be funded and what are the timelines? This information re financial implications is not provided in the consultation document.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

How will the newly built primary school be funded? There is no discussion of the financial implications of this proposal. It would be sensible to run a pilot program for a signature school to be tried, tested and improved before implementing a nationwide scheme which would provide stakeholders with more confidence in the proposals.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

An alternative solution would be to provide the schools and the teachers with the resources needed now. The pandemic has affected all children this year, leaving gaps which must be overcome. I would like to see the MOE now propose an extension of the school year or a summer program for students to catch up the time they have missed since March 2020. Expensive new buildings

delivered at some undetermined date in the future will not address the deficiencies facing students now which will have long lasting effects on their lives and on the future of Bermuda.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 026407

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):  
Parent  
School Staff Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?  
Prospect Primary School [REDACTED]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?  
Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

Yes, I do think that we need buildings and programs that are fit for purpose. I do think that we need community involvement. It is my thought that it needs to be the entire community or you will continue to have an us vs. them. I also think that we need clear parameters for how that will work and the roles and responsibilities of all who will be involved. We also need to guarantee the commitment of those who say they will support. Right now, many of the community partners who have the finances to support what we want, channel their resources to the private education sector. How will that be redirected or how will they be wooed to partner with public education?

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.  
I don't know

Please share your reasons:

I have a question about limiting the scope to one per parish with two in Pembroke will meet the needs of now and beyond. Is there any preparation in our 'numbers' of families who might return to public education because of what we are offering?

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

In St. Georges - I wonder about the transportation issues of getting students over to the East End site. For all schools, I wonder about the boundaries for admission to schools. I also wonder how we will accommodate students who may not be a 'good fit' in their parish school. Is the number of 300 students per school inclusive or exclusive of the preschool students?

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

None of the answers above really express my thoughts. I wonder about the use of the Prospect site, for the purpose of the school for Exceptionalities. Prospect is not at all accessible. It appears that repurposing Prospect for needs of the current clients of the K. Margaret Carter Center, as well as those who are currently at DAME would be an even more expensive process because the building is not at all accessible. One of my thoughts would be consideration of using Elliot for the School for Exceptionalities and Prospect for the School for Alternative Education. However, I would be concerned about the proximity of that school to the Senior school, as I see lots of foot traffic of the CBA students around the Prospect Site.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

None of the answers above really express my thoughts. I agree with part of the rationale, but have further questions and need understanding of the section of the rationale that lists the examples of 'students with other alternative education needs ...' Those examples do not seem to go along with the serving of students with social-emotional and behavioral difficulties. I see some benefits with the

repurposing of Elliot as an Alternative Education Signature School if there will be a partnership with Child and Adolescent Services which is near to the Elliot site. As some of the students who would be serviced there may need their services. I also like that the location of Elliot for Alternative Education is in a less dense and more open neighbourhood area. However, I wonder about this site, which is already wheelchair accessible, perhaps being used as the school for exceptionalities, as it appears to me that there may be less renovation needed in the repurposing of the school.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

I agree that the new school is needed if the two Devonshire schools are used as proposed. I have many questions about the site that has been chosen for the new school. The placement of the school on the corner of Roberts Avenue and Palmetto Road is concerning because it is a busy road. Where is the intended school field for the site? Currently Prospect Primary has two specialist programmes attached to it - a Primary Functional Skills and an Autism Program. Will those programs remain, not only for the Devonshire School, but for all schools that have those programs? There is a benefit to those students being on-site, and as they are able to be part of education with those who are in the 'mainstream'. Is our intent to continue to offer that flexibility, and if so how will that be handled? If not, what is the thought?

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

What will be the estimated population size for the Alternative Education Signature School and the School for Exceptionalities? What will their class sizes look like as well? Are we expecting that students in the Alternative school would be able to return to their parish primary school once they meet the criteria for reentry? What is the thought as to what the other school buildings will be used for? In the proposal for the Alternative Signature school, or any of our schools to consider offering single sex classes as part of our offerings in this reform and repurposing. The vision is a wonderful one. I do have concerns about the BPSS over promising and under delivering. My big question - where is the money coming from for the repurposing, new building and provision of resources for these learning sites? I am concerned that we may start down a road, promise our public something and then put it on school buildings to 'make it happen', 'do more with less' etc. In my opinion, that is why we have some of our current problems in education. We want it all, but have not provided the true resources needed to accomplish what we want.

Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 334678

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent  
Other/extended Family Member  
Other Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?  
I'm an Alum of St. George's Prep, my daughter will hopefully be attending St. David's Preschool [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?  
No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:  
I agree with ensuring that the highest quality resources are available to all students. I agree with having parish schools as a focal point for the community. I agree with the high-level vision including outdoor learning, play, a modern environment, access to the best technology, professional development for teachers and all the other great concepts presented as the vision for education reform in Bermuda. I disagree with the lack of information on actual steps to get to those reforms, and specifically, the lack of details on the necessity of closing schools in the first place.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.  
No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:  
Conceptually, I don't have an issue with a single parish primary school in most cases, provided the necessity of consolidating schools can be adequately demonstrated.

However, I think there are certain places where a single parish school would be harder to justify.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

St. George's and St. David's are very spread out in a purely geographical sense, even if you ignore the historical cultural separation between the two. It takes 15 min to drive from some parts of St. David's to East End Primary, even before you account for the traffic around that school when St. David's Primary and St. George's Prep are closed. That makes a single parish school for St. George's a more difficult concept to grasp than most areas. I understand it's also hard to justify two schools when enrollment in St. George's schools is quite low, but it's hard to see East End Primary serving as a "hub" for residents of Cashew City.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

I don't know much about Prospect primary, but I have a hard time trusting that "exceptionalities" or "alternative education" schools will provide enough benefit to overcome the stigmatization that attendance at those schools will entail. No matter where you "draw the line" on which students have special needs that would assign them to one of these schools, there will be a decision at some point in a very young child's life where they will be set on a path that will shape their entire future. If a child learns strategies to cope with their exceptionalities, whatever those may be, it will be much harder to re-integrate them into traditional primary schools if they've been attending a totally separate school for years. There absolutely need to be resources to assist with all children's educational needs - but I believe those resources should be available at ALL primary schools.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot

No (Disagree)

Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

Please share your reasons: See #8 Above

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

See above. If they are repurposed, then a new school will need to be built, but I disagree with the proposal to repurpose those schools as described.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

Hopefully this consultation process is genuine, and the information gathered via this forum will be shared openly with the public. If the government is serious about consulting with the public, the results of this consultation need to be made public. What has been presented in the consultation meetings and in the consultation document cannot, under any level of scrutiny, be considered a "proposal". What has been communicated is a very high-level vision for the future of education in Bermuda, followed by a more detailed, but no more helpful explanation for only the most inconsequential component of the pathway to get to that vision. I have no qualms with the high-level vision presented. No one could argue against moving to a modern education system that provides every child on the island a high-quality education. I will ignore the question about how much this is all going to cost us, as I don't want the short-sightedness of budgetary concerns to thwart improvements to the system, but the inability to answer that question is indicative of the lack of thought connecting the vision to any actual steps. The biggest issue

with the “proposal” is that there is no substance to back up the ministry's vision. For example: - The vision calls for 40% outdoor education. That sounds great, but how much outdoor education is there today? What's preventing schools from doing that now? Why do we need to close schools to achieve that? St. George's Prep, East End Primary, and St. David's Primary all have abundant outdoor space – how is moving all the students to a single school going to make the use of that outdoor space more practical? - The vision calls for a revamped curriculum. How, exactly, does it need to be revamped? What is preventing us from revamping the curriculum today? Why do you need to close schools to achieve that? - St. George's Prep has a long track record of success. What is being done to ensure that we elevate other schools to that level, rather than reverting all schools to the mean (or worse)? The only response offered in the consultation meeting was that we need to raise the education standards for all students, not just the select few. But what is preventing us from elevating those standards based on the current system? What has St. George's Prep done so successfully for decades, and what needs to happen for other schools to do the same? Speaking to the details of the schools identified for closure, I'm skeptical. I'm not familiar enough with the details of the facilities at all the schools on the island to refute the criteria used to select a facility for each parish school, but it seems like the document was put together to give the appearance of transparency rather than genuinely providing transparency. For example, from what I understand, St. George's Prep was re-built after Fabian, so treating it as the oldest school in St. George's seems dishonest. That said, the choice of which facilities to close is moot until you can demonstrate a need to close them in the first place. I'm not an educator, I've never studied curriculum design, and I'm not a social scientist, but the questions I've outlined above are just a few I can think of that are not answered by the current "proposal". As a parent, I'm very concerned that there appears to be no substance in the plans for actual reform of education. Until a more thorough description of actual reform is made

available, I can't support taking steps on the massive disruption of closing schools across the island.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 3183688

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):  
Board Governor  
Business Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?  
Whitney Institute [REDACTED] alumnus of Harrington Sound Primary School.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?  
No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

While it makes sense to close some primary schools in order to make better use of resources, it makes none to close some of the best performing schools. Further, it is not clear that parish primary schools will improve student learning or attainment while the disruption caused in the system will take years to settle.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.  
No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Further to the above, closing some of the best performing schools while retaining some of the worst, purely on the grounds of facilities makes no sense. And the idea that what makes the most successful schools work can be transferred with ease is also a fantasy.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?  
The proposed closure of St George's Prep and St David's is a travesty.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary  
Yes (Agree)

School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons:

I have no objection to this.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

Explanations as to why Elliot is best suited to this role are unclear. It has always been a primary school designed for 5-11 year-olds so would need significant improvement. In the past there have also been antisocial elements in the neighbourhood.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

The siting of the school at the western extreme of the parish makes little sense. If it is really going to be a parish school and the focus of the community, it should be more centrally located. Also the Margaret Carter site is smaller than Prospect and much smaller than Elliot. Is the plan to use Devonshire Rec for the field?

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

Instead of spending a fortune on closing and reconfiguring schools, set aside a fund for the training and development of teachers and principals. Develop a BermudaTeach programme which brings the best and brightest into teaching, even for a few years. Give schools and principals more autonomy, but also hold them accountable for their schools' performance. Stop and rethink this whole process before destroying a generation of children's futures.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 622848  
First Name: Port Royal Primary  
Last Name: Parent Teacher Association

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Port Royal Primary School Parent Teacher Association

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? I don't know

Please share your reasons: The proposal documents and subsequent consultation meetings have not provided enough clarity on how this initiative will be practically implemented. As such, we cannot give a confident response on whether we agree or disagree.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. I don't know

Please share your reasons: The proposal documents and subsequent consultation meetings have not provided enough clarity on how this initiative will be practically implemented. As such, we cannot give a confident response on whether we agree or disagree.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, The proposal documents and subsequent consultation meetings have not provided enough clarity on how this initiative will be practically implemented. As such, we

which is considered in questions 8-10)?

cannot give a confident response on whether we agree or disagree.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

The proposal documents and subsequent consultation meetings have not provided enough clarity on how this initiative will be practically implemented. As such, we cannot give a confident response on whether we agree or disagree.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

The proposal documents and subsequent consultation meetings have not provided enough clarity on how this initiative will be practically implemented. As such, we cannot give a confident response on whether we agree or disagree.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

The proposal documents and subsequent consultation meetings have not provided enough clarity on how this

initiative will be practically implemented. As such, we cannot give a confident response on whether we agree or disagree.

After hearing of the plan through the media, our PTA held a general meeting on Thursday January 14th, 2021 to ascertain the feelings of our parents on the matter. The consensus from the 52 attendees at our meeting is that the School Consolidation Plan proposal document is very high level and vague. As such it creates more questions than solutions and has created a sense of uncertainty and concern amongst parents and teachers. We believe the public dissemination of such a vague document has done more harm than good, especially during this very challenging time. Since January, our PTA executives have attended all of the public consultation meetings, including the Southampton Parish Primary School Consultation meeting. While we are grateful for the information shared at these public meetings, it still did not address the concerns of our parents or provide answers to some very important questions. I have outlined these questions and concerns below for you and your team to review.

Physical and Logistical Concerns:

- Considering the pandemic, is it practical to increase the number of students in school? Mass volumes in one school will present several additional challenges to parents and staff. How will drop off/pickup be managed with double the number of children?
- Is Dalton E. Tucker equipped for a large number of students? Potentially double the current number. How many classrooms are available? Bathrooms? Extra-curricular spaces? Are there designated spaces for learning and/or behavioural support to take place?
- Port Royal is usually oversubscribed each year, which is evidence that one school for the entire Southampton Parish is not sufficient. Has this been considered?
- Has any consideration been given to the economic climate and the possibility that more parents will be forced to choose public school for their children? This could result in an increase in enrolment. Will this new proposal be able to accommodate that?
- What is the selection process for teachers at various schools? What is the plan for excess teachers? This is not mentioned in

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

detail in the proposal and is an important component.

Financial Concerns: • There has been little funding allocated for the upkeep and maintenance of current buildings. How will the parish schools then be renovated or repurposed? Where is the funding coming from for this project and what is the time frame to have it completed? • Port Royal Primary is the beneficiary of funds invested in a trust. These funds are specifically allocated for the physical plant of the school. If Port Royal Primary ceases to exist, the funds are no longer available. Has this been considered in the selection process for Southampton's parish school?

Social & Emotional Concerns: • A date for this transition has not been identified. However, the current global pandemic has prompted several for our children and the way school is facilitated. As a community we are still navigating what the long-term impact of the pandemic will be. Is this the right time to make massive changes such as this? • Has the potential impact on the children's social and emotional health been taken into consideration with this proposal? Larger class sizes and subsequently larger schools may not be in the best interest of a child's socio-emotional health.

Educational Concerns: • The Ministry of Education's first responsibility is to ensure the success of our children in core subjects. Ensuring that the curriculum is working well and achieving success should be the priority. How does the Parish School proposal provide greater opportunity for educational success? Our PTA team is committed to Port Royal School being the best it can be, but more importantly the Bermuda Public School system being the educational system of choice for parents. It is difficult for us to come to a conclusion on this proposal with so many unanswered questions. While we understand that this is the development stage, it is important for parents - as the primary stakeholders in this process - to understand in depth how this proposal will be executed. We are grateful to have the opportunity to provide feedback and hope that more in-depth and specific information will be forthcoming before final decisions are made on such an important part of our children's lives.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 079993

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other/extended Family Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? St George's Preparatory School

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: [REDACTED].pdf

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: [REDACTED].pdf

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? [REDACTED].pdf

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons:      Need more information

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?      I don't know

Please share your reasons:      need more information

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?      I don't know

Please share your reasons:      need more information

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?      no

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 453093

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? K Margret Carter center

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: N/A

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: N/A

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? N/A

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: N/A

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: N/A

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

If the new Devonshire P school is to be built on site where the K Margaret center is, will there be any changes to the center? Although they are technically out of the school system, will it be expanded to accommodate more of those with special needs, as it only has a 50 p cap, or will it merge with the new signature school?

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

What would the curriculum for the exceptional signature school look like? Will it be different from current ones & tailored more to the individuals needs? Will it incorporate better programs that will help prepare them for employment opportunities and to navigate the challenges of everyday life?

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 970231

First Name: Kaleidoscope Arts Foundation

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Non-Profit Service Provider

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Kaleidoscope Arts Foundation delivers a preschool program which works with all public preschools on a rotation basis. Before COVID19 we worked closely with Victor Scott Primary and Prospect Primary and have in prior years worked with several other primary schools.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: The broad rationale for reducing the number of primary schools in order to provide better quality of tuition, services and community programming is sound. Primary school closure has been proposed before and is clearly necessary to provide a more effective and efficient system and to broaden the offerings available to students. The issue in the past has been poorly managed in terms of public communication and the process of change, and this remains a key concern with the current proposal.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Covered above.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation Whilst every community has its unique components, the St. David's community has a particularly distinct culture and

to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

history and serves as a special case in the parish-based model. Particular attention should be paid to either preserving a school in St. David's , or ensuring that if children are required to attend primary school in St. George's there is community programming for children (such as afterschool programs, holiday camps etc) that is available in St. David's with a focus on preserving this sense of community. We laud the proposal's focus on equity. Whilst across the system there needs to be similar access to programming and resources, equity necessitates that the needs of distinct populations are met where they vary rather than offering the same across the board and this should be considered in the case of St. David's.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

Clear and appropriate rationale.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

The population which has been identified for an alternative education signature school is extremely broad, from those children suffering from social-emotional/behavioural challenges to exceptional athletic performance. The needs for such diverse student groups are disparate and don't seem to naturally fit in one physical plant. For example, Kaleidoscope has worked with current primary level Success Academy students and it seems that they would ideally transition back into their parish school environment after more targeted programming. This is under the current system. The Learning First model is intended to incorporate more varied instruction methods, significant outdoor learning time, making spaces and more varied

assessment criteria. This coupled with the reduction in the number of schools so that more dedicated support services can be provided, should reduce the need for an alternate education signature school. A key thrust of the reform proposal is to better accommodate the diverse needs of our primary school population and tailor education more to individual children's strengths, and increase community support. If implemented successfully, there should be less need for an alternate education pathway as many more students will thrive in an improved educational environment. Where possible we should be addressing social-emotional difficulties early, providing the necessary support and keeping students in their appropriate peer learning environment.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?  
Please share your reasons:

Yes (Agree)

Covered above.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

- Have the projected numbers considered an increase in those opting for public education over the private system? Despite the current trends of declining enrolment, our aim should be to make the public school system the one of choice and therefore system capacity should accommodate parents opting back into public education.
- We would agree with the report's comment "the pace, quality, depth, and breadth of change, have not adequately addressed the diverse needs of all of our students and have not resulted in the outcomes to which all students in Bermuda are entitled." However, it is not clear why the rounds of community consultation and visioning for public education

in recent decades have not resulted in more significant change. Before moving to an implementation stage, a careful analysis should be undertaken to identify barriers to change from prior consultations and adequate resources devoted to addressing these barriers so that the current reform is successful. • Similarly we agree with the report's lead that "Shift to an assessment programme that is varied, robust, relevant and enables students to demonstrate what they have learned in a variety of authentic ways. • Shift to a system-wide research-based 21st century instructional model for delivering the curriculum. • Ensure that all teachers in our classrooms and all leaders of our schools have the qualifications and certifications needed to improve education outcomes for our students." The public attention to the proposal as provided to date is focused on the physical plants with less attention on these factors and a greater effort to center the public conversation on these elements should be made. As an organization that, in conjunction with the DOE, has devoted significant resources to assisting preschools better utilize an inquiry based model in the classroom, we are well aware of the barriers to shifting education models and careful and dedicated time and attention needs to be spent on this process. We would be happy to share in more detail our experience with preschools, barriers to change identified by teachers as well as our evaluation of the program. Similarly, the shift to a restorative culture in schools is paramount and has not been a focus of public discourse. As with shifts in curriculum, learning models and assessment, this type of shift, whilst vital, will be challenging to implement and significant resources should be allocated to this process, such as the use of change management professionals. • We very much support co-location of preschools and primary schools. In conjunction with this, existing plans to extend the use of the Creative Curriculum to early primary should be implemented as soon as possible, and attention paid to how this segues with the Cambridge Curriculum. Whilst not the focus of this consultation stage, attention should be paid in increasing preschool capacity, where parents are currently in some

cases being turned away. If preschools and primary schools are to share a campus, planning and resources for capacity should be simultaneous and consider increased preschool capacity at the current 4-year level and incorporation of the proposed 3-year programming as well. • The restorative culture proposed for primary schools should be instituted across the system and the reform process itself. We note the low level of engagement of many colleagues who have participated in previous processes and consultations and who are committed to supporting public education, as well as the fatigue and low morale of many teachers we work with. We support grounding the current reform proposals in the vision and actions points set out in Plan 2022 for which there was broad community participation. A more restorative approach could be taken at this stage in the consultation to address this disengagement and show that the process will be different. In essence, a do as I do rather than I say approach which begins as you intend to finish.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 169904

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Francis Patton Primary

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Some schools like St. George's prep and port Royal should not close

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Because to make this drastic changes all at once is unrealistic

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? St George's prep should stay open as well as port royal

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an Yes (Agree)

exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: I agree because children with special needs deserve more attention

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Great idea

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: This brand new building should serve as a pilot program to show Bermuda this could actually work and then you can test your project and make changes before you change the entire school system

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? You begin building the new Devonshire parish school and run it as a pilot program and Elliot should start as a signature school as a pilot program too. By doing this you can show the community that the changes will be good and at the same time you can test and run the school and find what needs improvement instead of changing everything at once. Get advice and work with private schools instead of bringing foreigners to make our curriculum.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 937811

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other/extended Family Member  
Gov't Employee Working in Schools  
Other Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? NONE

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? I don't know

Please share your reasons: Not sure I agree with all of the reasons / rationale provided.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. I don't know

Please share your reasons: Not sure I agree with all of the reasons / rationale provided. Not sure the proposals account for all anticipated costs. Not sure of what the funding strategy will be for such a wide-sweeping program. Not sure where children will be schooled while wide-spread capital development programs are being undertaken within the proposed delivery timeframe.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? no

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons:

The proposed re-use of Prospect Primary School involves the combination of two separate special needs educational programs onto one campus which is not ADA compliant (read additional cost). It is not clear if both programs can fit their program requirements onto the proposed site.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons:

Not sure I agree with all the reasons / rationale provided for concentrating high-risk students in this way. Not sure what renovations and additional program requirements will be needed and whether the existing campus is of adequate size / condition to accommodate the proposed re-use. Not sure the proposals account for all anticipated costs and can manage risk of cost overruns. Not sure of what the funding strategy will be for such a wide-sweeping program. Not sure where children will be schooled while wide-spread capital development programs are being undertaken within the proposed delivery timeframe.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or I don't know

disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Please share your reasons:

The proposed new Devonshire Pre and Primary schools will be on a site with existing buildings and infrastructure. Not sure the proposals account for all anticipated costs. Not sure all financial and project management risks have been identified and anticipated in the proposals (for example, Is the plan to demo existing assets and build new or renovate existing to make fit for purpose?).

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

The proposed program is wide-sweeping and appears to involve major administrative, programmatic, curriculum and capital development changes all needing to occur within a relatively short number of years. Not sure the current form of proposal accounts for or appreciates how challenging it would be to implement all of the required changes in such a short window of time. Not sure the extent of additional financial, technical & logistical support required has been worked out, appreciated or accounted for in the current proposal. It would require unprecedented coordination of projects, resources, finances and project management to deliver as indicated. Not sure I agree to criteria that allows high performing schools to be closed. It is difficult to understand the value of exchanging something that is working very well for something that has yet to be created or demonstrated, based on funds that have yet to be determined...and risks that have not been articulated . The idea that operating fewer primary schools will lead to cost savings may not be sound. The facility management costs shed by MOED will still be carried by MPW (the facility owners) and by extension the taxpaying public, who will additionally be carrying costs of renovating / building the proposed parish schools. While outside the Education's remit, it is not clear what the fate of the abandoned school properties will be and what funds will be available to address their current poor condition. The report is also silent on whether the current facility management program is adequate to prevent the risk of facilities prematurely falling short of their expected design life.

**Parish Primary School Consultation Form**

Unique ID: 446888

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other/extended Family Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? West End. Attended

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Don't we already have parish schools already. The children go to school in their parish. When I was at West End some of Sandys classes were held at West End.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Low birth rate. The cost of living is so expensive you are forced to make choices. More birth control options.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? I don't agree with closing West End. Black people's history is never respected. Our lack of black culture has put us in this position. If we learnt from our ancestors about community and collective responsibility we wouldn't be in this position.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons: I suffer from not knowing their history.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons: I suffer from not knowing their history.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Are we okay with burrowing money to increase the burden on the future generations. Yet PTAs are fundraising to help teachers.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

We had alternative schools back in the day. I remember when the took the one the west away and made it a nursery. Now "new ideas" are about alternative schools. Must be a cycle. How many lives lost due to that decision? Our ancestors built us homes, churches, schools, community buildings and sports clubs. They had less education but more love for community so

they sacrificed and pooled their resources. As educated black peoples with more PhDs and MAs than our ancestors, what have we collectively built with our own funds for the future generations? I see a lots of walls built around properties. Gives the impression keep out. Do not bother. We can't share because you can't enter the gates. Something is wrong with the education system that we are not fighting to learn our own black history, about ourselves. Our legacy. If loved ourselves we would preserve our history and buildings. We suffer from lack of pride and our children suffering due to it. We are great as Europeans but lack as Africans. The Friendly Societies helped us out do slavery by working collectively. If we studied them we may many learn how to save our people. How do you sell a plan without a budget? With the cost of construction I bet if we divide the cost by the number of students, we could afford tutors, housing and food for each student. Instead of building cafeterias. Give the family the money for food so they can learn to cook their meals. Our families did that when were in school. That's when families communicated and you learned how to cook and you ate together. Schools and senior care homes should be together. The seniors have a lot to offer. We could be using them now to assist with the children. Nursing homes have a lot of teachers in them. We have live heroes who could be visiting schools now. Think outside the box. At this time we have more parents out of work. I missed the concern about the families in the presentations. How are the students coping? Are you seeing any signs of abuse. We don't have money. We say we need the foreigners to give us money in order for us to continue to succeed. We need foreign experts. What is the psychological impact on the family and our worth as black people? When we hear educators tell us our history we don't share enough of our history, it sounds like our history is not significant. The public sounded like they are begging for black history to be recognized. Years from now we will have a commission on that. I know I talked a lot about black people. It's

because the Europeans make sure everybody knows their history and their worth.

### Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Date of Submission: 3-12-2021  
Unique ID: 561776

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please Parent check those that apply):

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Elliot Primary School parent Whitney Institute Middle School parent

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: The move is largely economically based but may not be the best academically or socially for the teachers and students in the long run.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: See note above.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

Schools identified in the Hopkins and Score Reports were never properly amended. School layouts remained the same but these were used as negatives when looking at the new criteria. School buildings were not upgraded save for a few minor things here and there and so they too were seen as inadequate when nothing was ever done to fix them.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

A school for exceptionalities is necessary but unless the MOED is prepared to provide ALL the necessary physical, human and monetary resources, it will fall the way of how students with exceptionalities have been dealt with in the past in the public system.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

A school for alternative education is necessary but unless the MOED is prepared to provide ALL the necessary physical, human and monetary resources, it will fall the way of how students with behavioral challenges, etc. and needing an alternative education environment have been dealt with in the past in the public system.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish

I don't know

primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Please share your reasons:

Government could repurpose many of the school buildings. School buildings 70+ years old do not mean they cannot be reused or even renovated to accommodate new uses or provide what is needed in their current layouts. People renovate all the time to accommodate new needs.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

Government needs to take a holistic approach to education. It seems to be focusing very heavily on the physical structures but what about the community and parental involvement. A large problem in the system stems from what students are dealing with at home. Teachers are expected to be counselors, care givers, doctors, psychologists, behavior management experts, etc. but there is nowhere in the consultation that talks about parents being responsible to ensure their kids are ready and prepared for school every day. Students coming with no pens, pencils, books, and teachers expected to provide them. Students literally abuse teachers and at a moments' notice of the word of a student, a teacher is out on administrative leave, so teachers are fearful of losing their jobs. Until attention is given to these things, new buildings will be just that, new buildings, but the problem will remain, and you will continue to see failures in the system. Teachers are dedicated professionals, but current conditions have teachers rethinking their passion for teaching. Perhaps MOED officials should come and spend some quality time in an actual classroom and collect that data on what teachers must put up with and how teachers have to give so much to students and the system that there is nothing left for them to give to their own families which are now suffering.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 642170

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Other Community Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Elliot & Prospect because those are my proposed 'parish schools' and Harrington Sound because most of my family resides in Smith's and Warwick/Southampton because the rest of my family resides there.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I agree because I want signature schools to return because I've always felt that the education system in Bermuda has never been sufficient in all my years in school. The ministry constantly changes the curriculum. I've always been a part of the three tier system, but I've only heard good things about the two tier system. I personally did not enjoy my middle school experience - it was the worst years of my life. I went to Whitney Institute.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: My concern is not every Parish will be as involved in their schools as others. History and money disparities across the island show which Parish has the majority money on the island. My fear is the schools in higher income homes (like Paget parish) will get more funding, better resources, newer equipment, etc. because their households will bring in more money and in term those schools will have a

stronger economic funding group compared to other schools in lesser income areas on the island. The more money, the better the resources, the better the education. This will encourage parents to use false addresses for their child to attend the better school and class sizes might become overwhelming. Also, I believe that parents should have the right to choose whatever schools work best for them in their daily lives.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

Somerset Primary, a lot of people disagree with this school. It's too far away from town and parents are very concerned about the travel distance.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons:

There is a desperate need for an exceptionalities school in Bermuda. I have family members who are on the spectrum and have jumped from school to school on this island and with NO HELP. It's been awful and no school was equipped to help and the choices those schools made for the students - pitiful.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

I just don't understand why the alternative school and exceptionalities school have to be in the same parish. Plus, Elliot would be a good Parish Primary school for the area I feel.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are

I don't know

repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Please share your reasons:

Make Elliot the parish school. Use another building for the other school in another parish. Cut down on cost.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

The community wants to know how much this will cost and how long will this project take. When do we give input for the signature schools? How will teachers and students be transitioning into these new roles? will uniforms still be a requirement for every age group?

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 033021

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):

Parent  
School Staff Member  
DOE Staff Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?

Elliot Primary - 2 of my children currently attend [REDACTED]

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

I understand the reasons and rationale put forth; however, there is research that supports small classroom size, specifically for children with certain learning challenges. Additionally, in many areas the current school IS the 'hub' which maintains the culture and community of the area, and some of the proposed schools are reflective of this. As such, closing them can have the opposite effect of what is intended with the closure.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

The previous question's answer essentially covers this question as well. Historically, all of these schools are parish schools. The rationale behind their initial construction was to address the need for education in the area, whether it was to consolidate schools into a better constructed building, owing to segregation or simply there was a need for a building to educate the parish's children.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation

I believe that St. David's primary should remain. Though St. David's lies in the parish of St. George's, St. David's has its

to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

own culture and the school is very much a community school. I would like to see more culture explicitly reflected in the school as the Native American roots continue to be revived. It has taken much time for cultural reconnections to occur and the school can play a continued role in this process. From a Social Studies/historical lens, much can be done with the school and its place in the St. David's community. Such a cultural (re)connection is not something that can be done authentically by a school outside of the community.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I can appreciate that Prospect Primary has a number of desirable aspects that make the location a prime location.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: I agree on 2 grounds: The building is close to MAWI to support a partnership with CAS. The children that attend SA have behavioural challenges and poor self-esteem, so currently sharing an environment with persons that have visible physical and cognitive challenges can have a further negative impact on their self-image as they are surrounded by or grouped with a 'deficit' environment. Further, if the new environment is maximised, there are a number of added features that can be provided on-site to support SEL, vocational and academic programmes.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an Yes (Agree)

alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

Please share your reasons:

I agree with the building of a school in Devonshire; however, the name of Elliot is a MUST. The history behind the 'building' is very loaded and reflective of Bermuda's history. To see the school-community connection and spirit reflected in the children visiting the original site and walking to the various points of the school is affirming that the spirit of the founders continues.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

Legacy IS attached to landmarks, otherwise they wouldn't exist. Many schools are historical and cultural landmarks. Though I appreciate the economical why, the question is what is the cost to lose history? The building to a degree becomes the teacher of history. Social Studies is more than words on paper and buildings are artifacts and evidence of the past, same as the name they bear. I also believe that the smaller schools proposed to close should house alternate programmes that cater to our diverse learners. The plethora of alternative private schools, e.g. BCCL and homeschools that currently exist and provide smaller learning environments speaks to such a need. I know that parents appreciate the choice of smaller class sizes as not ALL children (nor adults) like to be in larger classes, nor do they thrive in larger learning environments--- J. Dewey noted the ideal class has no more than 5 children in it. When looking at the fact that Bermuda's smaller classes 'aren't working', the answer is not put more children in the class, but rather we should be asking why are they not working? So with that said, specialised schools can be schools that cater to, and as such have trained professionals who can support, children with: dyslexia, language disorders, ADD, and other exceptionalities. These are environments where children with demonstrated

challenges are provided added supports and allowed to work through their challenges in an environment purpose-built for them. These environments would be truly self-paced. Admission can be based on parent request, IEP recommendation and/or MTSS selection process. One of the smaller schools could also house an alternate pedagogy, i.e. Montessori, Waldorf, Reggio Emilia, HighScope etc. Again, parental choice is what attracts parents and such an offering recognises that not all children learn in the same type of environment. Also, for children that attend private pre-schools that use this pedagogy, it allows for a seamless transition as they 'matriculate' to a formal learning setting that has the same teaching philosophy, i.e. DoH preschool uses the HighScope philosophy.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 655900

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Parent

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Port Royal Primary School

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Having participated in several meetings, I find that my concerns remain unaddressed, and that this proposal, if carried out, will have a very negative impact on the students' families and community it seeks to improve. I believe it will be detrimental to Bermuda as a whole.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Schools per Parish are really neither here nor there, I don't understand why that was brought about - this was not ever mentioned during the hundreds of meetings leading up to Plan2022

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? It is my opinion that this proposal and this method of seeking feedback is non-sensical

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

This answer steams from my opinion that the whole proposal is ill-conceived

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

It is my opinion that this proposal and this method of seeking feedback is non--sensical

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

It is my opinion that this proposal and this method of seeking feedback is nonsensical

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

Yes, as you are now aware, by closing Port Royal, the private grant specifically designated for use at Port Royal as a primary school will not be able to be used. This is too drastic a measure to take, on the backs of several initiatives that the Department has been unable to successfully implement. I am concerned with the lack of studies as to the financial impact this will have - will it save money? There's nothing in the proposal to indicate this.

But overloading the teachers is not the answer. It is a new initiative almost every year, without follow through which then spells disaster. The Ministry should make sure the proper training is provided. I am deeply concerned by the fact that the Ministry has done nothing to address the concerns of the Cambridge experts who visited a number of schools and found a number of SERIOUS deficiencies in the delivery of the curriculum and that the students were not being challenged. A building will NOT address this. We should start there, helping teachers deliver the curriculum. Make sure that one initiative is given full support. What I have seen is initiative after initiative that overloads the schools, teachers and ultimately students as a new thing every year is not the way to go, especially when no continuous and structured training is provided. Once the schools are closed, there is no turning back, and although I pray that I am wrong, I suspect the learning process will only become worse. I oppose this proposal. The SCORE report, as difficult as it was to process, was based on findings that we could understand. This proposal, prepared by God knows how and by whom, is very difficult to understand and seems based on an utopia that I fear will never come to pass.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 621186

First Name: Bermuda Education Network

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): Non-Profit Service Provider

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? We deliver experiential learning to 14 primary schools

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Please see our submission that was submitted today to [consultation@moed.bm](mailto:consultation@moed.bm)

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Please see our submission

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? Please see our submission

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: Please see our submission

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale No (Disagree)

for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

Please share your reasons: Please see our submission

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons: Please see our submission

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? Please confirm receipt of the submission from our members. Thank you !

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 903593

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply):

Student  
Other

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how?

St. George's Prep

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

I was educated at St. George's Prep and it is a treasure of a school, it cannot be dissolved. There's so much that goes into creating a positive learning environment, and Prep checks all the boxes, dissolving the school and transferring its students and teachers elsewhere will not mean that Prep's success will be duplicated.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools.

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

Consolidation is not the answer to education reform in Bermuda.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

No

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale

I don't know

for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

Please share your reasons: N/a

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? I don't know

Please share your reasons: N/a

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? I don't know

Please share your reasons: N/a

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives? N/a

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 185026

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): School Staff Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? [REDACTED] - Port Royal Primary School

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? I don't know

Please share your reasons: While I agree that there is a need to consolidate the number of primary schools, I do not believe that the reasons and rationales provided are based on sound criteria. Provision of wrap-around services, improved assessment/curriculum and positive, restorative school cultures do not depend on new buildings. In Bermuda and around the world, there are multiple examples of 50+ year old schools that are thriving, growing institutions.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. I don't know

Please share your reasons: As quoted on p. 17 of the consultation document, "...With the introduction of parish primary schools, each primary school would become the hub of their parish." This is a wonderful vision, but until the community perception of public education becomes more favorable the desired "...authentic partners..." will remain a vision - not reality. Depending on the business community located in each parish, the inequity will continue. In addition, continuing with school zones does not support the introduction of

parish primary schools. If parents continue to have choice of schools within their zone, the parish school may/may not be the school of choice. This too goes against the vision of the parish primary school as the "hub" of the parish.

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)?

As stated earlier, I do understand the need for consolidation of primary schools. However, I have many concerns about the potential closure of Port Royal Primary. There is a substantial financial trust that can assist in the provision of facility upgrades. However, if the school closes, that money is no longer available. In addition, year after year, Port Royal is consistently over-subscribed for the incoming Primary One class. Despite the potential closure, this has continued this year, and speaks to parents' belief in the school. Parents also appreciate the safe, quiet, neighbourhood surroundings of our campus. However, according to the consultation document study factors, this peaceful location - right off of Middle Road - is considered to be a negative.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

There is an immediate need to improve the facilities at Dame Marjorie Bean Hope Academy. The Prospect Primary School site is ideally situated, as it is close to the hospital. However, I feel that Gilbert Institute might be more easily renovated and repurposed as an exceptionalities signature school.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school?

I don't know

Please share your reasons:

I do not have enough information to comment on the appropriate site for an alternative education signature

school. In my opinion, there is a need for a school that is specifically dedicated to students who need consistent behavioural support.

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, and an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish?

No (Disagree)

Please share your reasons:

With the current economic climate, I do not see the need to build a new school at this time.

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

Recommendation #1 - clear, transparent information to accompany the study factors e.g. the actual acreage of the schools. Recommendation #2 - In order to give parents' choice, instead of parish schools, we continue with the three zones - East, West, Central. It is also recommended to close the one school in the zone that has the lowest enrollment. This way, a pilot program can occur that allows for transitioning the least number of students to other schools in the zone. If at some later point, there is an opportunity to build brand-new school buildings, the pilot transition process can be used as a blueprint.

Recommendation #3 - preschools (age 4) are brought into primary schools and led by school principals, to ensure alignment of curriculum. Bright Sparks programs (age 3) should be in separate buildings. This can be done as a first step, simultaneous with the phasing out of middle schools. Recommendation #4 - primary schools are designated pre/reception/foundation to Year 7, not Year 8. This would still allow for 8 years of education in the primary school. Recommendation #5 - S3/Senior 12 is the graduation year. S4/Senior 13 is accommodated at Bermuda College, to

provide students with a transition year to prepare them for university life.

## Parish Primary School Consultation Form

Unique ID: 118316

3. I am submitting this consultation form as a (please check those that apply): School Staff Member

4. Which school or schools are you associated with? And how? Purvis Primary School - Teacher

5. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the introduction of parish primary schools? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: - facilities need to be updated - 21st century learning spaces are vital - providing resources across 10 parish schools is more reasonable than stretching resources across 18 primary schools - smaller class sizes - restorative practices - wrap-around services

6. Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of parish primary schools, with 1 school per parish, except for Pembroke Parish, which would have 2 parish primary schools. Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: .

7. Do you have any comments about the proposal in relation to any particular parish(es) (except for Devonshire Parish, which is considered in questions 8-10)? .

8. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Prospect Primary School as an exceptionalities signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: .

9. Do you agree or disagree with the reasons and rationale for the repurposing of Elliot Primary School as an alternative education signature school? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: .

10. If Prospect Primary School and Elliot Primary School are repurposed as an exceptional signature school, 1vand an alternative signature school respectively, the proposal for Devonshire Parish is to introduce a newly-built primary school as the parish primary school. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Devonshire Parish? Yes (Agree)

Please share your reasons: .

11. Is there any other information or feedback that you would like to share regarding the proposals, including any alternatives?

In regards to staffing and new roles that will need to be filled, I believe that having Teacher's Assistants and Assessment Officers/Teams within the schools will help teachers to remain focused on teaching and learning. As far as the age to begin primary school, studies show that children aren't developmentally ready until 6/7 years old. By this age children are developmentally ready to begin formal education. Inserting a year or 2 before the current P1 class/curriculum would benefit our children greatly.

## Emailed Submissions

Unique ID: 000023

THE ELLIOT PRIMARY SCHOOL

1/22/2021

Good Day Consultation Team,

The Consultation meeting was a good one. I appreciate hearing the proposals for the Parish Primary Schools and I too am excited, about what this means for the students in the BPSS.

It has been said, *'if you don't raise an objection, you do not have an objection'*.

Therefore, specifically, I write at this time, advocating for keeping the Elliott Primary School location, as the Devonshire Parish School and developing a 21<sup>st</sup>C state of the art Alternative Education School at another site.

Firstly, I would like to speak to two points of view –

- 1) Supposition: It was stated in the meeting, that because MAWI is located very near the now Elliott School, this would assist in the wrap around approach sought (paraphrasing); it was also stated that MAWI being nearby the now Elliott School, would afford the necessary support services, should they be needed(paraphrasing).

Consideration: The now MAWI or formerly known as 'St. Brendan's Hospital' moved to its present location in 1868. The proximity of this facility to the now Elliott School should not factor into a decision of whether or not Elliott should remain the Devonshire Parish Primary School. No matter where the Alternative School lies, the support services of a MAWI would not be unreachable from anywhere on the island. As evidenced by its servicing of a diverse populous from Sandy's to St. George's.

- 2) Supposition: This transformation could be seen, as a fresh start for the overall facility, which has had its share of challenges, particularly over the last year or so..

Consideration: 'Old wine in new skins' is never an answer. We cannot erase what has happened and we cannot run from it. All schools have their share of challenges, some perhaps more than others. Sure, the Elliott Primary School has had its moments in the spotlight and this too will pass. As a parish Primary School, they too will have their share of challenges.

Further Consideration:

- • This institution, known as the Elliott Primary School is not just a 69 year old building. It holds a rich legacy for generations, reaching back to the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century. This Parish school provided learning for a segment of our society, who were denied access to formalized education. Students went from a one room building on Jubilee Road, to the Old Elliott School further down the road, which now houses ‘Kaleidoscope’ to its present location on Hermitage Road.
- • This Parish Primary School (similar to the former ‘Central School’ aka Victor Scott Primary School) produced many prominent leaders in our society – *including the now Minister of Education, the Hon. Diallo Rabain.*
- • The present facility provides the perfect foundation of history, respect in community and infrastructure, on which to build and create a 21<sup>st</sup> C Parish Primary School.
- • It checks many of the boxes, as per the ‘Proposal for the Introduction of Parish Primary Schools’.
- • Devonshire Parish continues to maintain one of the highest population rates in Bermuda. Thus, the present site of the Elliott School would be ideal, to draw residents in the Zone to this new Parish Primary school, given its centralized location within the parish.

In my professional and personal opinion, I cannot see the proposed location for the new Devonshire Parish Primary School, having the same appeal or magnetism for residents of the Parish, as does the present location of the Elliott Primary School. It would also be not too far in location, from one of the Pembroke Primary Schools – and each school should be centralized in my opinion.

I welcome further dialogue on this particular matter and hope that consideration can be given to this perspective.

Regards

Unique ID: 000024

**Subject:** Re: Primary School Consultation

Thank you Mr. Rabain for sending the additional information. The meeting last night did assist with dispelling some of the fears surrounding this consultation process. If I may, I would like to use this avenue to give some additional feedback concerning the poll questions.

I found that it was restrictive in the sense that I was for parish schools in general but I was of the opinion that there should be more than one parish with two schools, so instead of ten (10) schools there would be anywhere from 12 - 15 schools. Unfortunately, because of the choices given and the wording of the question I wasn't able to convey that information.

My fear is that the government is having challenges with maintaining the recommended student teacher ratio currently and I am concerned that with 300 students per school that ratio will progressively decrease (less teachers). I think that a good student teacher ratio sets the precedent for success.

Also, my husband and I were unaware that polls would be taken within the presentation so even though we had opposing views on some of the questions we were not able to communicate that with using one feed for ourselves.

I hope this feedback helps with future consultation presentations.

Kind regards

Unique ID: 000025

Subject: Feedback Re: The Proposal for Sandys Parish, Re: Consultation on a Proposal for the Introduction of Parish Primary Schools, December 2020

Good Day, Consultation Team,

I take this opportunity to thank you for major efforts on behalf of our country re: public education.

Please consider my feedback in the attached documents, re: the ongoing Consultation on a Proposal for the Introduction of Parish Primary Schools. (December 2020)

Respectfully Submitted

# **THE HISTORY OF WEST END PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**“FORWARD TOGETHER.”**

**West End Primary School has a long, rich, and rewarding history which dates back as far as 1869.**

History today reveals that churches at that time played a huge role in the practice of systemic racism in both our country’s religious and educational institutions. At St. James Anglican Church in Sandys Parish, there were two segregated Sunday Schools. The buildings were located on each side of the entrance to James Church, adjacent to the two sides of its current graveyards. One building was for white children only. It is unused and still stands opposite the Four-Star Pizza. The other building was for black children. This building became the one-room schoolhouse which was also used during each week, and is the earliest school to have been in existence which merged with others to ultimately become West End Primary School. It was demolished, and on its site stands the current St. James Church Hall. Its first Principal was Mr. W.R. Perinchief.

Children were travelling barefoot and on the back of box carts to their one-room school - house. That was the beginnings of a sporadic migration around the Sandys Parish community to different educational sites such as Ida Trott’s School, Huntley School, “Flat Top,” and “Tin Top.” These buildings would eventually merge to become the WEST END PRIMARY SCHOOL, because Sandys Grammar School (now called Somerset Primary), did not allow non-whites i.e., Blacks and Portuguese – to attend.

Around the year 1893, Huntley School, which was Government sponsored, was located at Manchester Hall, the building that used to house Sandys Theatre. The headmaster, Mr. Edgar Tucker, was assisted by Miss May Stowe.

Sometime later, the school moved due west of Gosling Brothers. After the retirement of Mr. Tucker, Miss Stowe capably headed the school, up to the period of the Second World

War. When the school amalgamated with West End Grammar at "Flat Top." Miss Stowe joined the staff there.

Mrs. Ida Trott's school was established at her home in Ely's Harbour (near the Willowbank Guest House).

This small body along with Mrs. Trott also joined West End Grammar at "Flat Top."

It was not until 1915 that the Department of Education made an appearance in the records as a Body governing the Educational System, appointing as West End Primary's first Head Teacher, one, Mr. Arthur Hodgson.

Mr. Hodgson served for a short time in a little school located on the site of the present Somerset Primary.

Succeeding Mr. Hodgson was Mr. C.A. Isaac-Henry. Soon after his arrival, the school was moved to a two-story building due west of the Royal Naval Field – now known as the Warren Simmons Field. It was here that the name "West End Grammar" was adopted.

As the numbers increased, the school was moved to a new building on the site of the extension at Sandys Secondary School. "Flat Top", as it was called, consisted of eight classrooms which were filled – to - capacity.

The highest recorded enrolment was 379 pupils.

It was not until the days of "Flat-Top" that West End absorbed into its body all the existing educational bodies

in the Parish that would become known as The West End School.

Mr. C.A. Isaac-Henry was succeeded by Mr. V.F. Scott in 1931. He introduced the "House System in 1932 called the Dr. Cann House and the Mr. Isaac-Henry House. The Houses vied with each other to gain points in athletics, academics, and arts and crafts. In later years, the House names were identified only by the colours of **BLUE** and **GOLD**.

The ever-increasing school population made it necessary to separate the infants, who were accommodated at a low, galvanized edifice, known as "Tin Top", which was located opposite Allen Temple Church, on Sound View Road.

In 1934, Mr. Charles Snaith was appointed as the Principal until his retirement in 1962. He left behind him two notable institutions – The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) established in 1934 – second oldest on the island – and the school song – "**GOD BLESS OUR SCHOOL**," written by his friend and colleague, Jamaican music teacher, Millicent Hurst. Mr. Snaith retired in 1962.

Following his retirement, Mr. Sinclair Richards became the first Bermudian and new Principal of WEST END PRIMAY SCHOOL. When the school population was escalating, more classrooms were built and later this increased to include a Reading Room, an Art Room, an Office, a Staff Room, and an Assembly Hall/Gymnasium.

After the extensions, the Infants were transferred to occupy the classrooms in the “Breezeway,” as the new section was called. However, after all the extensions had been done to the school, it was not enough to accommodate the great numbers that had come to be enrolled at West End. The highest recorded enrolment at that time was 579 students. A new plan had to be implemented to house the overflow.

West End School became divided at this point. Prefabricated buildings were erected to take all the children from the most eastern part of Sandys Parish. It was called The Boaz Island School. Students were at once compelled to attend Boaz Island School if they lived east of Loyalty Inn.

Under Mr. Richards’ Principalship, the first Prize-Giving ceremony was held to acknowledge student achievement. Musical instruments were introduced, and Musical Festivals were held.

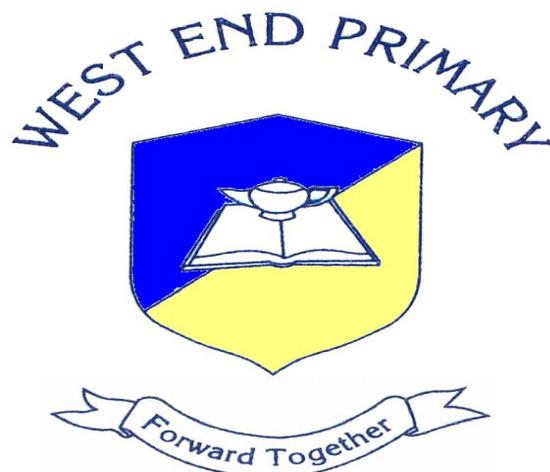
The school crest and motto “**FORWARD TOGETHER,**” was the brainchild of Mr. Richards and made its debut in 1963.

He wished to emphasize the need for the teachers, the parents, and the community to work together and embrace each other, so that everyone would maximize the rich, educational, and spiritual realms that life has to offer.

Mr. Richards was appointed as an Educational Officer in 1971 and then Chief Education Officer in 1976.

Ms. Doris Marsh served as Principal from 1971, followed by Mrs. Margaret Manders, Mr. Llewellyn Smith, Mr. Livingston Tuzo, and Mrs. Sandra Smith. Former student Mrs. Trina Cariah is its present Principal.

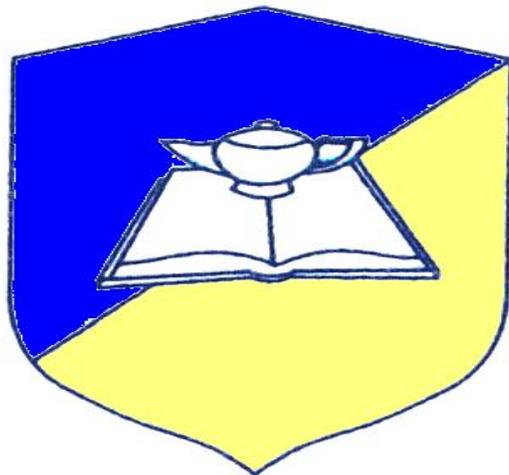
**GOD BLESS OUR SCHOOL**



*Submitted by Mrs. Diane Hunt 05/11/19*

*Amended 24/02/21 in collaboration with Ms. Jennifer Manders*

WEST END PRIMARY



Forward Together

Submission Re West End Primary

March 1, 2021

The Hon. Diallo Rabain, JP, MP  
Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education  
44 Church Street  
Hamilton HM 12

Dear Minister Rabain,

Please receive the submission below... my thoughts and requests in response to the Ministry of Education's request for feedback re: the current Consultation on a Proposal for the Introduction of Parish Primary Schools.

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In Defense of Keeping West End Primary School Open

At this time, the government seems obliged to decrease the number of facilities which provide for the right to a free and appropriate public education...primarily for reasons of declining birth rates, and the need to cut operational expenses in public education, especially in light of the current

economic times; but also to improve public education as we continue in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century. I certainly appreciate the challenges that this need presents as relates to this task.

The opportunity for an education is a right for which previous generations will have fought hard. Sandys Parish is being asked to give its opinion by March 12, 2021 about the proposed closing of West End Primary School and the retaining of Somerset Primary School as the one parish primary school. I offer this personal submission. Inasmuch as there is certain to be emotion attached to this submission, I assure you that it is offered with sincere good will towards **ALL** stakeholders in the education of our young citizens... our adult citizens of the future.

- The decision to close West End Primary School, and other schools, is seemingly being based primarily on the comparative assessments of the condition of its/their facilities. Additionally, the government is acknowledging that most schools are fully ready for major renovating or rebuilding. All would probably agree that, in the best of all worlds and economic times, West End Primary School ought to be placed very high on the list of priority for such long overdue major work... though it remains an adequately functional facility for children to attend today. In truth, West End's condition is thought by many in the parish to not be majorly unequal to that of Somerset Primary at this time, i.e., the conditions at each are about the same in many dimensions. In addition, West End's total weighted score on the Ministry's buildings evaluation (55.88%) is higher than four of the parish schools which are to remain open... West Pembroke (50.11%), Harrington Sound (50.44%), Victor Scott (51.64%) and Paget Primary (52.85%) (P. 41-42, the Proposal...)
- West End Primary School, located virtually in the centre of 'Somerset' neighbourhoods, will mark **152 years of service to the Sandys Parish community in 2021**, even if the age of the oldest part of the current facility is dated at 1944. In years past, its current buildings housed as many as 579 students. (West End Primary Heritage: "Forward Together", 1980 ... please see the attached **summary** of West End's history, prepared by a retired member of its staff, Mrs. Dianne Hunt). Clearly this was far from ideal back then... a definite hardship. We all certainly desire much better accommodations for children in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century; but this fact does give reason for pause today, to reconsider the adequacy of its spaces for anticipated significantly smaller future enrollments. (More below)
- I do not think I necessarily need to say this, but I will. Schools are really not just spaces and buildings of concrete and mortar. Schools are environments with a variety of ambiances. However, first and foremost, schools are people...children/young human beings, with parents, grandparents, relatives, neighbours, cherished friends, teachers, principals and support staff ... our schools ARE Bermudian communities; our schools ARE our Bermudian culture, i.e., our schools house our own 'national', parish and very personal (family)

histories; our schools ARE our Bermudian traditions; because our schools are significant parts of US.

To elaborate a bit more, schools are gathering places where relationships form; where communal efforts occur, as an individual's talents and skills are developed to enable survival, and hopefully thriving, in the world beyond the school's environment. Traditions are observed, as well as created. Cultures are preserved and evolved. Schools therefore become places of meaning to individuals and groups. Remove the people...the buildings are simply inorganic matter. Accommodate the people... the buildings become, in fact, organic homes of communities and cultures.

Especially in the West End Primary School's earlier years, **HUGE SACRIFICES** of every teacher, parent and family contributed to the life of the school. And these were sacrifices which they *had to* make... historically, so little was offered for the daily functioning of the school as compared with the resources made available to Sandys Grammar School...inclusive of facilities upgrades. So current deficits are not a surprise to the Sandys community. Nevertheless, learn and succeed our families did... with *far less*, in fact, than what children are able to access today.

To be clear, I am not advocating for a paucity of resources to our children to prepare them for today's world at this 'new day' ...yes, every one of us desires the highest of school standards, the best possible for our children, in order that they not be left wanting, and may be enabled to meet future days with experiences of personal success. Environments facilitate learning... social and cultural environments; environments which support gifts and purposes which God creates in children to be developed; and environments which do not de-motivate. Such environments ought to be the goal of educators to provide.

With the above in mind, please consider this example... from a place poor in terms of the material, but not poor in terms of family and community culture, and support for this young person's gifts to develop...

[Nas Daily - The Hidden Elon Musk Of Africa | Facebook](#)

Clearly, as evident from our public education's past, and in present time, not everything is going to be dependent upon new building infrastructures re: offering conducive learning environments to children and their families... inasmuch as we must still make it our goal to optimize the buildings for Bermuda's children, and the children of Sandys specifically.

- It remains quite sad that when we reflect upon the above needs, and then this matter of having to close one primary school in Sandys Parish, darkness from our parish's history comes up; and scars, many of them hidden amongst and within our people, still in a healing process, are our reality today. What is reflected is a continuing frustration...Bermuda's history of racism.

Racism in Bermuda's past, and in its present, comes up...because confronting its reality and healing from it remains the difficult work for all to do. In recent time, The Big Conversation, CURB, Titan Tours, Black Lives Matter, the Anglican Church of Bermuda and others have been continually making efforts to help everyone in Bermuda to face our 'uncomfortable truths'... so that we then do all that we can to truly heal; and not repeat the sins of our past. *As a part of this, we must be mindful not to lose the best of our country's history...especially our best and positive black history.*

I personally believe that this current situation in public education, and in Sandys Parish in particular, has afforded us a fresh opportunity... to review the history of these schools. I have no intention to re-wound...rather, to help our collective to wrestle with uncomfortable truth, to set us free as we *claim the best, and continue our building upon the best, of the history.*

Somerset Primary School was Sandys Grammar School in the past. In 1970, when racial desegregation had to be legislated in Bermuda because it was not voluntary, Sandys Grammar School was segregated; and its supporters were actively hostile towards accepting black children, and Portuguese children. When black children ultimately entered, there was 'white flight' and many white children were, not so slowly, taken to private white schools. Sadly, in 2021, in the main, white children continue to attend private schools and black children comprise the majority of children at what was re-named Somerset Primary School about 50 years ago.

Most of the wonderful principals and teachers who have served at Somerset Primary School have been nurtured and developed in historically black schools in Bermuda.

Across the same period, a comparatively very small number of white families have chosen to place their children at West End Primary; and I will highlight that they have always been welcomed.

Thus, Somerset Primary has become the second predominantly black primary school in Sandys, thanks to the good intentions of black Sandys Parish.

Yes, I most certainly agree that change since the 1970s has been positive in many ways. Many students of all races and ethnicities who have attended Somerset Primary are wonderful citizens today. However, the sad reality of de facto segregation remains; this is behaviour which has reflected the story of racism in Bermuda. (CURB's Black History in Bermuda: Timeline Spanning 5 Centuries, September 2020. Page 45)

This story is the uncomfortable, yet 'real', truth.

So, I would ask whether in 2021, in light of the work of CURB, the Human Rights Commission and others, what will be tantamount to symbolic rewarding of racist history by choosing Somerset Primary as the one parish school is what public education really wishes to do.

Should we not instead defend the very positive legacy which West End Primary has given to all who have 'overcome'... who are both black and white residents... since 1959? We ought not place in the 'memory-grave' the rich and positive 152-year heritage of so much of the Sandys community... which IS alive in West End Primary School.

Whilst this reality of de facto segregation remains sad, West End's story has been largely quite brilliant and positive; and much of Sandys Parish is of the opinion that its legacy ought to be given the respect to be celebrated, honoured and preserved. Closing West End Primary will do none of these things.

- I am unable to be apologetic for the passion with which, throughout this submission, I will defend the honour of all who have been a part of West End Primary School's story to date. I count it a privilege to be able to declare my strong support for protecting and honouring the strong and good legacy, especially of our ancestors, which is West End's. I know that I personally owe this to them, not to mention to my parents. I fully recognize that my life stands on the lives, wounds, **hard** work, sacrifices, prayers and shoulders of the many who have gone before us all.

I cannot but feel this issue very personally; and I declare this too, in the interest of full transparency. West End literally contributes to the heartbeat of my home. My mother served the school for 46 years, 11 as its Principal, from 1978-1989. She had the total support of my father... who was victorious over his own challenges with socially unjust realities in other spheres, including the civil service, during those same years. They gave very much of their lives for the West End School Family and the country, apart from what they gave to our own home.

Amongst other things, my mother spent a significant portion of her salary on learning materials for her students...**ALL** of the teachers did; because they wanted us to learn and to have the best possible opportunities that they could give us to do so.

At another time in West End Primary's history, in the 1980's, when my mother had to defend West End's very strong standing, also related to declining enrollment, she was heard to courageously and passionately say directly to the then Minister of Education, "Any good thing which is strong and black, you work to dismantle!" This moment was **VERY** painful for her... to have to give voice to this observation on behalf of her staff, the PTA and the hundreds of members of the Sandys Parish community who attended a meeting with the senior leadership of the Ministry. The Sandys community at that time was **very clear** with its message that **it did not wish the heritage and legacy of West End Primary School to ever be disrespected.**

This moment now is very like that one.

- Speaking personally again for a moment, were it not for attending West End Primary, from I was a five-year-old girl, I would likely not cherish our entire Somerset community nearly as much as I do. The school **was** the community for us. The groups of children, from the many parish neighbourhoods, the teachers, the support staff, the parents, and all other surrounding entities and supporters of the school, became our warm, supportive home-community and rich learning environment for the years that we were there. Many people from those years have become my lifelong friends.

I am an alumna of West End who ended my career with the Ministry of Education as a Senior Education Officer for Early Childhood Education. I am also a former Coordinator of the Child Development Programme (CDP), having helped with the original pioneering work, under the founding leadership of Coordinator Mrs. Conchita Ming, and working with CDP's highly talented professional teams. We built CDP services from 1980, when it was the Child Development Project, until it was lauded and established as the government's highly

successful Programme in 1995, and again in 1998; I served until 2009 when I retired as CDP's second Coordinator after 35 years of total service to our public education system.

My only point in sharing here about my personal career life is this...the foundation for my continuing life of learning and giving service to **ALL** of the people of Bermuda was laid in large measure by the nurturing environment, experiences, and values of the West End Primary School family, together with those of my personal family. The same kind of foundation will be laid for the children of Sandys Parish when West End Primary School continues.

Yes, I am aware that alumni of West End and of many other schools have far more amazing personal testimonies and can express such sentiments ... this actually speaks again to the point of this submission; and I acknowledge your challenge with your decision-making.

This said, I also cannot but say that today, I am grateful that my parents are not here to be a part of this discussion, especially with a government which, as civil servants, they would hope that they could wholeheartedly support with pleasure in this scenario.

- Another relevant reality is that virtually all of Sandys Parish's black families have roots within the history of West End Primary, i.e. families who support Somerset Primary School are also a part of this demographic.
- The Ministry of Education is speaking about providing children with an education which is culturally relevant.

In summary of this portion of my submission, what I have sought to emphasize is that it will be totally appropriate, and culturally relevant, for the children of Sandys Parish to be afforded the opportunity to attend a school which gives honour to the long, rich, and therefore very valuable history which West End Primary School represents. The majority of the population in Sandys Parish is black; and the majority of families in Sandys who are availing themselves of a *public* education are black. Further, this opportunity will have the enormous potential to gift **ALL** the children of Sandys Parish with a warm, welcoming, nurturing, stimulating, truly culturally connected first school environment; with foundational experiences through which they can learn, and develop the skills and resiliency which will ultimately help them to thrive in their adult lives. There is robust research to support such thought about culturally relevant school environments.

I see this time as an opportunity for our youngest children, whose families have proven their support for public education, to continue to be nurtured in a school which is most likely to reflect their family members', certainly their ancestors', stories...and a school which does not have in its history the painful stories of practices of direct, devastating racism; and mind sets, however unconscious at this time, still tending to support a status quo of systemic racism in our society. I will continue to long for the day when our populace will have healed tens of thousands of times more than today, and history of Sandys Grammar School will be less significant and less relevant to a decision like this one. In these days of "Black Lives Matter", that day is clearly not yet now.

We would have to acknowledge that West End's history is not perfect...the nature of humanity mitigates against perfection. However, it truly has huge numbers of wonderful stories and traditions which reflect the strengths, commitment and major sacrifices of the principals, teachers, support staff, the PTA, the partner parish pre- and secondary/middle schools, and community supporters...and *especially, alumni*. There is *HUGE* legacy in West End Primary Alumni, going back all 152 years...and yes, for the black community primarily, but also for some members of Sandys Parish's white community. A written history of West End Primary is only partial at this time, but what is written is rich indeed! It has been readily available from the school.

I do not wish to leave the impression that I think that West End's heritage ought to be the sole heritage recognized and taught by the one parish primary school to come. This said, at this time in history, I suspect that the heritage with which both white and black families who support public education and Somerset Primary school would most relate and celebrate, dates from 1970. And I do think that this ought to be incorporated into the experience of students as they attend West End Primary as the continuing parish primary school.

If those with positive heritage attached to the original Sandys Grammar School wish to add their written history to educational resources, it too ought to be invited.

I sincerely desire that the West End Primary School family continue to move "Forward Together", as its motto always has bid its students to do.

- It ought also to be noted that West End Primary, in fact, played a role in the development of public education in another parish. Mr. Victor F. Scott taught at West End Primary and was its second Principal at what was then a newly named West End School, from 1931-1933, before going to the then Central School to serve as its now-honoured Principal.
- Another former Principal, Mr. J. Sinclair Richards, went on to become the Chief Education Officer of the Department of Education. The brief history will show that West End Primary has had wonderful Principals from its inception in 1869 through to today. Again, there is HUGE legacy connected to West End Primary School..
- If not for the strong sense of community in Sandys Parish, which has literally been built by West End Primary School, Sandys Secondary (more recently, Middle) School, Somerset Cricket Club, the churches, and some of the businesses in Sandys Parish, where would our relationships which matter most to us be? Where would the PLP, now the government, be? (You may wish to consider the voting history of Sandys Parish. I am made to understand that for decades the majority of former West End students and Sandys Parish Constituents have voted for PLP candidates during elections and indeed, the PLP can brag about their Sandys record of elected members to the House of Assembly.) This same sense of community motivated the West End residents, inclusive of parents of West End Primary students, to hold a march and protest when the then government wanted to change the name from the old "Casemates" to "West End Prison?" The community did not wish the name 'West End' to bear any similarity to, or subliminal association with, a prison. The success of their protest resulted in a positive move by the government to rename the new facility "West Gate Correctional Facility".  
If not for the strong sense of West End community, where would Cup Match be? How might Sandys Parish otherwise be?

Comments and Requests for Consideration by the Ministry of Education and the Government

- I think that, not only must Sandys Parish insist through this process that West End Primary be the school of choice to remain open, but we must also insist that... absolutely as soon as it is financially feasible... it be made a top priority for rebuilding, to make it the fully accessible, 21<sup>st</sup> Century facility which the families of Sandys Parish deserve and which the government envisions, inclusive of an on-site preschool if the government chooses. I have touched on this earlier, but...the new school ought to: provide the safe, supportive learning culture which exists at West End Primary, i.e., an environment where each member of the learning community can have the feeling of connectedness; provide excellent educators who will do their utmost to address all learners' needs; employ stimulating, interactive and collaborative indoor and outdoor activities and games; provide spaces for quiet contemplation; provide feedback about learning progress; and affirm and celebrate learners' successes.

It is, in fact, quite possible that in light of fast and continual technological changes, and moves to remote learning, the rebuild, say within the next 3 to 5 years, may not be as costly as one might anticipate.

- I do not agree with the suggestion that the Somerset Primary School site be re-named West End Primary School...again, it is sad, but... too much latent community pain remains related to its space for this to be the best idea. When there is sincere acknowledgement and repentance across Bermuda of racism and de facto racism, and the injustices these continue to enable, and when the work of forgiveness and reconciliation is much further along, I feel certain that this pain will subside completely. This will not be enabled by this decision to close West End Primary School, thereby beginning the process of taking away a major part of the people of Sandys' identity.

I hope that I have by now been able to justify above why honouring West End's current space is what will be right.

AND, clearly of course, West End Primary will continue to be welcoming of **ALL** children and their families.

The **ONLY** condition under which I would be accepting of this option is if the site were bindingly temporary ... the temporary arrangement beginning at the very same time that the ground is broken for the rebuilding of the re-designed 21<sup>st</sup> century school at the West End site.

- I do think that Somerset Primary School's main buildings ought to be re-purposed for use by the Sandys community, if not by all of Bermuda. It will be wonderful if entities which continue to encourage racial reconciliation and community unity are housed there.
- I would agree if it were decided that the Sandys Preschool remain at the current location, even if only through to the completion of a West End rebuilding project which includes a preschool. Its history is not directly related to that of the Somerset Primary main site. Those buildings were built to accommodate the positive changes which came with the 1970 legislation. To my knowledge, even at this time, the preschool programme is, appropriately, not strongly linked to the primary school division re: teaching and learning; though it offers convenience for orientation experiences in June of each year, when children are being prepared to enter P1 at Somerset Primary in September. I believe that such experiences are currently also arranged for children who are transitioning to West End Primary. The latter would continue to occur when West End Primary remains open.

- There appears to be no major difference between the acreage of each of the school sites; and with recent changes in weather, West End has a lesser flood risk factor. Another advantage which West End Primary has is that having two playground areas allows for the arranging of age-appropriate play activities, which ought to maximize safety for all age groups.
- Re: Bus transportation, children attending school to the north of Somerset Bridge or to the south of Dockyard, will catch a bus which takes them directly to the gate of West End Primary; whereas those attending Somerset Primary will have to be dropped off on the Main Road and then walk to the school. I think it is clear which arrangement is safer.
- West End Primary may be one of few public schools which has a written history...though there is sure to be much more which can be, and ought to be written. I would submit that the researching and writing of the fullest possible histories of all schools could be work that is requested of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. Historically, schools kept logbooks, and principals wrote detailed annual reports. These documents, if not lost to the Ministry, would be sure to provide plenty of material for these projects. It would be wonderful if the Department of Cultural Affairs would oversee the writing of the fuller history of West End Primary, to include stories shared by many of the families of Sandys Parish who have longstanding connections to the school. This will be great to record, in the interest of future generations, and what they are highly likely to desire to know about their family's heritage...a heritage which will inevitably link to school experiences.
- I appeal to the Ministry of Education to change its thoughts to close West End Primary School. To dismiss this 152 – year legacy of the Sandys community...well...it is not a decision that I would want to live with... It will equate to destroying a part of the collective birthright of the Sandys Parish family; and it will feel similar to the story of Tucker's Town for me. To persist with the decision as it stands will, I must say, be extremely hard for me to believe of this government...that it will allow this to be done.

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Thank you in advance to the Ministry of Education for both receiving and listening to my submission; and to all who are working to positively transform our public education system. May everyone be ultimately guided to the best decision, that all may go "Forward Together".

Unique ID: 000026

Questions for this evening's discussion

Good Day,

I would like to ask the following questions:

Why are we not looking into renaming Somerset Primary to West End if the age of West End's building is the main issue of concern and deciding factor when choosing which school to close?

If we are truly talking about Parish schools designed to get the best out of students shouldn't we be going with the school that represents the Parish the best in terms of foundation and history?

The name West End is synonymous with Somerset/Sandys. With that being said, how can we be willing to lose the heartbeat of the community that is so rich in history to "Change".

Thanks,

Unique ID: 000027

**Subject:** Re: Consultation Meeting, Sandys

Dear Minister Rabain,

Thank you and the Ministry team for a good meeting this evening.

I am appreciating the challenge which this process presents...to both present plans which have been given considerable thought; and to appear, and actually be, open to other ideas...which may require more than two hours to discuss, and which may ask for a 180 degree shift.

Re: the issue of the choice of buildings, the discussion felt very much like this will not be considered for Sandys...so far.

As much as the Ministry's words say "nothing is fixed and decided as yet", thus far the tightness of the presentations...and the presentations have been very professionally presented...I most certainly respect my colleagues and their expertise... and the defending of the positions in the proposal, have tended to make the process still feel like what is being presented is a proverbial 'done deal'.

This said, apart from the choice of buildings, I support the vision of the Ministry and the evolving goals for making the vision reality. Without a doubt, everyone desires an excellent public education system.

I still will maintain that 'Place' often remains **very** relevant, as related to **culture, and legacy, and a good feeling of belonging as our lives evolve**; and specifically in the cultural context for Sandys Parish at this time in our country's history, 'Place' remains relevant. I truly hope that the decisions made related to this aspect of the future planning for the children of our parish community will ultimately be the best. Needless to say, **I do not think that the current one is the best one**. Improved facilities at the current West End Primary site, even if expansion is vertical...and I am not an architect/engineer/an expert in space designs... will remain my preference to see, and my suggestion for this community.

I will look forward to the ultimate decision re: the site choice for the Sandys Parish school.

Have a blessed night...and thank you again.

Unique ID: 000028

Subject: Re: West End Primary School

Dear Sirs,

As relates to my submission also, you may be interested to know this very small bit of information below re: my Mother.

This was, most kindly, sent to the Royal Gazette by her colleagues, in tribute to her; and as an expression of their condolences to me, our family and Sandys Parish, at the time of her passing in February, 2016. In the same year, West End Primary was given approval to name the school's assembly hall the Margaret Manders Hall in her honour... which ceremony, totally unknown to them, was arranged to occur on my birthday, May 19 (which happens to be the birthday of hero Malcolm X. It is also interesting that the birthday of John Robert Lewis is in February, Black History Month). Legacies are fascinating...God at work, in my humble opinion...

Keeping West End Primary School open, and upgrading its facilities, has the huge potential to be a form of reparations for Bermuda...

<https://www.royalgazette.com/other/news/article/20160215/principal-created-family-atmosphere/>

-  
Thank you in advance for listening to the Sandys community; and thank you again for your acknowledgements of receipt of my submission.

Best regards,  
Jennifer Manders

## Principal created family atmosphere

Jonathan Bell

Created: Feb 15, 2016 08:00 AM



Margaret Manders

Margaret Manders, the former principal of West End Primary known for forging a welcoming and close-knit atmosphere at the school, has died at the age of 90.

Mrs Manders, who served as headteacher from 1978 to 1989, was “highly respected by parents, teachers and children”, former principal Sinclair Richards recalled.

“She was a very quiet individual, never excitable and never shouting, always cool and calm but every effective,” Mr Richards said. “She always had things under control.”

Mrs Manders had started as a teacher of young children, heading the infants' department before taking over the reading programme, ultimately becoming the school's sixth principal.

“I valued her services highly; she was one of those who earned respect — she spoke her opinion, but controlled the students with a quiet voice,” Mr Richards added.

Fellow teacher Veronica Phillips recalled meeting Mrs Manders, in the West End classrooms more than 50 years ago. Her career had begun in 1954.

“She was passionate about teaching,” Ms Phillips said, noting Mrs Manders had been her daughter's first teacher.

“When she became principal, she had an amazing influence on the life and culture of both the pupils and staff. She brought a sense of calm to the school.”

Mrs Manders, she said, was “humble but very professional” and “willing to listen and support what staff wanted”, with a firm commitment to teaching and learning.

She also created “a sense of community within the school, where we felt like family”.

“She kept that good relationship up until the time of her death, fulfilling a role of mother to us as a team.”

That respect for her, Mrs Phillips added, extended through the West End community.

The widow of the late Quinton Manders, Mrs Manders is survived by her daughter Jennifer Manders.

The couple had another daughter, the late Christine Manders.

Unique ID: 000029

Education Consultation

...

Good day – just in case comments in the Consultation form do not reach the facilitators of today’s Sandys meeting I am adding the following notes to the three questions submitted yesterday:

Re Question 10: agree with one caveat - given cost overruns for new construction, if you overspend on the new school, you may unintentionally under-budget where it might be necessary -- e.g. to refurbish West End. The words "equity" and "community" appear liberally in your Consultation document. These values must be applied across all parishes.

Re Question 11: West End (WE) vs. Somerset Primary (SP): Overall, WE has a 5 point lower weighted score than SP. Based on this scoring system, WE loses out to SP mainly in the category of Land / Properties Conditions — particularly area, boundaries, community services, type of road, green field space and expansion capability. WE also lose out on ‘accessibility’. In the Safety and Health category.

I don’t know the definition or weighted values of e.g. Community Services, boundaries or how expansion capability is assessed. It may be possible to quibble with e.g. the importance of “boundaries”. Also - I hope you assigned sufficient weight to bus route / accessibility - there is a practical bus route advantage to West End that parents are reasonably concerned about (more than boundaries or even field size). But my problem is not as much about the scoring- or even whether there were errors or conceptual biases in assigning the score values.

Rather my problem is the fact that all of the score categories are technical/ physical. There is no score category for **‘community / legacy / cultural value’**. Given SP’s history of racism and White flight, I doubt that anyone could raise a credible argument against the premise that WE would not only score infinitely higher in this category vis a vis SP, but also would likely rank amongst the highest community (true original Parish) schools in the island. The fact that it has the oldest continuous PTA ought to mean something.

Especially for the Sandys community with a relatively stable population over the generations - history, lived experience and community attachments are critically important. Although you take such considerations into account in arguing for a Parish system, you do not do so at all in the scoring categories. You should. That would be equity.

Too much of Bermuda's history, cultural and legacy value has been lost, dismissed and undervalued. We can thank Ms. D. Hunt and Mrs. C. Simmons for their histories of West End

which I'm sure you have reviewed - as technical elements alone are deficient for such an important, permanent change in the community.

In my considered view, it would be a form of reparations for West End to be uplifted rather than rewarding Somerset Primary for its tainted past. Reparations does have a cost (maybe shave off some of the inevitable cost overruns of the new school in Devonshire?). But the benefits of reparations far outweigh the physical considerations.

Thank-you for this opportunity to add my 3 cents.

For ease of reference, here are the questions emailed yesterday:

1. What are the estimated costs to refurbish Somerset Primary and West End each to be fit for purpose?
2. Could uplifting West End (at its present site) be deemed as reparations for the past pain and discrimination (facilities, resources, etc.) that privileged Somerset Primary?
3. What message does it send to Black families today that its own Government would dismiss their generations of hard work supporting West End's community culture and legacy in favor of Somerset Primary (with its history not merely of discrimination, but also of the flight of Whites with the advent of desegregation)?

Notwithstanding the above, note that I appreciate your overall school reform intention as much as I disagree with the recommendation of Somerset Primary as the Parish School for Sandys.

Thank-you and regards

Unique ID: 000030

**Subject:** 21st Century Schools & Libraries

Is there a platform or an email address where people can submit research and share ideas for the school restructuring?

I was in the chat when the plan for schools in Southampton and Sandy's were discussed and asked whether the new plan included adding libraries and librarians to each school.

The response was a push away from Librarians and Libraries and a push toward open work spaces and electronic resources. There isn't enough time to on a Zoom call to explain some of the unintended consequences of moving in this direction.

I would like the opportunity to share research and resources on why 21st Century Libraries & Librarians are needed. I would also like to share a portion of the findings from my research on Bermuda School Libraries.

Thanks in advance for your assistance

Unique ID: 000031

## Education Consultation

...

Just to say that until teachers and principals and counselors are held accountable there will be little change in the development of our children. You can build the best schools, have the most relevant curriculum in place, but you will not get the results you are seeking. If the teachers cannot deliver the goods, we might as well stay as we are. Spend the money on re-educating many of the public school teachers.

I started my teaching career in the mid-sixties when there weren't even enough textbooks for each child, when classes were thirty plus, but I do believe we were more successful.

Unique ID: 000032

From: East End Primary PTA

Subject: East End Primary Clarity to St. George Parish Community Response



*East End Primary School*

6 Grenadier Lane • St. George's • GE 03 • Bermuda

Motto: "Seek To Be Your Best"

Telephone: (441) 478-3308 Facsimile: (441) 297-2565

**East End Primary PTA**

**"INVITE, INVOLVE, INVEST"**

March 10, 2021

Dear The Hon. Diallo V. Rabain, JP, MP,

I am writing this letter on behalf of East End Primary PTA to provide clarity regarding the recently released document **St. George Community Response to the Parish Proposal**.

I wish to verify that East End Primary received the document only two days prior to its release date on Monday, March 8, 2021. We acknowledge that we had a representative who attended two meetings prior to the release of the document and voted on the release of the document. However, the latter was based upon the premise that East End Primary will provide a separate addendum once key stakeholders affiliated with East End Primary School were informed.

I reiterate, that the St. George Community Response Committee was informed that EEP will address the parent and teacher body first, then and provide feedback thereafter.

Hence, earlier this evening, a general PTA meeting was held to discuss Government's School Reform Proposal as well as the St. George Community Response to the Parish Proposal. Our aim is to present Government with East End Primary's collective input by March 12, 2021.

On behalf of East End Primary's PTA

Unique ID: 000033

**Subject:** Restructuring of the public education system.

Dear Minister Rabain and Mrs. Richards,  
Please accept this rather lengthy email as my submission concerning the restructuring of the public education system.

Minister, may I introduce myself. I believe that if you consult with Mrs. Richards, she will vouch for my integrity and vast experience in various areas of education. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

All of the above has given me, what I believe to be, a unique perspective on the strengths and challenges in our education system.

My biggest concern over the last thirty years in observing education reforms in Bermuda has been what I see as the throwing out of the baby with the bath water. That baby in this case is "academics". Establishing middle schools was a social experiment that was doomed to failure. I well remember those families from [REDACTED] who decided to give the middle school a try. Within weeks the children were back at the school telling me that the work they were doing in middle school was of a much lower standard than what they had been doing at primary school. Within the year all of these students had left middle school and gone to private schools. I would like to share a more recent example with you. I currently tutor ten [REDACTED] students in math. One boy, a very able student with strong support from his single mom, is in his last year [REDACTED]. Last year he spent six weeks doing the same integer work in class. When I questioned him about this, he stated that the students don't behave and they don't move on until the class has mastered the topic. I asked him what he does in the class. He said he is assigned to help the other students. I tutor two other students of the same age who are in a private school. They covered several topics during this same six week period. Fortunately for my student, I was able to provide him with tutoring in the same topics as girls from the private school. Our most able children are the leaders of the future and we owe it to them to provide an academic education that meets their needs and "not throw the baby out with the bath water."

I would like to start off by saying that I support the fundamental plan for the reform of our public education system. Several years ago I recommended to the Ministry that it extend the years in

primary school. Children are far better served in the nurturing environment of their local primary school for longer periods of time. The middle schools have had a reputation for poor student behaviour. Maintaining students in primary school under "strong leadership" will alleviate much of the behaviour concerns. Of course this also means the complete GCSE programme can be completed in the high school.

This said, I have a few concerns around implementation. Hard as this may be to believe, but; when I was a principal I often had to teach the P6/P7 math curriculum to the classroom teachers before they could teach the material to the students.

Suggestion one - In all primary schools ensure that there is a teacher with extensive knowledge of math who will do all of the math teaching in the P7/P8 classes. I believe the same can be said for literacy. A teacher of math needs to have knowledge and skills much beyond that of the students they are teaching.

Suggestion two - At the high school level, I believe that we need to have "setting" in both math and literacy. This is a common practice in the private schools. I can tell you from experience that it is a real challenge trying to teach Pythagorean theorem to able students and also to students who come with weak numeracy skills. The able students are the ones that are short changed and to our detriment as a country.

Suggestion three - I strongly suggest that we reexamine which schools will be closed during restructuring. Closing two schools with the highest performance records is, in my opinion, another example of throwing the baby out with the bath water. We need to build on excellence, not throw it out. St. George's Prep should remain open. For an entirely different reason, I do not agree with the closing of Port Royal. Dalton E. Tucker has very poor facilities. The physical plant is like an army barracks. The Port Royal campus is, again in my humble opinion, far more suited to a P1 to P8 nurturing school than is Dalton E. Tucker.

Please accept the above as my humble submission. Please know that I care deeply for the welfare of our public school children and truly want the best for them.

Yours sincerely,

Unique ID: 000034

**From:** West End PTA

**Subject:** West End Primary School PTA Survey Results

Good evening,

The West End Primary School PTA conducted a survey in February to gauge the perceptions of the proposed Parish Primary School among West End parents, alumni, staff, and general community members. We are submitting the results of this survey for consideration as part of the consultation.

Please see the attached responses overview, a separate PDF with the responses to question 9 (comments or concerns), and a CSV file with the raw data.

Kind regards,

--



PTA Executive

Unique ID: 000035

In January 2021, I submitted my concerns regarding the proposed closure of the West End Primary School. This second submission follows as a result of reviewing the information presented during the recent Sandys consultation meeting.

One of the objectives stated by the government was that you seek to make schools 'fit for purpose' and the 'hub' of the community. Such a statement displays a seeming lack of familiarity or understanding of our community. Our traumatic segregated past here in Somerset makes it difficult and impossible for many to accept the proposed erasure of West End Primary School. The historical denial of equal funding and resources has created a legacy so hurtful that it cannot be ignored especially in a community that has remained steadfastly PLP for decades.

We have lived through decisions made by previous governments that saw foreign designers make alterations to West End such as the introduction of 'Breezeways' in 1962. A decision that saw our children unnecessarily exposed to the elements. The principal and the community argued that such a design was not suited for Bermuda, but the then government chose to ignore Bermudians, followed the lead of their foreign designers, and the children suffered. Eventually, after more protesting, the breezeways were enclosed.

We lived through the UBP's failed attempt in the 80s to diminish West End through the introduction of a single-form concept that would have forced our children away from their community school to prop up Somerset Primary which was struggling to attract students. Our community stood strong and the PLP stood with us. The UBP was then forced to drop its scheme.

The West End School sits in a prominent and convenient location off Scott's Hill Road. It is surrounded by a well-populated and close-knit community. Parents feel secure in allowing their children to walk unaccompanied to school. They walk the same familiar route of many generations before them. They walk from Sound View Road, Bob's Valley, Cook's Hill, Scott's Hill, Broom Street, and byways in between. Others travel by bus which conveniently stops at the school gate.

Before the Pandemic, school sports saw generations of West End families gathering on the grassy borders of the school field or sitting together on the elevated concrete areas. It was as a time for family reunions. They see Mr. Jay Donovan and Mr. Larry Hunt actively involved in assisting with the organization of the day. Before the pandemic, the Somerset Brownies met at West End and the members of Allen Temple A.M.E. Church came weekly to read to the children. Mrs. Dianne Hunt, a retired teacher, came once a week after school, to assist children who required tutoring. They realize these men and women are volunteering their time and so, without effort, the children learn the importance of volunteering for their school, community, and later on, the world. The foundation has been laid.

The Somerset Cricket Club with its youth sporting programs is just down the road. The local barbershop is across from the school. Bailey's Clothing and Variety Store is only a few steps away. Baxter's Take Out, a -favorite with the student, can be safely accessed. Just up the road is Beulah Tabernacle. Sandys Secondary Middle School sits almost across the street, and the students look forward to the transfer from Primary to Middle school. This transfer takes place almost effortlessly.

West End Primary School is already the 'hub' of the community. There is no need to create what is already there. We welcome efforts to improve our educational system but not at the cost of destroying the center of this community and erasing from history its legacy of overcoming racism, neglect, lack of resources, and even hand-me-down desks and books to produce generations of Bermudians of achievement. Generations of Sandys people knew the importance of education and its ability to elevate our condition and build a better life for the generations to follow. This has given us the strength to overcome the hurtful disrespect and disappointments delivered to us over the years.

We have an overwhelming feeling that the closure of West End is a forgone conclusion, and like the Pharaoh of old, your heart has been hardened against our pleas. I hope that you will listen and that the government will listen to our community and stand with us as we have loyally stood by you, election after election.

I ask you to ponder on this quote and apply it in your deliberations.

Arthur Schlesinger Jr. U.S Historian stated, ' Science and technology revolutionize our lives but memory, tradition, and myth frame our response.'

Respectfully submitted

March 2021

Intended Closure of the Saint George's Preparatory School

10th March 2021

THAT WILL BE A SAD DAY FOR ALL OF US AND MANY OTHER EAST END FAMILIES.

Many East End families have passed through the Saint George's Grammar School, now the Saint George's Preparatory School. Academically, it has scored one of the best primary schools in Bermuda. (Personally, I would say the BEST). Now this school has been selected as one of the primary schools to be closed by the Bermuda Government. I totally disagree with this decision.

Everyone in my family attended this school over the years which probably provided education for my grandparents and those before them too.

Furthermore, most of my extended family went there as well. (uncles, aunts, cousins, friends).

Every one of us benefited by what we learned in the school. All of us turned out to be prominent contributors to the St. George's Community. The community has served us well and we have served the community to our fullest. Thanks to St. George's Grammar School, my ancestors were educated there and only there. They never had any further education. The School taught them well and they became prominent persons in St. George's, always thinking how to help to serve others.

We all built our lives around this school and we're extremely shocked about its intended closure.

I am sure that by far, I am not the only one that will be negatively affected by Government's decision to close the school. There are many in the East End Community that also feels like my family does.

My vote is positively NO to its closure.

Unique ID: 000037

St. George's Prep PTA  
Education Consultation;

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached the St. George's Preparatory PTA Executive Response to the Parish Proposal. This document is designed to be read in conjunction with the St. George's Parish Community Response. The purpose of this additional document is to provide a place to discuss St. George's Preparatory Specific concerns to the Parish Proposal. These two submissions go hand-in-hand.

We are hopeful that the Ministry of Education will take on board this collective position held by so many of the education system's stakeholders. The response team responsible for preparing this document would be very interested to meet with the appropriate members within the Government team to discuss further and we are hopeful we can participate in a collaborative response moving forwards.

Thank you.

St. George's Preparatory PTA Executive

--

[St. George's Preparatory School PTA](#)  
26 Church Folly Lane, St. George's GE 05, Bermuda

# St. George's Preparatory PTA Response to the Parish Proposal

EDUCATION

This response document is presented by the St George's Preparatory School ("SGPS") PTA executive and is supported by the key stakeholders of SGPS, including parents and guardians, teachers, the Board of Trustees, and other wider community members. It is presented in response to the 2021 "Consultation on a Proposal for the Introduction of Parish Primary Schools" ("the Parish Proposal").

We agree that Bermuda is in desperate need of Education reform. Today's children will become the cornerstone of the future and the success of our education system will impact every facet of our island. We welcome the fact that the Government of Bermuda has asked to hear our voices, so the time is now, the stakes are high, reform is way overdue, but we can't afford to get this wrong.

Our children deserve a world class education, one that should be the first choice for enrollment. We are ALL stakeholders and together we can build an optimal educational framework that allows our children to thrive and reach their full potential.

It is possible to streamline our island wide Primary School System and, whilst alternative recommendations are presented, we believe these can still achieve the same efficiency metrics that the government has laid out and provide the world class education that our kids deserve.

**After thorough review and consultation, we believe the considerable shortcomings of the Government's Parish Proposal will be fundamentally problematic, and will almost certainly inhibit any kind of successful reform.**

# Key Concerns

## Concerns Specific to SGPS Scoring Process

In the case of SGPS, there were several concerns with the reliability and accuracy of the scoring process of the Parish Proposal:

- *Assessment of facilities were not carried out to the school's knowledge and so we question how the rating of Plumbing, HVAC and Electrical specifically has been derived.*
- *SGPS lost points for Flood Risk, when the building has never flooded and is situated at a high elevation.*
- *It is believed there is an inconsistent rating of Land/Property conditions as a result of the Ministry suggesting they do not want to spend money on a property they do not own but have not considered creative options to make this work (long term leasing etc).*
- *It is felt the building age is incorrectly represented, as the building has undergone extensive and more recent renovations that have not been factored in.*
- *SGPS lost significant points for accessibility when that can easily be addressed within proposed renovations and only affects a small part of the school.*
- *It is felt the assessment of expansion capacity is not reflective of true potential; SGPS has historically housed 257 students. With a combined current enrolment in St. George's and St. David's of 258, and a projected future enrolment decline, this capacity should be more than sufficient.*
- *Section 4.2 of the Primary Schools Study Factors Rubric awards points for close proximity of a bus stop. SGPS has been disadvantaged in this section, with East End and St David's both achieving better scores. However, the Parish Primary School proposal assures us that public buses will be replaced by dedicated school buses. The dedicated school buses will of course be able to stop right outside the school, meaning this section of the score sheet is irrelevant and should be removed. Please note, for the past 3 years, SGPS does have a bus that comes to the unfinished Church.*
- *SGPS lost points for traffic congestion when that is not an issue even with COVID protocols, and will be a significant issue for the proposed East End site with the opening of the St. Regis hotel.*
- *It is surprising that SGPS scores less than the other schools in the category of proximity to Community Services, when clearly SGPS is the only school that is situated within the Town of St. George's.*

# Key Concerns

## High Performing Schools are being penalized

SGPS has consistently outperformed other primary schools on the island. In March of 2007, a fundamental review of the Bermuda Education system was completed by a team of six educators with a combination of 150 years of experience. The Hopkins review team was asked to focus on six areas of concern including: corporate leadership, a strategy for education, support for the improvement of education, social inclusion and special educational needs, the quality of leadership, and standards of teaching, learning, and achievement.

***Of the 25 schools examined (18 primary, 5 middle, 2 senior) SGPS was:***

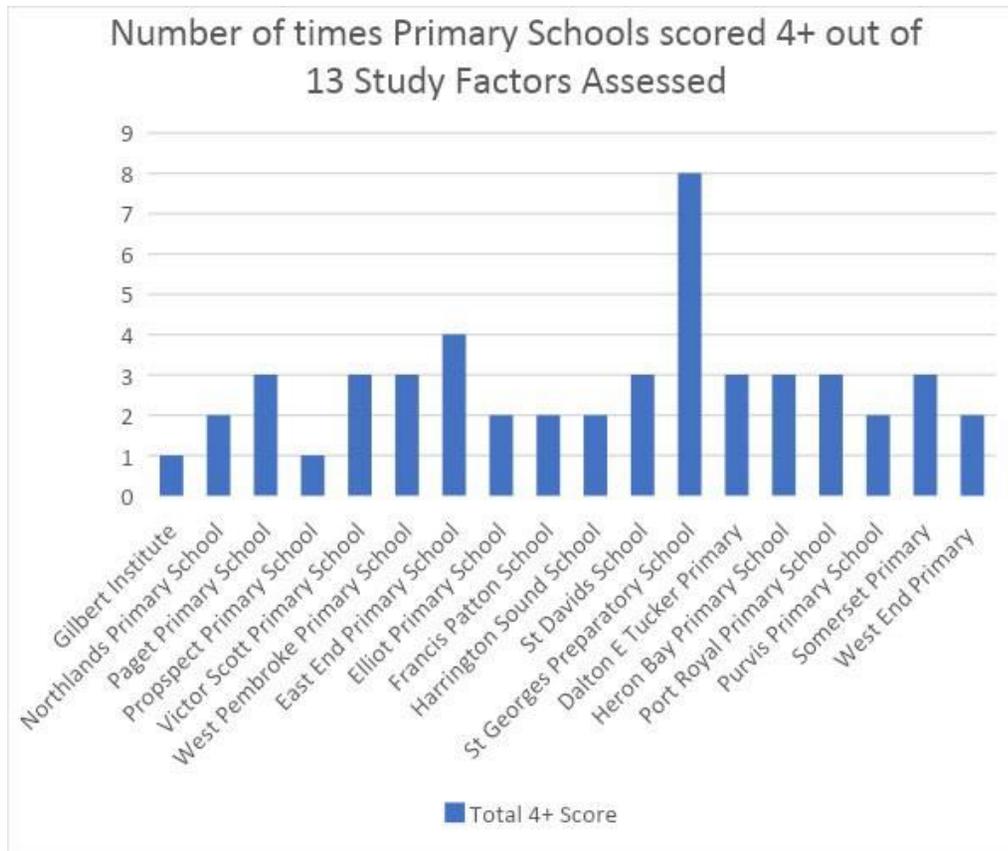
- ***one of only two schools that were awarded an “Outstanding” grade for school effectiveness***
- ***one of only three that were awarded an “Outstanding” grade for quality of leadership***

In October of 2015, the SCORE advisory committee was established and established the Blueprint for Reform in Education based on the Hopkins report data of 2007. In terms of assisting the Ministry of Education in “delivering a first-class education of global standards” this report did not deliver. There were no actionable proposals that addressed the quality and consistency of education. However, what it did provide was an extremely rigorous process around assessing these existing facilities by designing, testing, standardizing (as far as possible) and implementing a quantitative scale that rigorously assessed the following 13 “Study Factor” criteria:

- |                             |                        |                           |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. School Utilization       | 6. Recreational Space  | 11. Transportation        |
| 2. Classroom Capacity       | 7. Range of Programs   | 12. School as a Community |
| 3. Financial Resources      | 8. Student/Staff Ratio | 13. Flexibility           |
| 4. Building Condition       | 9. IT Infrastructure   |                           |
| 5. Safety and Accessibility | 10. Special Services   |                           |

# Key Concerns

The data for each of the above Study Factor criteria were reviewed and scored on a scale of 1 to 5 for each school. Schools with scores of 4 or 5 indicate strong or excellent achievement of the criteria, a score of 3 indicates satisfactory achievement of the criteria, and a score of 1 and 2 represents either no achievement or partial achievement.

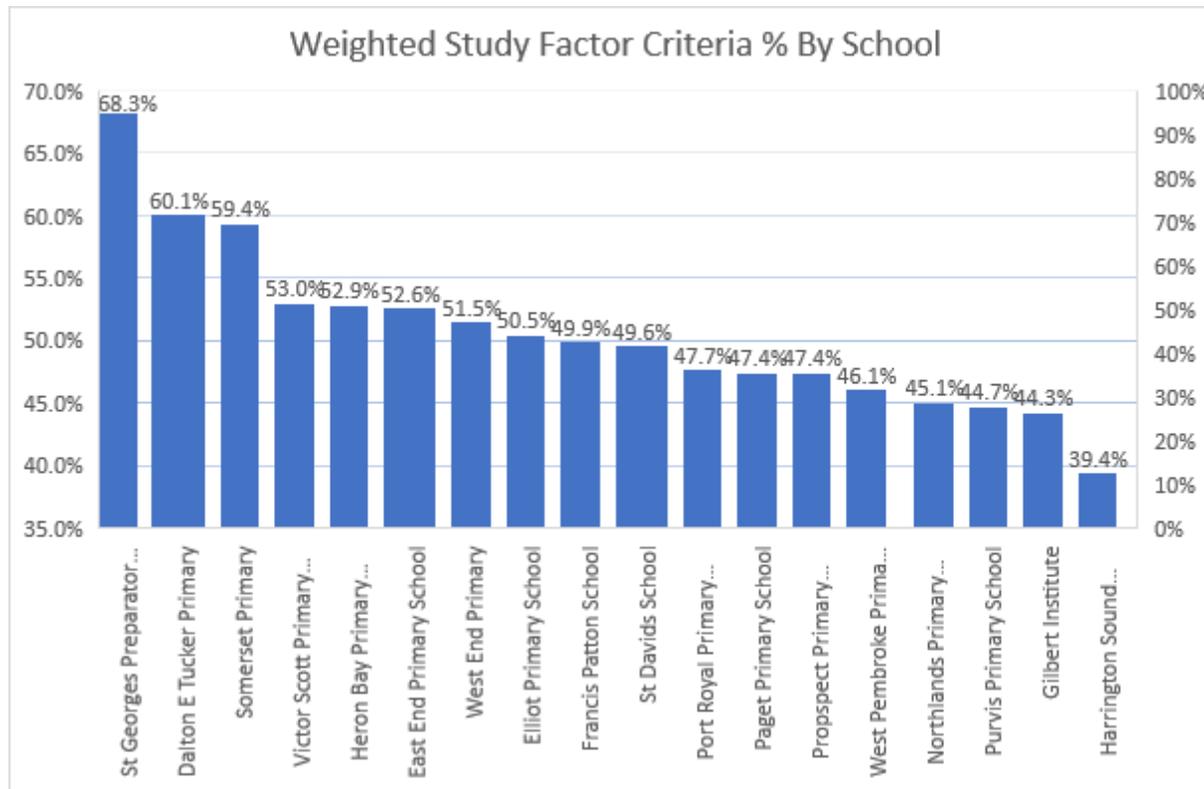


***\*\*It should be noted that SGPS scored substantially higher than any other school – achieving 8 of 13 strong or excellent achievements (East End Primary taking the #2 slot with only 4). Furthermore, if you expand the criteria to a score of 3,4,5 (with 3 being a neutral-impact outcome) SGPS hits the target on 12 out of 13 occasions, missing only the Flexibility Study Factor, which, by definition of this calculation (Convertible Space/2015 Enrolment x 100) is likely due to the fact SGPS has almost always been so popular it has already been at full capacity, and thus reducing the amount of available Convertible Space.\*\****

***The above graph demonstrates the number of times each school scored either a 4 or 5 (indicating strong or excellent achievement) out of a total of 13 factors.***

# Key Concerns

Once all schools had been assessed, p72 of the report allocates a “weighting” to each of these results and generated a “weighted average system score %”. The below graph displays these results.



***As with the above testing criteria, SGPS once again ranks #1 with a score of 68.3%, significantly over the “average” weighting identified at 60% and +13.6% ahead of the second ranked school, Dalton E Tucker Primary.***

# A Different Approach

We would like to offer our collective thoughts on both a different approach and possible alternative outcomes for consideration.

**Firstly, we should examine our current successes, replicate where we can, and consider expansion of the aided school model to other facilities.** There is significant global traction in the education community that supports the aided school model. The governance structure is widely accepted to drive accountability and teacher performance, and thus positively impact students' academic achievements.

On a local level, several of Bermuda's top educators endorse the same powerful notion - greater autonomy will benefit Bermuda's schools:

*"All schools have the potential to perform...there are many factors that go into children's performance. It is not based on the physical plant; it is a function of the staff. What the [government-fee] aided schools have that the other [government] schools have not been afforded the right to is the autonomy of principals to pick their staff. That is the biggest difference. Principals need more autonomy and people need to believe in the public-school system." Mary Lodge (former principal of St. George's Preparatory School).*

*"They have autonomy over enrolment, hiring of staff, and they have full responsibility for their payroll and premises." --In the Context of Charter Schools, Becky Ausenda (passionate education advocate of the Bermuda Educators Network).*

Given the success of the SGPS model, consideration should be given to retaining SGPS as is, and expanding this model into other primary schools.

Similarly, a model that is gaining popularity in both the US and the UK due to its academic success, is the Charter/Academy model, which relies on a level of Government funding comparable to public schools. However, the accountability and autonomy created as a result of this adoption has improved overall student performance. This would be an option for existing aided schools, (and this transition in reality would change little in terms of day to day operations), but also potentially could open the door to other charitable trusts who may have

# A Different Approach

have responsibility for one or more schools. From a Ministry of Education perspective, given the scale of the transformation ahead, this option would effectively reduce the number of schools and children that reform needs to touch, without causing additional capital or operating spend, allowing greater focus for those that remain. These schools would still be subject to the same regulation and inspection criteria as other government schools, but may take less effort in terms of central management and therefore could actually result in centralized cost savings.

## What is a Charter/Academy School?

- Government Funded
- Independent of Local Authority Control
- Terms are set out in individual academy funding agreements where accountability extends to academic, operational and financial performance
- Self-governing, non-profit charitable trusts
- May receive additional support from personal or corporate sponsors, either financially or in kind
- Does not have to follow the national curriculum but has to ensure curriculum is broad and balanced and include core subjects
- Subject to inspections in the same manner as all public schools
- Flexibility to be innovative

**In the USA, between 1993-2009 the number of charter schools grew 10-15% each year. In the UK, academy schools grew from 200 in May 2010 to 4,500 in March 2015.**

**Secondly, a pilot program should be considered.** However the implementation plan sets out change, in any instances where we identify a consistent process across multiple locations we should consider a pilot scheme. Even with the most thorough plans and the most competent teams, pilot schemes repeatedly add value. Although the timeline may be extended, the specificity and impact of delivery will ultimately be improved. It would be logical to select a low performing Parish for a pilot program to prove that the Government's proposed reform, focusing on the facility itself, will improve the education outcomes. A successful pilot program will certainly increase public confidence.

# A Different Approach

## **Thirdly, develop an All-Encompassing Implementation Plan that is Methodical, Strategic, Targeted and Flexible**

This should cover all 5 of the inter-related Plan 2022 priorities, along with an understanding of sequencing and timing. It should contain incremental targets and milestones, predicted outcomes, an evaluation process that allows us to be able to understand the question “is this working as we expected?”, and the flexibility to change directions depending on the answer. Key information from this plan should be shared with the public to encourage transparency and accountability, and progress should be reported back periodically.

There are many significant initiatives currently being contemplated, and it is necessary to sequence these over a multi-year timeline so that they each receive the focus and commitment they deserve. Undoubtedly this will take longer to cross the finish line, but the focus should be on effectiveness rather than speed.

We believe the implementation of the above process will put us firmly on the path for successful education reform, and will appropriately drive the direction that Bermuda must take. We anticipate that some of the below examples must ultimately be considered.

### **Alternative Process Example**

**Stage 1:** Phase out middle schools (for example, the current P4 class will be the first year to stay in Primary schools up to P7)

**Stage 2:** Review and analyze

**Stage 3:** Introduce Preschools into the current Primary Schools

**Stage 4:** Review stage, make any changes, updates with the above mentioned stages as they are.

**Stage 5:** Introduce Signature Schools (this in and of itself will have to be a phased in approach)

**Stage 6:** Review stage again

**Stage 7:** After all of the above stages have occurred and been analyzed, the Ministry will be in an informed position to make any necessary further changes.

# Conclusion

## **Education reform should not be about re-inventing the wheel.**

We firmly believe it is possible to streamline our primary school system in a more strategic manner - focusing on keeping school sizes small and class sizes at 20 children or under which aligns with academic research, whilst achieving the same efficiency metrics.

We believe wholeheartedly that school closure decisions should be driven by academic performance, again in alignment with academic research, and that we should be examining our current successes and replicating where we can. We should be leveraging a pilot scheme before plunging head-first into nation-wide reform and we should be learning, adapting, and improving as a result of this experience. We need to focus on tried and tested strategies that have been successfully delivered across the world and then we need to build an implementation plan that allows for review and change throughout the process.

Together we believe that Educational reform is possible and necessary, however, we firmly believe there is a **NEED** to have a more robust review, a proper consultation process, and a reform that focuses on the curriculum, teacher performance, assessment frameworks, accreditation models, and the quality of leadership **FIRST** before anything else.

We look forward to hearing a response and continued dialogue.

# Conclusion

Unique ID: 000038

St. George's Community Response

Good Afternoon,

Please find enclosed in this email the St. George's Parish Community Response to the proposal for Parish Primary Schools, along with a document that demonstrates over 675 signatures in support of this response and counting.

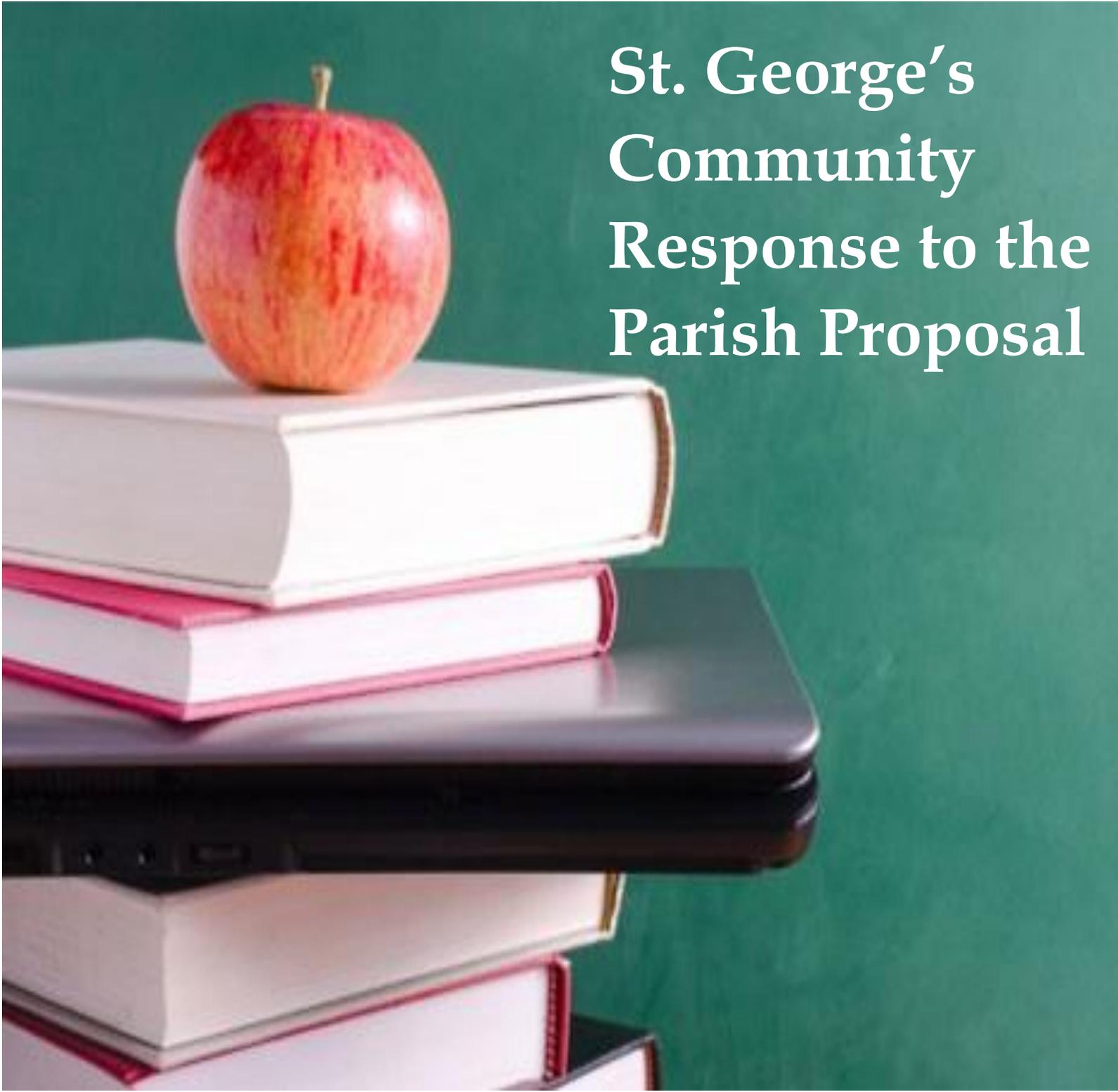
We are hopeful that the Ministry of Education will take on board this collective position held by so many of the education system's stakeholders. The team responsible for preparing this document would be very interested to meet with the appropriate members within the Government team to discuss further and we are hopeful we can participate in a collaborative response moving forwards.

The St. George's community is already very active in its support for education, and parent participation is high. As such believe we will be able to garner support from our wider body that would become a valuable additional resource in the process of reform.

Thank you.

St. George's Parish Community

# Conclusion

A photograph of a stack of books with a red apple on top, set against a green background. The stack consists of several books of varying thicknesses, with a dark brown leather-bound book in the middle. The apple is a bright red with some yellow streaks. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

## St. George's Community Response to the Parish Proposal

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# 1 Executive Summary

# Executive Summary

This response document is presented by the PTA Executive committees of St. David's Primary and St. George's Preparatory and other members of the community of St. George's. It is supported by its key stakeholders, including parents and guardians, teachers, and other wider community members, as evidenced in at the end of this document. It is presented in response to the 2021 "Consultation on a Proposal for the Introduction of Parish Primary Schools" ("the Parish Proposal"). The PTA Executives of each of the three St. George's Primary Schools have reviewed this document, and will submit school specific comments relevant to their particular parent groups.

There is no denying that Bermuda's public education system is in need of significant reform. Since the late 1980's there have been many attempts - reports have been commissioned, blueprints and plans have been implemented, but improvements have been marginal at best. As the world's education systems evolved and improved, Bermuda and its children have fallen further and further behind. Today's children will become the cornerstone of tomorrow's economy, and so the success of our education system will impact every facet of our Island. **The time is now - we cannot afford to delay but, perhaps more importantly, we cannot afford to get it wrong.**

It is almost impossible today for residents of Bermuda to understand how our schools are performing –

both against each other, against plan, and against international benchmarks. The severe lack of transparency, accountability and leadership highlighted in the Hopkins Report 2007 is still as much of a problem now as it was almost 14 years ago - and it is not as a result of inadequate funding. With an average spend of \$30,615 per child, the spend per child is 27% greater than even the most expensive private school on the island.

**After thorough review and consultation, we believe the considerable shortcomings of this proposal will be fundamentally problematic, and will almost certainly inhibit any kind of successful reform.**

Furthermore, we believe this proposal lacks sufficient detail for any person to make an informed decision to support. For example, though it is highlighted that successful education reform needs to address fundamental shortcomings in teacher performance, the curriculum, assessment frameworks and accreditation models, the Parish Proposal fails to address any of these issues. Globally, fiscal responsibility has never been more important, and there is no mention as to how this reform is to be funded - we estimate the building cost alone could be as high as \$207m. It is even unclear who the author is, what experience they have in this field, and how qualified they are to be providing advice on such an impactful proposal.

# Executive Summary continued

The Parish Proposal centers education reform around the quality of buildings - a rationale that is fundamentally misaligned with both the plethora of research on this well-travelled road, and the Hopkins recommendations of 2007 - the experts behind this report being some of the leading faces of effective education. It is a one-size-fits-all approach applied across arbitrary geographical boundaries that would require the education system to essentially be rebuilt from the ground up. It would disadvantage those children that are in successful primary schools today, and goes against the typical approach taken to improvement - one of looking towards a system's successes and working out how to build on those.

As a public sector initiative, this report demonstrates a lack of proper consultation. It fails to meet both the fundamental principles of effective consultation, as well as the legal requirements that stipulate consultation **must** occur when proposals are still in a formative stage.

It is well understood that a lack of proper consultation results in less-informed decision making, lesser satisfaction from stakeholders with the outcome, and, most critically, a lesser chance of successful implementation. **This is a complicated undertaking.**

**What is highlighted in this document is a fundamental need to revisit the consultation process, to include meaningful feedback from the community at each step of the proposed changes.** We need to ensure the appropriate professionals are in place to guide and oversee the process from start to finish. We must start with a real consultation - a legally and morally acceptable unbiased process whose outcome drives the building blocks of a much more considered approach to school reform. We must collect sufficient, quantitative data that for perhaps the first time truly allows us to understand how our schools are performing today and we should use that data to develop an implementation plan that is methodical, strategic, targeted and flexible. A plan that builds upon what exists today and works systematically to improve, as opposed to discarding altogether. It's common practice in other education systems in the world to build on what works and use frameworks that are strategically designed to incrementally improve. We are confident that the outcome will not only generate increased stakeholder confidence but also do a better job of meeting the many and complex objectives of education reform and will ultimately improve the quality of public education in Bermuda. In the short term, this may mean taking a step back – and this is most probably true, but for long-term

# Executive Summary continued

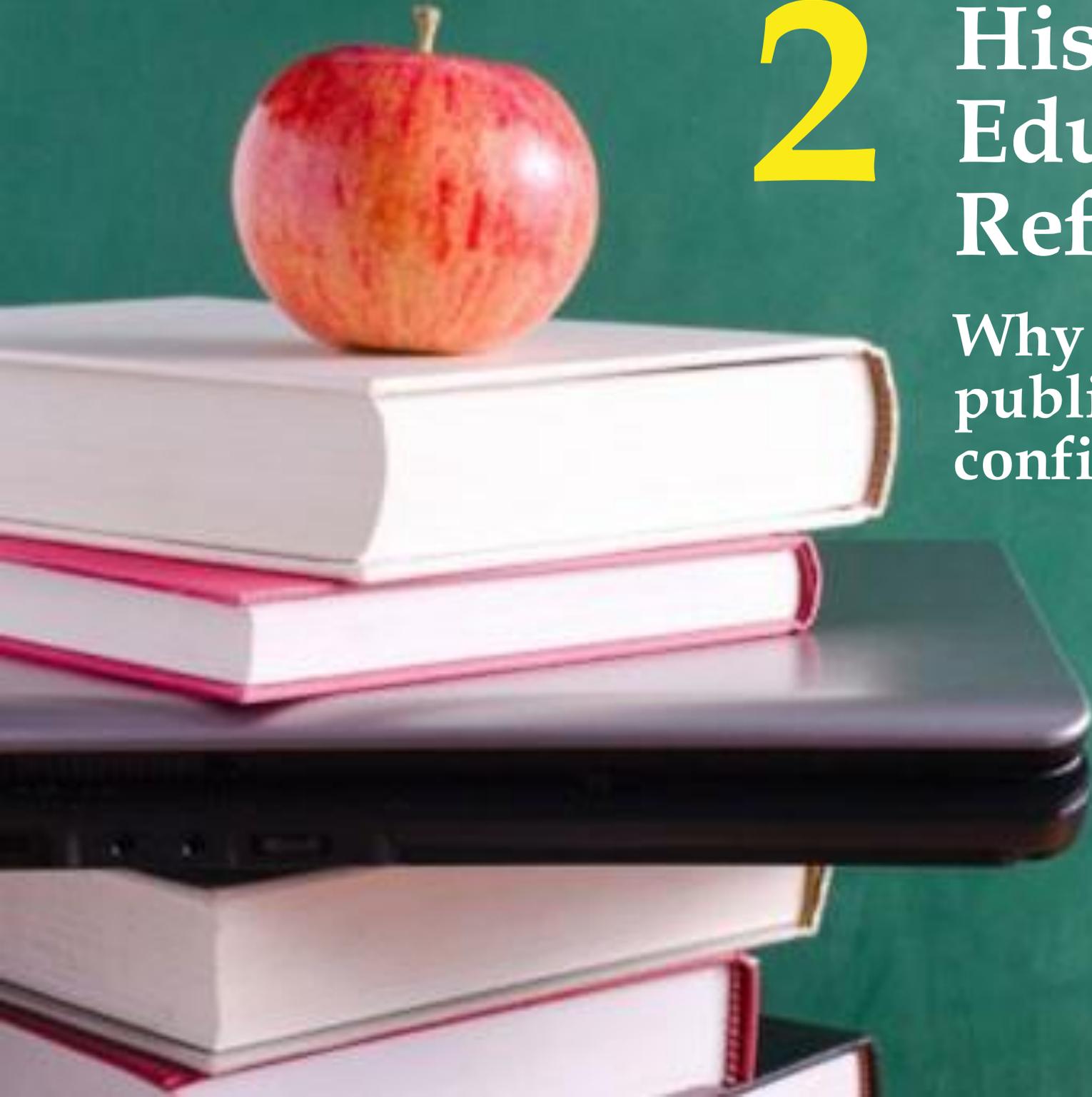
success, it is imperative that we ensure we are building on a solid foundation. **We cannot afford to fail our children, again.**

**Education reform should not be about re-inventing the wheel.** We demonstrate in this document that it is possible to streamline our primary school system in a more strategic manner - focusing on keeping school sizes small and class sizes at 20 children or under which aligns with academic research, whilst achieving the same efficiency metrics. We believe wholeheartedly that school closure decisions should be driven by academic performance, again in alignment with academic research, and that we should be examining our current successes and replicating where we can. We should be leveraging a pilot scheme before plunging head-first into nation-wide reform and we should be learning, adapting, and improving as a result of this experience. The aided school model (and similar Academy and Charter models in the UK and US respectively) have grown in popularity in these jurisdictions in recent years, as their governance structure is widely accepted to drive accountability and so teacher performance, and thus positively impact students academic achievement. We should be leveraging these successes for our children.

**We need to focus on tried-and-tested strategies that have been successfully delivered across the world.**

“The route to achieving equity will not be accomplished through treating everyone equally. It will be achieved by treating everyone justly according to their circumstances.”

—Paula Dressel



# 2

## History of Education Reform

Why the general public lacks confidence

# History of Education Reform in Bermuda

## *Why the general public lacks confidence*

Since 2007, the Ministry of Education has placed before it a set of actionable recommendations, presented by some of the world's leading educational experts, that if implemented successfully would improve the quality of public education in Bermuda. Over the last 14 years, it has tried, but failed to even take the smallest steps on the path to reform.

The Department fundamentally lacks transparency, accountability, and leadership and has demonstrated a clear lack of either ability or willingness to change any of these key qualities, that are fundamental to the success of any team. It is almost impossible for residents of Bermuda to understand how well our schools are performing – both against each other, against plan, and against international benchmarks.

Over and over “Plans” and “Blueprints” are presented and not followed through. Multi-year plans have been released, and the general public are yet to see a single follow up document that demonstrates any kind of status update versus original goals.

With a 2020/2021 budget of \$137,462,000 and a current enrollment of 4,490 children as of September 2020 (including Preschool, Primary, Middle, Senior, Special and Alternative Education) this is equivalent to

\$30,615 per child. This number exceeds the cost of even the most expensive private school on the island by 27%. None of these private schools are suffering from the same issues in terms of performance or facilities. This statistic alone should raise grave concern in relation to the ability of the Ministry of Education, without drastic reform, and significant qualified guidance, to provide a better future to the children of Bermuda. Back in the late 1990's, Minister Dill stated that the top goal in public education was to make each public school as good as the very best private school. (J. Dill, personal communication, as cited in Williams, 2004). For two decades, the Ministry of Education has fallen short.

Confidence is therefore extraordinarily **low**. Under the current structure, the Ministry of Education does not have the ability to implement such transformational and bold changes as is now being proposed in the most recent education reform proposal of Parish Primary Schools.

Whilst the vast majority of schools in Bermuda are underperforming, there are few that, for one reason or another, are providing an exceptional education to the children of Bermuda, and, in light of the above concerns, it would be gravely irresponsible to support the idea of disseminating these successes in favor of such reform.

# History of Education Reform in Bermuda

## *Early days*

The restructuring attempts of the Bermuda Public School System dates back as far as 1987, when, as a result of extreme dissatisfaction with public schools, the government announced its intention to restructure education. The Minister of Education, Gerald D. E. Simons, appointed an Education Planning Team (EPT) to design a restructuring plan, and the team worked eight years developing it. An attempt was made in 1995 to implement the EPT restructuring plan by opening CedarBridge Academy with Principal M. Payette, but it was not accepted by the public (Williams, 2004).

Little changed in the years that followed, and the education system was struggling by 2003, Dr. James Kennedy, United States educator said, “If what has been done to the Education System [in Bermuda] had been done by a foreign power, it would have been deemed an Act of War” (Williams, 2004).

# History of Education Reform in Bermuda

## *Hopkins Report*

In March of 2007, a team of six educators with over 150 years of relevant experience reviewed Bermuda's education system. The team was made up of the following individuals:

- Professor David Hopkins (ranked world's 16<sup>th</sup> most influential educator)
- Professor Peter Matthews, OBE, (responsible for Inspection Quality and Development in Ofsted from near its inception in 1992 until 2003)
- Two evaluators from England who are former members of Her Majesty's Inspectorate
- Two team members with direct Bermuda experience

This report noted, "direct observation of education taking place in Bermuda was fundamental to the review process". As such these reviews were carried out over two trips to Bermuda, with visits to all public primary, middle, secondary and special schools, a sample of pre-schools and Bermuda College. Additionally, the process included interviews with key stakeholders, analysis of documentation and performance data, there were three public meetings, and an open invitation to anyone with views about public education in Bermuda to write in confidence to the Review Team.

Rigorous findings were published in May of the same year in the form of the "Hopkins Report". The 40-page report consisted of 133 findings and ten recommendations (see following page). Although the Hopkins Report findings present a "fairly bleak" picture, the redeeming feature was a strong potential for improvement among teachers and principals. The Hopkins review team was asked to focus on six areas of concern including: corporate leadership; a strategy for education; support for the improvement of education; social inclusion and special educational needs; the quality of leadership; and standards of teaching, learning, and achievement.

# History of Education Reform in Bermuda

## *Hopkins Report continued*

### The ten recommendations outlined in the Hopkins Report are to:

1. create self-governing Federations around clusters of primary schools and each middle school,
2. dramatically improve the quality of teaching,
3. move quickly to improve the quality of leadership by principals,
4. introduce delegation and transparent accountability at all levels,
5. radically reform the Ministry of Education,
6. strengthen the strategic management of the education system,
7. federate secondary and tertiary education, and, as soon as possible, raise the school leaving age,
8. align the curriculum both vertically and horizontally,
9. respond to concerns about inclusion and behavior,
10. harness the power of parents, business and the community in the reform effort.

It should be noted, the Hopkins report is the only one in recent decades that not only assessed the existing conditions but developed a set of actionable recommendations for improvement. Additionally, not a single one of these recommendations focus, even partially, on the condition of the physical walls in which our children are housed whilst being educated.

The findings outlined in the Hopkins Report suggest that implementation of the 10 recommendations should result in raising the standard of education in Bermuda. (Hopkins et al., 2007)

***There are pockets of excellence in our school system. Of the 25 schools examined (18 primary, 5 middle, 2 senior)***

- ***two schools were awarded an “Outstanding” grade for school effectiveness***
- ***three were awarded an “Outstanding” grade for quality of leadership***

# History of Education Reform in Bermuda

## *Blueprint for Education Reform*

It took an additional three years for the Ministry of Education to release their Blueprint for Education Reform. The Bermuda Public School System Strategic (BPSS) Plan mapped out the strategic vision to improve public education from 2010-2015. The primary goal of this document was to operationalize the priorities recommended in the Hopkins Report (2007) and address the goals and targets set for improved student outcomes.

The Review Team proposed a reform model that was based heavily on “re-professionalization” as a means of addressing the issue of teaching and learning, recognizing that fundamentally, it is the quality of teaching, and what happens in the classroom that matters. **The plan proposed to hold all students and professionals accountable for results, and recognized leadership to be a crucial determinant of school success, intending to give principals autonomy around curriculum delivery; teacher evaluation, selection and retention; facility management; and budget, while holding them accountable for student growth.**

To ensure principals are supported in this expansion of authority, the blueprint outlined that School Advisory Councils (SAC) were to be formed at each school which does not currently have a school board. The mandate of which was to provide advice and guidance to the principals on policy matters that lead to increased student outcomes. It was noted that this will be an opportunity for the community to embrace our schools and to build leadership capacity within the BPSS.

**There were seven strategic priorities to be implemented in the five-year plan, with a focus on the first three in Year 1:**

- 1) Implement an internationally recognized curriculum that is externally assessed;**
- 2) Improve the quality of teaching and learning in the classroom;**
- 3) Strengthen and distribute leadership;**
- 4) Facilitate the improvement of standards via accountability and transparency;**
- 5) Maximize the contribution of parents and community;**
- 6) Improve the efficiency of delivery;**
- 7) Improve the culture and climate of the Department of Education and schools.**

The report contained a significant amount of data, demonstrating actual school performance over the 2016-2019 period, as well as specific, measurable goals and targets for the future. The intention was for the plan to be revisited, modified and adapted on an annual basis to assess our progress and to refine our objectives for the period ahead, reporting transparently on the performance of schools, the Board, and the system as a whole and to drive the accountability and transparency that had been missing for so long.

# History of Education Reform in Bermuda

## *Blueprint for Education Reform continued*

The Cambridge curriculum was established in May 2010 for English, Math and Science.

***The Department of Education failed to publish a single progress review. There is no evidence to suggest priorities 2-7 of the Blueprint Educational reform were implemented.***

# History of Education Reform in Bermuda

## SCORE Report 2015

The next significant initiative was in October 2015, the SCORE advisory committee was established – adopting the almost identical “Vision” and “Mission” as the Blueprint for Reform in Education 5 years earlier, and based upon the Hopkins report data of 2007, to provide findings to address the following issues:

**i. Schools for consolidation or closure for 2016/17 academic year and beyond**

*Proposals for school closure were provided, though not subsequently actioned.*

**ii. Plans for improving the quality and consistency of programming across primary schools**

*The committee was to provide plans for improving the quality and consistency of programming, other than several mentions in the report that alludes this has been considered “a research team had been formed to gather information on school systems throughout the world that demonstrated continued excellence”, this report fell extremely short, and turned out to be essentially no more than a review of existing conditions. The subsequent value of this became no more than a laundry list of health and safety items to be remediated.*

*<https://www.gov.bm/articles/education-minister-provides-update-score-report-repairs-and-public-school-maintenance-works>*

*\*\*\*The report strongly advised the need to introduce a systemic plan for maintenance and repairs, however this was never implemented, and as solidified by the 2018 Safety and Health Inspection Report produced by the Cabinet Office, this report identified that these 2015 “unresolved issues had subsequently grown into larger ones.”\*\*\**

**iii. Opportunities for efficiencies and cost savings**

*This was not reported as “much of the financial information required was not readily available”, “in some cases there was no record at all.” This report was commissioned at the Ministry of Education’s request and for insufficient data to be available is cause for concern*

(Score Advisory Committee, Report of Findings and Recommendations, December 2015).

# History of Education Reform in Bermuda

## *SCORE Report 2015 continued*

In terms of assisting the Ministry of Education in “delivering a first-class education of global standards” this report did not deliver. There were no actionable proposals that addressed the quality and consistency of education. However, what it did provide was an extremely rigorous process around assessing these existing facilities by designing, testing, standardizing (as far as possible) and implementing a quantitative scale that rigorously assessed the following 13 “Study Factor” criteria:

1. School Utilization
2. Classroom Capacity
3. Financial Resources
4. Building Condition
5. Safety and Accessibility
6. Recreational Space
7. Range of Programs
8. Student/Staff Ratio
9. IT Infrastructure
10. Special Services
11. Transportation
12. School as a Community
13. Flexibility

# History of Education Reform in Bermuda

## *SCORE Report 2015 continued*

Though the SCORE report failed to address a majority of key directives, it still had more rigor than the current Parish Proposal. Factors that improved the rigor and confidence around these results include:

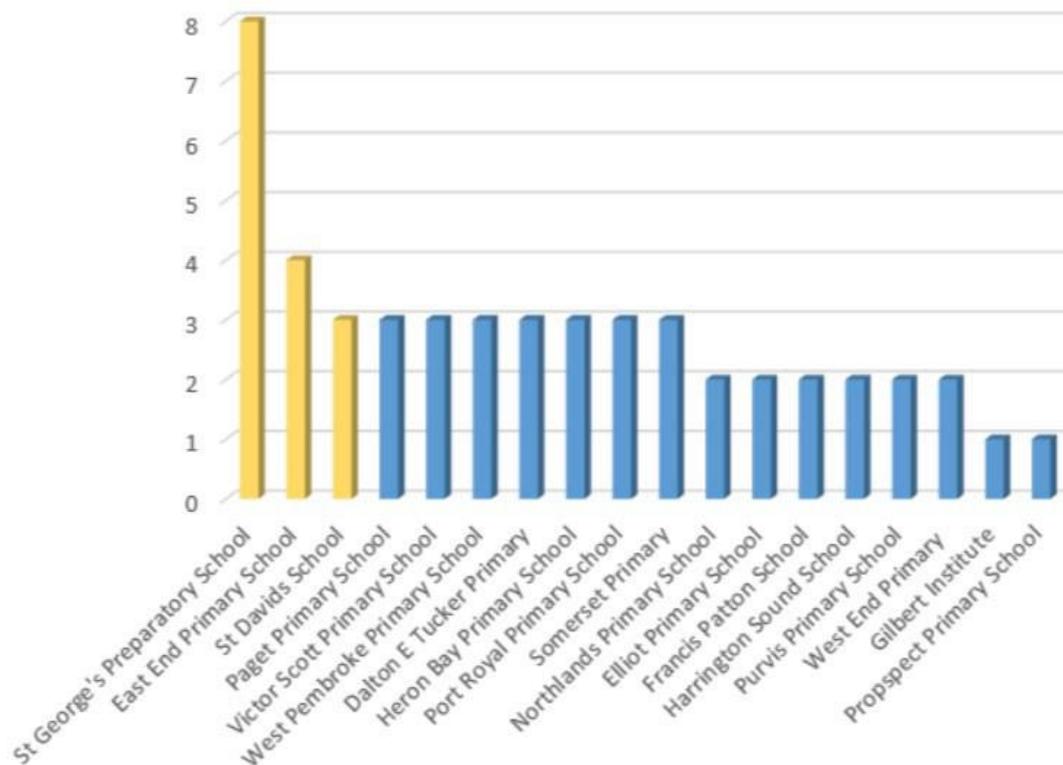
- **Engagement** - Key recognition that, according to Larry Ferlazzo, there is a distinct difference between Involvement and Engagement. The conscious understanding that engagement suggests a much more inclusive approach to include open and proactive communication with all stakeholders. They utilized a process that would engage and involve stakeholders, allowing them the opportunity to contribute to the process regarding these issues.
  - Interviews were carried out with a diverse cross-section of school staff members – including counselors, learning support, music, Art, PE, foreign language teachers, principals, deputy principals, custodians, administrative assistants, P1-P6 teacher representatives.
  - Principals were invited to submit an “open submission” which allowed them the opportunity to provide any additional information that they felt was not captured on the School Profile Summary or during the school site visit.
  - In efforts to increase engagement two public sessions, and one session with the Department of Education staff were held to allow stakeholders to contribute their observations and concerns regarding their school communities – the feedback gathered was submitted to the Data Analysis Subcommittee so that the voices of the stakeholders could be reflected in the report findings.
- **Suitable Qualifications** The SCORE Advisory committee was comprised of 22 individuals, and included a large cross-section of stakeholders, namely parents, principals, teachers, Bermuda Union of Teacher representatives, Ministry of Education representatives, and other community members that were suitably qualified to conduct the investigations.
- **Appropriate and Consistent Process** A process committee was established to develop a terms of reference document for the SCORE advisory committee to use as a rigorous framework to govern the scoring process (this comprised of a School Profile Summary, and a rating system).
  - Phase One included testing the accuracy of the rating system that would subsequently be used to provide a qualitative measure for each school.
  - Phase Two included training sessions to ensure members were able to accurately use the survey tools, the accompanying rating system, and the established site visit protocols, and a training session for Principals that also included the School Profile Summary that was to be completed by them prior to school site visits.
  - Three identical site visit teams were established and given strict protocols to follow regarding how the site visit should be conducted to increase consistency.

# History of Education Reform in Bermuda

## SCORE Report 2015 continued

The data for each of the above Study Factor criteria was reviewed and scored on a scale of 1 to 5 for each school. Schools with scores of 4 or 5 indicate strong or excellent achievement of the criteria, a score of 3 indicates satisfactory achievement of the criteria, and a score of 1 and 2 represents either no achievement or partial achievement.

Number of times Primary Schools scored 4+ out of 13  
Study Factors Assessed



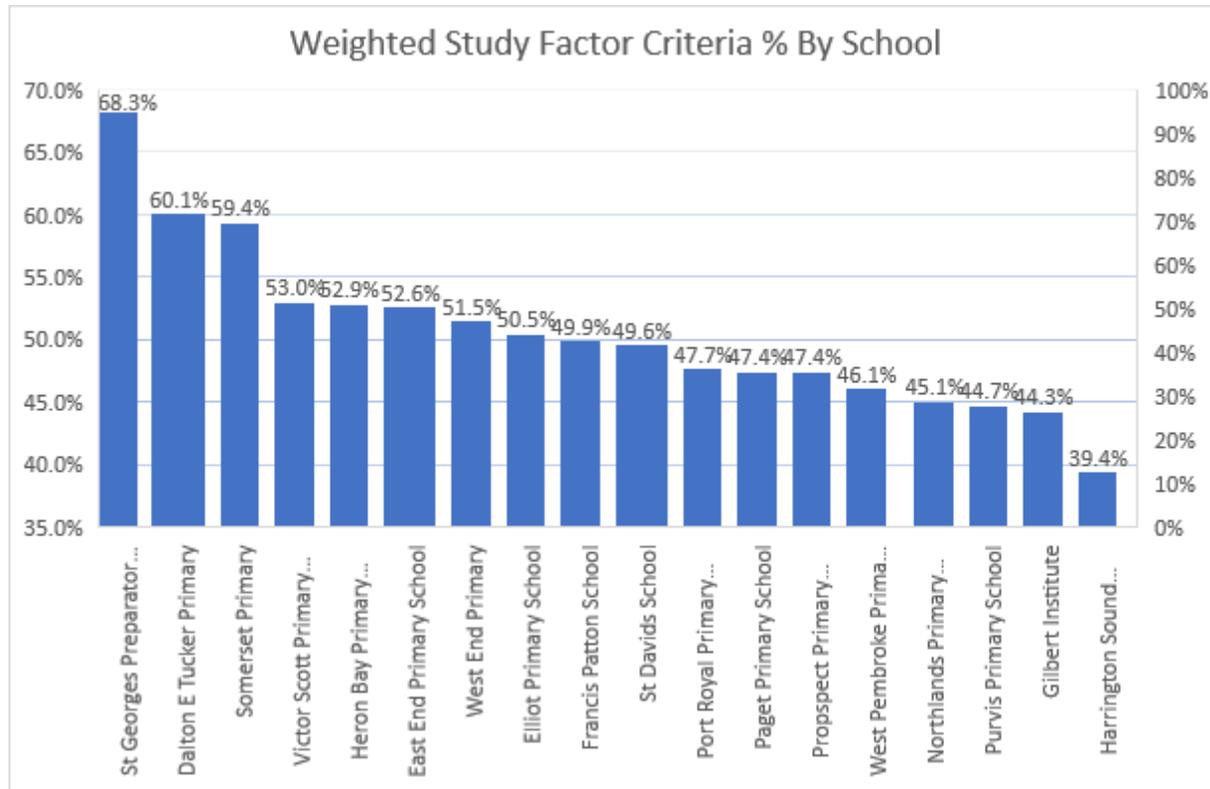
***\*\*It should be noted that the top three schools when scoring 4+ on study factors are in St. George's Parish. \*\****

***The above graph demonstrates the number of times each school scored either a 4 or 5 (indicating strong or excellent achievement) out of a total of 13 factors.***

# History of Education Reform in Bermuda

## SCORE Report 2015 continued

Once all schools had been assessed, p72 of the report allocates a “weighting” to each of these results and generated a “weighted average system score %”. The below graph displays these results.



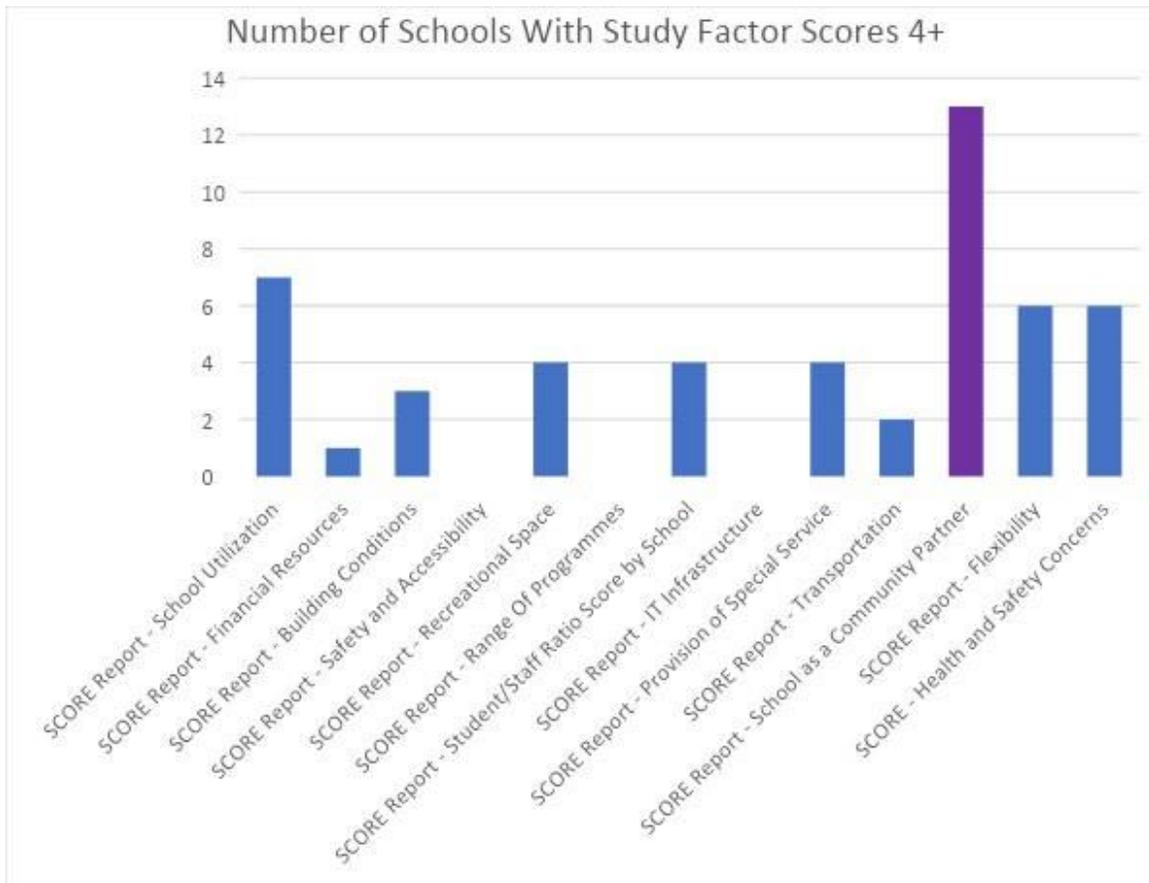
**As with the above testing criteria, St. George’s Prep, East End Primary and St. David’s Primary ranked first, sixth and tenth respectively.**

# History of Education Reform in Bermuda

## SCORE Report 2015 continued

*In particular, it should be noted that the “Community Partner” criteria that appears to be fundamental to the Parish Proposal, was weighted at a 1, on a scale of 1-4, with 1 being the lowest importance, and 4 being the highest.*

Furthermore, it was specifically called out in the SCORE report that Bermuda, as a whole, obtained strong results in only one of the Study Factor Criteria – Community Partner – obtaining a score of 72%, with 13 of 18 schools scoring a 4 or 5. Therefore it is surprising that this appears to be a fundamental driver behind the 2021 Parish Primary proposal **given we already concluded this was our single most successful attribute.**



*Similarly to other significant education reform documents, there were no further action points taken following the release of this document. This perhaps is not surprising given the lack of attention given to the Hopkins recommendations highlighting the urgent need for both radical reform of the Ministry of Education and the call to strengthen the strategic management of the education system.*

# History of Education Reform in Bermuda

## *Plan 2022*

In 2017, Plan 2022 was developed. It is unclear as to what the basis for Plan 2022 was, however, following significant consultation with 1,309 Bermudians in Phase 1 and 1,444 Bermudians in phase 2, it set 5 specific, measurable, strategic “key outcomes” to achieve by 2022:

**Priority 1** - Increasing Academic Rigour and Student Engagement Priority

**Priority 2** - Ensuring Career, College, and Workforce Readiness

**Priority 3** - Enhancing the Quality of Teacher Practice and System Leadership

**Priority 4** - Improving Infrastructure and Instructional Resources

**Priority 5** - Ensuring System Success

**There has been no data released that demonstrates how we are progressing against the key outcomes set in Plan 2022.**



# 3 Key Concerns on a Proposal for the Introduction of Parish Primary Schools

# Feedback on Parish Primary Schools

The 2021 Proposal for the Introduction of Parish Primary Schools (“the Parish Proposal”) outlines that there are four main reasons why holistic and wide-ranging change is being undertaken:

- i. the Government mandate to deliver on its commitment to change and transform public education
- ii. community demands for change and transformation through the development and articulation of Plan 2022: Bermuda’s Strategic Plan for Public School Education
- iii. the trend of declining enrolment and,
- iv. most importantly, the need to improve student outcomes and attainment for all learners.

Whilst fully supportive of each of these reasons individually, we absolutely recognize the data supporting declining enrolment and the need to adapt, and subsequent agreement that resources would be better deployed to fewer facilities. We also strongly support the position that there needs to be an equitable public education system for **ALL** of Bermuda’s children, which should become the first choice of education for all. After several decades of significant underperformance, it is time for this vision to finally be delivered for the benefit of our children.

*“To deliver a first-class education of global standards ensuring students reach their full potential.”*

*Ministry of Education, Bermuda - Vision*

# Feedback on Parish Primary Schools

Furthermore, there is strong support for the phasing out of middle schools and returning the system to a 2-tier education system – many individuals in support of this submission have experienced first-hand the negative impact the middle school transition has had on their children, and see this as yet another shortcoming of the historic performance of the Ministry of Education. This is absolutely consistent with the feedback provided as part of the 2007 Hopkins report. Contained within the executive summary on page 7, the Proposal explains that:

“If we are to see improvements in education across all school and year levels, we must:

- shift to an assessment programme that is varied, robust, relevant and enables students to demonstrate what they have learned in a variety of authentic ways
- shift to a system-wide research-based 21st century instructional model for delivering the curriculum
- ensure that all teachers in our classrooms and all leaders of our schools have the qualifications and certifications needed to improve education outcomes for our students.”

Again, we agree entirely with the above three action points, as a subset of the complete picture. What

follows in the remaining 79 pages of the Parish Proposal is therefore particularly confusing, as it does not outline how any of these key action points are to be addressed.

**We oppose the Parish Proposal as presented. We believe the underlying principles need to be better aligned with education best practice.**

**We believe the Proposal needs to be given additional consideration to ensure it becomes a more robust and all encompassing framework that is capable of driving the successful reform Bermuda so desperately needs.**

# Key Concerns

The following six points encompass our key concerns with the Parish Proposal as presented:

## 1. Direction is Contrary to that of the Highly-Skilled Preceding Educational Advisors

The Parish Proposal goes against every one of the Hopkins recommendations. The Hopkins report is the most comprehensive and high quality review in the history of the Bermuda education system. The collective experience of this report group stands at over 150 years. Hopkins himself has been ranked as the world's 16<sup>th</sup> most influential educator, Professor Peter Matthews, OBE, was responsible for Inspection Quality and Development in OFSTED from near its inception in 1992 until 2003, along with a further two evaluators from England who are former members of Her Majesty's Inspectorate, and two team members with direct Bermuda experience.

## 2. Rationale

The Parish Proposal is driven entirely around the quality of existing buildings with a somewhat peripheral supporting rationale as it correlates to successful education. Even if the quality of the building were to drive successful education, it could be argued that any school selected to remain open would require such significant modification of infrastructure to meet the new standard, that the scores concerning the condition of the properties become largely irrelevant.

It is hard to support the quality of building as a key correlate of education, when it appears to contradict the plethora of research done over the years around school effectiveness. One of the most prominent theories of effective education that is used today to shape education improvements is that of Lezotte, 1990. There have been many similar theories over time, but fundamentally these correlates remain largely unchanged. We must ensure that the actions taken on the way to transformational education reform align with that of current best practice to ensure we achieve optimum results for the children of Bermuda.

# Key Concerns

## 2. Rationale cont'd

### **The 7 Correlates of Effective Education (Lezotte,1990)**

- productive climate and culture,
- focus on central learning skills,
- appropriate monitoring,
- practice-oriented staff development,
- strong leadership,
- salient parent involvement, and
- high expectations and requirements

**The PISA report that is referenced in the Parish Proposal supports the same points made above.**

Though these correlates may appear dated in terms of development they are still widely used and relevant as a foundation to a quality education worldwide:

The Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) is an advisory and consultative organization composed of the CEOs of each of the 72 District School Boards in Ontario;

[http://www.ontariodirectors.ca/CODE\\_Advisories/Downloads/CODE%20Advisory%20No%209%20WEB.pdf](http://www.ontariodirectors.ca/CODE_Advisories/Downloads/CODE%20Advisory%20No%209%20WEB.pdf)

District of Columbia Public Schools – 49,065 Students

<https://web.archive.org/web/20150223025655/http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/About+DCPS/Strategic+Documents/Effective+Schools+Framework>

Sunnyvale School District California – 6,600 students <https://www.sesd.org/Page/1001>

Ypsilanti School District, Michigan – 3,840 Students <https://www.ycschools.us/our-schools/high-school-resources/seven-correlates-of-effectiveness/>

# Key Concerns

## 3. High Performing Schools are being penalized

This proposal essentially penalizes those primary schools that are currently providing a high standard of education to our children as opposed to understanding better how they work and applying this model nationwide. More typically, when trying to improve a program, we tend to look towards its successes and work out how to build on those. Ample research suggests the aided school model yields superior results, with the ability of the school to hire its own staff, and harness accountability at all levels - yet this does not appear to be a consideration.

It is possible, with incredible commitment and governance (which has not been reflected in past performance), that many of these positive attributes can be rebuilt under the new structure with time, but the risk of implementation failure of such an approach would be inherently higher than with an approach that would keep these high performing schools in operation.

Consider for example the OFSTED (Office for Standards In Education) inspection and regulation model in the UK. The rigorous inspection framework yields four overall judgements - Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement and Inadequate. Those schools ranked Outstanding are exempt from regular inspections and **will not be inspected again unless concerns are raised or some very specific conditions are met**. Similarly, those schools ranked Good will only receive a short one-day inspection every four years. OFSTED focus their attention primarily on those schools that are not adequately performing in an effort to raise the overall standard of education nationally, and leave alone those systems that are currently performing as required.

# Key Concerns

## **4. Experience and breadth of those responsible for the Parish Proposal**

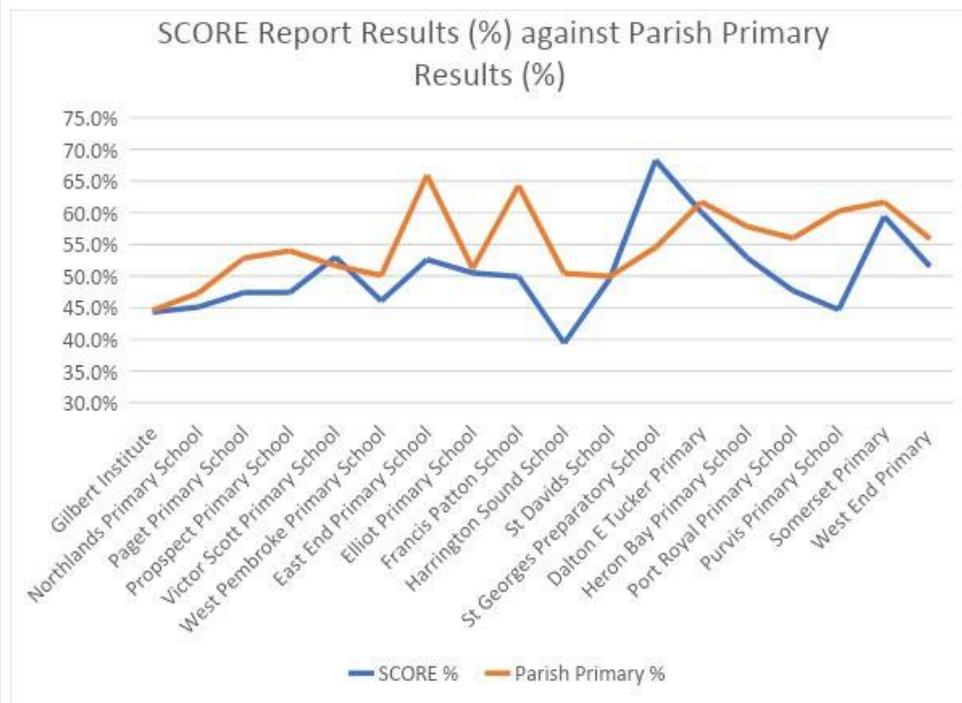
The report lacks an author. It does not identify those responsible for its production, their credentials and relevant experience in producing such a document. It is important for the stakeholders to understand whether collectively there is sufficient experienced personnel involved in this process to be able to take an educated position on how much reliance can be placed on its content. In addition, and in contrast to the SCORE report, there is a lack of disclosure as to who comprises the Location Strategy Team – the report does disclose only 40 years of collective experience, which is not sufficient to be advising in such capacity. Research suggests that cumulative experience should be between 70 – 100 years for a team to have confidence in the reporting outcomes.

# Key Concerns

## 5. Subjectivity

The “Comprehensive Rubric” for scoring the study factors is much more subjective as a result of being much less quantitative than that established during the SCORE report. There are significant discrepancies on how the SCORE report ranked schools and how the Proposal ranks when essentially the criteria is extremely similar. In fact, it is our understanding that in some instances data was taken directly from the SCORE report and utilized in this capacity in its original form. Many factors discussed earlier in this document (p14) would deduce that the SCORE process was implemented more rigorously and consequently results would be more representative of the environment than the Proposal and therefore concern arises as to the reliability of the underlying data. The below graph shows the results of both studies plotted on the same scale – there are significant discrepancies between the two sets of reports – in some cases as much as 35%. Whilst there was a 5 year period between both sets of results, there seems to be very little correlation between the two sets of data, calling into question their reliability.

Statistically, these data sets demonstrate a correlate of 0.4 where -1/1 is strong correlation between the two data sets and 0 is equal to no correlation.



# Key Concerns

## 6. Weighting and Transparency

The Proposal groups the “Study factors” into 4 broad categories:

- i. Existing Building Conditions
- ii. Land/Property Conditions
- iii. Safety & Health
- iv. Transportation

These categories were then allocated 20%/30%/30%/20% based upon “their level of importance”. These allocations appear to be somewhat arbitrary and come with no additional information - of particular interest was a low 20% weighting allocated to existing building conditions, given of course that is the basis for the Parish Proposal. Furthermore, although the scoring process was explained, the cumulative effect of the six person scoring along with the application of maximum ratio points means it is almost impossible to use this data to “unwind” the calculations to really understand how the different schools scored against the rubric.

A stack of books is shown against a green background. On top of the stack is a red apple. The books are of various colors, including white, red, and black. The apple is a bright red with some yellowish-orange streaks. The stack of books is positioned on the left side of the frame, and the apple is centered on top of the stack. The background is a solid, dark green color.

4

Factors that have  
not been  
addressed

# Factors that have not been addressed

Perhaps more importantly, are those factors we believe should be included within any competent proposal but have not been addressed.

## 1. No understanding of financial implications of this Proposal

Throughout the 86-page Proposal there are 3 paragraphs that reference funding. There is no clear budget or direction and, in fact, as part of the Parish Zoom presentations it was conveyed that the Minister of Education does not believe in setting a budget before his educational dreams. At a build cost of \$500/sqft, based upon an estimated cost for the new Somersfield Academy's Centre for International Education, at a 188sqft/student target (<https://spaces4learning.com/Articles/2015/07/01/School-Costs.aspx>) and 2020/2021 enrollment numbers, this initiative could cost the Ministry of Education an estimated **\$207m**, which does not cover a single dollar outside of capital construction costs. In the current economic circumstances this is not a fiscally responsible approach, nor do we believe this presents the best return for the education system. Any additional debt service costs will essentially take away the funding that will be directly expended in the pursuit of better education.

Per the 2021/2022 Pre-Budget report, "At the end of September 2020, total net government debt outstanding was \$2.9 billion, which was \$600 million beneath the present statutory debt ceiling of \$3.5 billion. The Ministry of Finance regards this level of debt as a serious challenge. With recent borrowings, the annual debt service cost is currently \$127.2 million, claiming 13.6 cents of every dollar of revenue that the government takes in. This underlines the urgent need to balance the budget and eventually pay down on our debt."

Furthermore, this position is anticipated to worsen - "After factoring in the impact of COVID-19, and various austerity measures taken by the government, the revised deficit for 2020/21 is estimated at \$295.4 million. This level of deficit is unsustainable."

Initial 2021/2022 estimates under the two initial scenarios presented anticipate a further budget deficit of - \$127m to -\$156m. (2021 Pre-budget report)

# Factors that have not been addressed

## 2. Lack of Proper Consultation

The lack of proper consultation results in less-informed decision making, lesser stakeholder satisfaction with regarding outcomes, and a lesser chance of successful implementation. **“Public services, in particular, have embraced the approach, seeking involvement of the public in the development and shaping of future services to particular communities; an acknowledgement of the need to involve service users in service development, review and policy making. Thus, consultation has become a requirement in the successful development of public policy and service”** (Carol Ann Morgan – B2B International). This was also called out in the 2015 SCORE Report Section V: Closing Considerations:

*“Consultation with impacted staff, parents, and other key stakeholders should take place early in the process to promote understanding, ownership and the opportunity to contribute to the final outcome.”*

**(SCORE Report – 2015)**

Unlike the majority of prior education publications discussed above (Hopkins report, SCORE report, Plan 2022), the Parish Proposal has not followed a true consultation process. It was felt by many during the Parish Zoom presentations that the decisions had already been made and additional feedback was not well received.

The below figure demonstrates the consultation process (Carol Ann Morgan – B2B International).



Through a legal lens, the same conclusions can be drawn (see [i] below) - There are four components to fair consultation. They were first articulated by Stephen Sedley QC, and accepted by Hodgson J, in *R v Brent London Borough Council, Ex p Gunning* (1985) 84 LGR 168 QB at 198; endorsed by the Court of Appeal of England and Wales, eg in *R v North and East Devon HA, Ex p Coughlan* [2001] QB 213 EWCA per Lord Woolf at para 108; and in the UK Supreme Court by Lord Wilson and Lord Kerr JJSC in *Moseley* at para 23. Lord Woolf summarized them thus:

# Factors that have not been addressed

## 2. Lack of Proper Consultation cont'd

“It is common ground that, whether or not a consultation of interested parties and the public is a legal requirement, if it is embarked upon it must be carried out properly. To be proper,

**i. Consultation must be undertaken at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage;**

ii. It must include sufficient reasons for particular proposals to allow those consulted to give intelligent consideration and an intelligent response;

iii. Adequate time must be given for this purpose; and

**iv. The product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account when the ultimate decision is taken...**

For completeness, Lord Wilson identified three further points which emerged from the authorities:

i. The degree of specificity with which the decision maker conducts the consultation may be influenced by the identity of the consulted: the more expert the consultees, it may be, the less the need for specificity;

**ii. The demands of fairness are likely to be higher where the decision maker contemplates depriving someone of an existing benefit or advantage than when the claimant is simply an applicant for a future benefit; and**

ii. Sometimes, particularly but not only when this subject of the consultation is limited to the decision maker's preferred option, fairness may require consultation about, or at least reference to, other options, even where these have been discarded. See paragraphs 26 – 28.

# Factors that have not been addressed

## 3. Significant Gaps in Information Provided

The proposal identifies key implementation factors for success and then fails completely at addressing them. There are many fundamental areas not addressed in the Parish Proposal. The five interrelated priorities outlined in Plan 2022 have not been covered in synchronization. Only part of Proposal 4 is covered, which in our opinion is insufficient.

To demonstrate this point, we have added Figure 1 from the Parish Proposal, which illustrates the current state of primary education and contrasts it with the proposed and intended future state under the Parish Primary School model. On the right-hand side of this table you will see either a tick or a cross, depending on whether we believe the issue has been addressed within the Parish Proposal. There are 7 items highlighted as addressed, and 15 highlighted as not-addressed which is a 32% rate of address. Furthermore, almost all of the complex and strategic items to be addressed (such as curriculum, instruction, assessment and accreditation) are not addressed.

**We believe the Parish Proposal lacks sufficient detail for any person to make an informed decision to support.**

Figure 1. The Current State and Future State for Primary Schools

Category	Current State	Future State	
Number Schools	18 Schools	10 Schools	✓
Enrollment	65 to 195 Students	Up to 300 Students	✓
Teacher Student Ratio	1: 16 and 1:25	1:15	✓
Location	Dispersed	Parish Primary Schools	✓
Age of Students	5 Years to 11 Years	5 Years to 13 Years	✓
Year Levels	Primary 1 to Primary 6	Primary 1 to Primary 8	✓
Facilities	47 to 100 Years Old	Redesigned, Expanded and Purpose-built	✓
Ethos	Disciplinary	Restorative	✗
Curriculum	Misaligned, antiquated and limited offerings	Vertically aligned, rigorous, relevant, expand offerings	✗
Instruction	Non-systemic Instructional Practices	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Instructional Models	✗
Assessment	One Size Fits All Assessment Programme	Varied, Rigorous and Relevant	✗
Assessment	Preparation for Assessments	Preparation for college, university, workforce and global citizenship	✗
Staffing	Current Positions and Required Qualifications	Additional Specialists and Expanded Qualifications	✗
Programmes	Limited in Scope and Number	Expanded	✗
Services	Learning Support, Counselling, Behaviour	Wrap-Around Services	✗
Technology	Computer Labs	Computer Labs and Individual Devices	✗
Food Services	Selective and sporadic	Cafeteria Services	✗
Services	External services for OT, PT, Speech	OT, PT and Speech Staff	✗
Transportation	Public Buses	Dedicated School Buses	✗
College/Career Entrepreneurship Focus	Non-Existent	Embedded into the Curriculum	✗
Accredited	Non Accredited	All Accredited	✗
Outcomes	Minority of Students Attaining Targets	All Students Growing and Achieving Success	✗

# Factors that have not been addressed

## **4. No implementation plan communicated**

Such transformational change cannot be supported without a detailed understanding of how it is proposed that this is to be achieved, particularly in light of prior shortcomings surrounding implementation. Understanding this detailed plan will improve stakeholder confidence.

## **5. No consideration has been given to running a pilot school – and should be.**

This will allow methodologies to be tried, tested and improved before rollout of a nationwide scheme and a successful implementation will improve stakeholder confidence and support.

## **6. The scale of reform considered within this document is overwhelming**

A phased approach should be considered – targeting middle school reform, primary school consolidation, introduction of signature schools, building improvements, and the overall transformational improvement required in teaching standards, assessment criteria, and accreditation all at once is far too ambitious for even the most effective governance structures.

# Factors that have not been addressed

## 7. One size fits all approach is misguided

This will not result in the best decisions on a location-by-location basis. The Proposal notes, “The primary schools within each parish have been evaluated using an assigned weighting for each of the study factors. Therefore, the final weighted scores for each primary school must be considered by parish, and not nationally across all public primary schools”.

Upon further review, we are still unable to link how the conclusion (second sentence) is derived from the statement (first sentence), however, in contrast, we do not believe that each primary school must be considered by parish. If, in fact, we did agree with this Proposal’s methodology, at a minimum we would ask the question as to why the top 10 scoring schools overall were not selected, rather than utilizing an arbitrary geographical boundary? The impact of selecting the top school in each parish, versus the top 10 schools overall can be seen below – assuming school #10 in Devonshire is new. By implementing arbitrary parish boundaries in the selection criteria the outcome is only 5 of the top 9 (or 56%) of the top performing schools being selected.

Of course, there are additional factors to consider here, such as location and logistics and so perhaps that is somewhat of a simplistic view, however when you

School	Parish Primary %	Rank Based on Top 9 Scores (Assume 1 new)	Selection Based on Top School Per Parish
Gilbert Institute	44.58%	18	n
Northlands Primary School	47.31%	17	n
Paget Primary School	52.85%	11	y
Prospect Primary School	53.97%	10	n
Victor Scott Primary School	51.64%	12	y
West Pembroke Primary School	50.11%	15	y
East End Primary School	65.91%	1	y
Elliot Primary School	51.19%	13	n
Francis Patton School	64.27%	2	y
Harrington Sound School	50.44%	14	y
St Davids School	49.94%	16	n
St George's Preparatory School	54.52%	9	n
Dalton E Tucker Primary	61.69%	3	y
Heron Bay Primary School	57.83%	6	n
Port Royal Primary School	55.97%	7	n
Purvis Primary School	60.26%	5	y
Somerset Primary	61.66%	4	y
West End Primary	55.88%	8	n

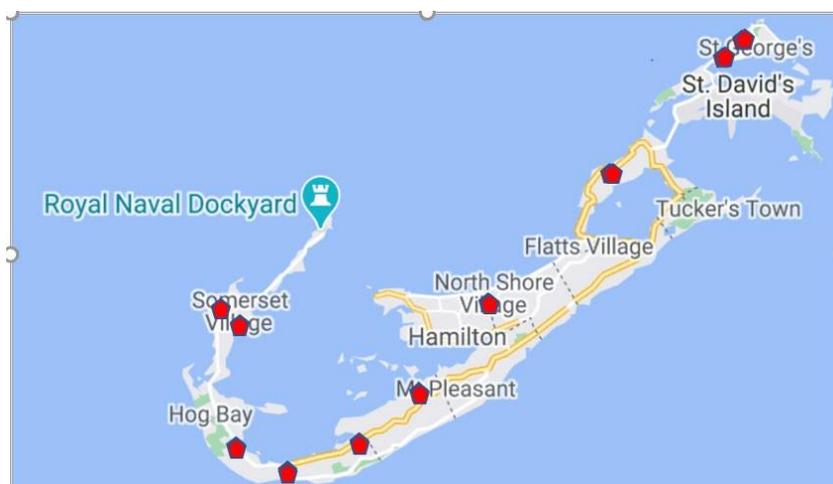
Column 2 identifies the scores given to each school based on the Parish Proposal grading of the building. Column 3 highlights the top 9 scoring schools according to the scores in column 2. Column 4 identifies those schools finally selected.

\*\*Note – only those in green represent the selection of a top ranking school of the Parish Proposal

overlay the top 10 schools over a map of the island you can see that whilst there would be one or two additional locations that would require further consideration, it would very likely result in the basis for a proposal that encompassed a greater volume of the top rated schools versus the Proposal that has been put forward.

# Factors that have not been addressed

## 7. Continued



Furthermore, no data has been presented to show that the community in St. George's Parish has called for improvements in Primary School education. During recent school and community polls, parents have demonstrated that they are highly satisfied with the educational outcomes at Primary School level in St. George's Parish. However, it is understandable that the national surveys, overall, show considerable demand for improvement. This indicates that the one size fits all approach will penalize high performing schools because of a national result. It is not logical to transform education in a neighbourhood where students are performing strongly and parents, teachers and the community are very satisfied with the standard. The proposed changes in St. George's

Parish risk lowering the overall standard and decrease parent, student and community satisfaction. Many people in this Parish have built their lives around these small community schools.

In addition, this blanket approach is likely to cause problems for the St. David's community. Neighbourhoods with no schools are less desirable for homeowners and tenants. With the current proposal suggesting the closure of St. David's Primary School, it follows that the value of homes in the area will decrease. Landlords will suffer rent losses. Additionally, it is unreasonable to expect families with school children to add a 20 minute commute each way daily, to travel from St David's to East End Primary which is the current school proposed to stay open in St. George's Parish. The increase in traffic congestion through St. George's will be problematic. There will be 300+ parents and staff vehicles accessing the same drop-off/pick-up at the same time, as well as traffic to and from the St. Regis Hotel on the very same roads.

Increasing daily commutes, and potential reduction in property values, in a parish where the primary school education system is already working very well is another example of how nationwide reform does not positively impact all parishes. The initiative would further neglect the community of St David's, completely contrary to the Parish Proposal's goal of increasing community involvement.

A stack of five books is shown against a green background. The top book is white with a red spine. A red apple with a small stem sits on top of the white book. Below it is a book with a red spine, then a dark brown book, and finally two more books with white pages and red spines at the bottom. The number '5' is written in yellow to the right of the apple.

5

A Different  
Approach

# A Different Approach

Rather than use this forum to simply critique the Parish Proposal presented, we would like to offer our collective thoughts on both a different approach and possible alternative outcomes for consideration.

This proposed process involves a thorough, legally and morally acceptable consultation process, places reliance on only the most qualified education professionals, and, as a result, we are confident that the outcome will not only generate increased stakeholder confidence but also do a better job of meeting the many and complex objectives of education reform. In the short term, this may appear as though we are taking a step backwards – and this is most probably true, but in terms of long-term success, **it is imperative that we fundamentally ensure we are building on a solid foundation.**

“A child  
miseducated is a  
child lost.”

- John F. Kennedy

# A Different Approach

## **1. Ensure the appropriate team is on-boarded to manage the process from start to finish**

With the right guidance, we can have incredible impact on the children of Bermuda and their education. Education reform is one of the top issues for the people of Bermuda and after many years of inconsistency we must get this right. When reviewing almost 20 years of education reform documentation in Bermuda the one document that stands head and shoulders above the rest is the Hopkins report. This report is the only document that has taken a review of the current education system as far as to provide actionable recommendations for improvement. The team behind this report are, if anything, overqualified with over 150 years of experience and have held a range of prestigious positions. They are already familiar with the existing education system in Bermuda. Our proposal would, in the first instance, be to re-engage as many people as possible from this engagement to provide leadership, strategic guidance and oversight to a truly successful education reform pathway. If it is not possible to re-assemble the bulk of this team, then we should seek an alternative, similarly qualified consortium of professionals to stand in this role.

There will undoubtedly be a cost associated with this approach, however we will reap the benefits of this many times over as a result of much more considered and efficient implementation. It is also likely, as has been the case historically, that this team can be strengthened with valuable, invested and willing members of the community that would be willing to contribute to this effort on a pro-bono basis. As well as adding expertise at no cost, this inclusion will drive positive stakeholder engagement.

## **2. Revisit the consultation process**

In line with best practice requirements, consult openly with all stakeholders as part of a process that is free from existing bias. Provide multiple platforms for communication, ensure all relevant stakeholders are included. Collate the results accurately for analysis, so that the outcome of this consultation drives the proposal.

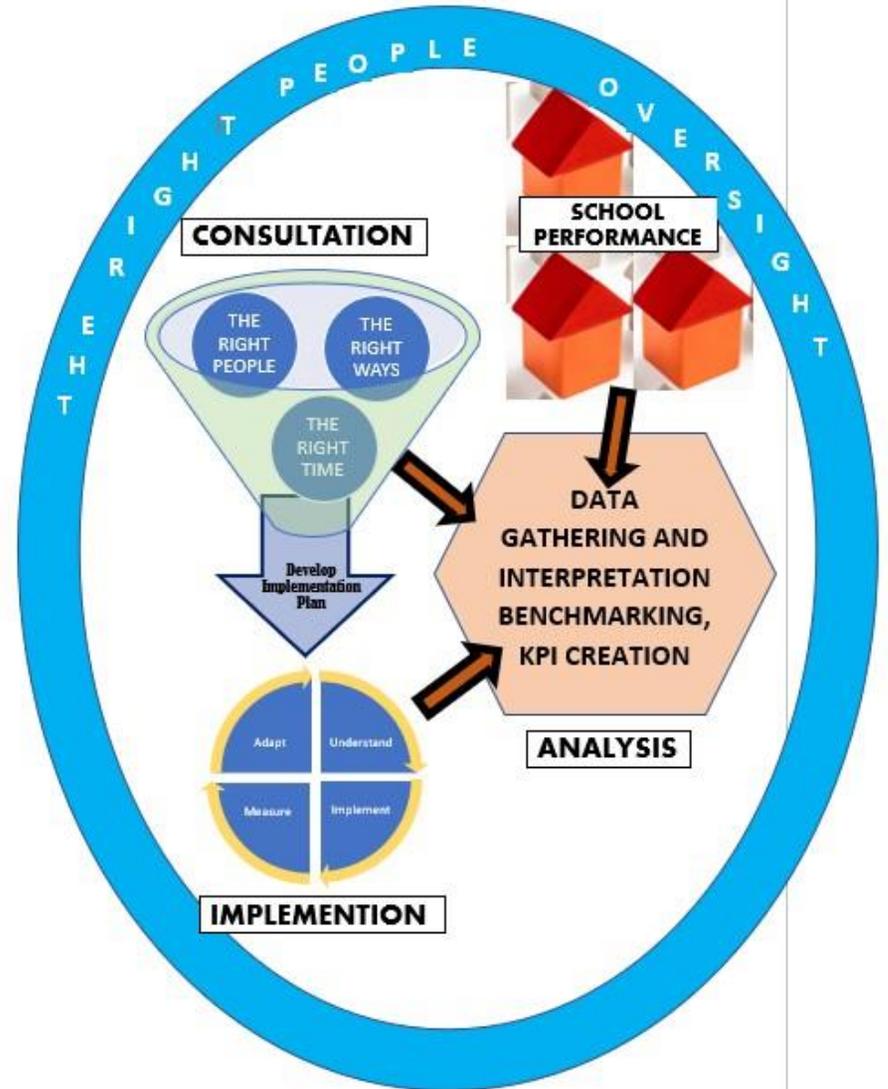
# A Different Approach

## 3. Simultaneously with the above, ensure we are collecting sufficient quantitative data that allows us to truly understand how we are performing

Ensure a framework is implemented that gathers and publishes the same set of data for each school island-wide, at set time intervals. For decisions to be made on education reform it is imperative that we understand “Where are we now?” Once we understand this, we will be able to use this data to make much more intelligent decisions on the best way forward. It will allow us to make more specific, incremental decisions that will be both easier to manage and will produce targeted improvements in the areas we need the most. The ongoing nature of this framework will allow us to measure success and help us to understand which “levers” we need to pull to make methodical improvements throughout the education system.

## 4. Develop an All-Encompassing Implementation Plan that is Methodical, Strategic, Targeted and Flexible

This should cover all 5 of the inter-related Plan 2022 priorities, along with an understanding of sequencing and timing. It should contain incremental targets and milestones, predicted outcomes, an evaluation process that allows us to be able to understand the question “is



# A Different Approach

this working as we expected?”, and the flexibility to change directions depending on the answer. Key information from this plan should be shared with the public to encourage transparency and accountability, and progress should be reported back periodically.

There are many significant initiatives currently being contemplated, and it is necessary to sequence these over a multi-year timeline so that they each receive the focus and commitment they deserve. Undoubtedly this will take longer to cross the finish line, but the focus should be on effectiveness rather than speed.

We believe the implementation of the above process will put us firmly on the path for successful education reform, and will appropriately drive the direction that Bermuda must take. We anticipate that some of the below examples must ultimately be considered.

## Alternative Process Example

**Stage 1:** Phase out middle schools (for example, the current P4 class will be the first year to stay in Primary schools up to P7)

**Stage 2:** Review and analyze

**Stage 3:** Introduce Preschools into the current Primary Schools

**Stage 4:** Review stage before moving on to stage 5 and make any changes, updates with the above mentioned stages as they are.

**Stage 5:** Introduce Signature Schools (this in and of itself will have to be a phased in approach)

**Stage 6:** Review stage again

**Stage 7:** After all of the above stages have occurred and been analyzed, the Ministry will be in an informed position to make any necessary further changes.

# A Different Approach

## 5. School Closure Decisions Should Be Based upon Academic Performance

Implementation of a more rigorous framework for gathering qualitative academic performance data in a timely manner so we are able to understand with certainty where our performance is best. This approach would still support a similar consolidation effort, but would effectively allow us to start from a higher ground. It is much harder to rebuild successful schools in a new location amid significant change. It is not impossible, but subject to a higher risk of implementation failure.

## 6. We should leverage existing research to support a new primary structure, as opposed to an arbitrary “Parish” School basis

There is little research to support the benefit of reducing class sizes as low as 15, and, on the contrary, much evidence to support that a smaller school improves academic performance. The Proposal essentially contradicts both of these facts and favors an arbitrary geographical methodology that is not supported by the plethora of educational research that exists.

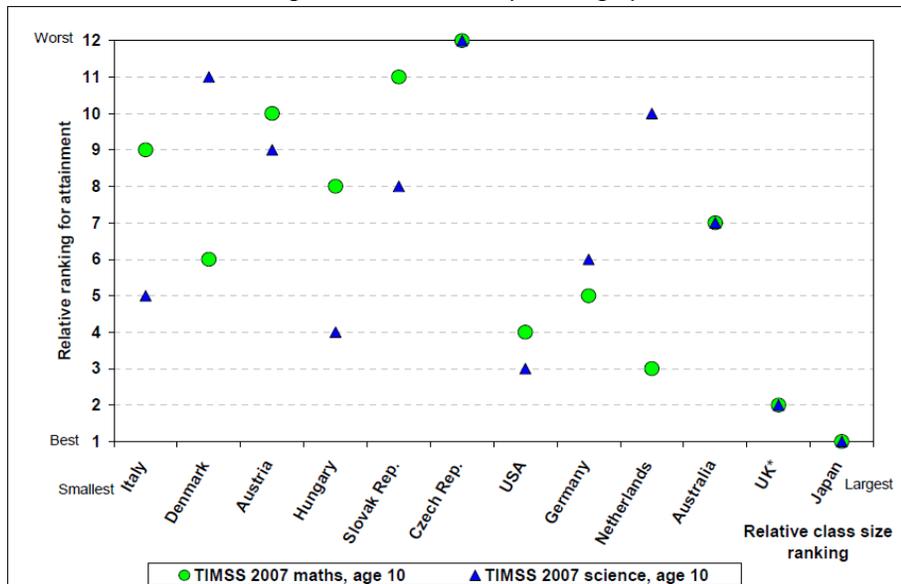
In light of this, our proposal centers around maintaining the size of our current schools, but right sizing to respond to the declining enrolment rate. **There are currently 23 P1 “streams” spread across 18 schools, and with current enrollment of 320 in P1 (and declining). Maintaining a class size of 18-20 children (which falls into line with the NCTE definition of a “small” elementary class being 20 or fewer children), this would allow us to reduce the number of P1 “streams” from 23 to 16-18, resulting in the removal of 5-7 “streams”, which equates to a reduction of between 3-7 schools, depending on whether these schools are single or double tier.**

This would achieve operating savings, optimize classroom size for performance, whilst still affording students the benefits of being part of a smaller, more inclusive school.

# A Different Approach

Below is a graph taken from the UK Department of Research Education Standards Analysis and Research Division Report Titled “Class Size and Education in England Evidence Report (Report #DFE-RR169) that plots the TIMSS assessment score (an international indicator of educational achievement consisting of an academic assessment and also includes teacher, school and student questionnaires) against class size for 12 OECD countries, and concludes that there is little correlation between the two.

Figure 5-3 – Relationship between class size in 2004 and science and maths attainment in international studies in 2007, primary level, countries ranked on horizontal axis in ascending order of class size (left to right).



Source: OECD Education at a Glance, TIMSS 2007. \* UK attainment data refers to England only.

Conversely, there has been significant research undertaken in the US that concludes that smaller schools are in fact better. The below excerpt is taken from the Education Resource Information Center “Current Literature on Small Schools. ERIC Digest”

(ERIC Identifier: ED425049)

“The small schools literature began with the large-scale quantitative studies of the late 1980s and early 1990s that firmly established small schools as more productive and effective than large ones. These studies, involving large numbers of students, schools, and districts, confirmed that students learn more and better in small schools (Lee & Smith, 1995). Students make more rapid progress toward graduation (McMullan, Sipe, & Wolf, 1994). They are more satisfied with small schools, and fewer of them drop out than from larger schools (Pittman & Haughwout, 1987). Students behave better in smaller schools, which thus experience fewer instances of both minor and serious infractions (Stockard & Mayberry, 1992). All of this is particularly true for disadvantaged students, who perform far differently in small schools and appear more dependent upon them for success than do more fortunate youngsters (Lee & Smith, 1995).

All of these things we have confirmed with clarity and at a level of confidence rare in the annals of education research. As one researcher summed it up, “a large body of research in the affective and social realms

# A Different Approach

overwhelmingly affirms the superiority of small schools" (Cotton, 1996b). Another researcher noted that size exerts a "unique influence" on students' academic accomplishment, with a strong negative relationship linking the two: the larger the school, the lower the students' achievement levels (Howley,1994).

Such quantitative studies have built an impressive case for smallness. And a number of literature syntheses and reviews have now displayed the findings of such extensive studies and the advantages of small schools (e.g., Cotton, 1996a; Gladden, 1998)".

(ERIC Digest - ED425049)

## 7. Running a Pilot Program

However the implementation plan sets out change, in any instances where we identify a consistent process across multiple locations we should consider a pilot scheme. Even with the most thorough plans and the most competent teams, pilot schemes repeatedly add value. Although the timeline may be extended, the specificity and impact of delivery will ultimately be improved. It would be logical to select one Parish for a pilot program. A successful pilot program will certainly increase public confidence and buy-in.

# A Different Approach

## 8. We should examine our current successes, replicate where we can, and consider expansion of the aided school model to other facilities

There is significant global traction in the education community that supports the aided school model. The governance structure is widely accepted to drive accountability and teacher performance, and thus positively impact students' academic achievements. On a local level, several of Bermuda's top educators endorse the same powerful notion - greater autonomy will benefit Bermuda's schools:

**“All schools have the potential to perform...there are many factors that go into children's performance. It is not based on the physical plant; it is a function of the staff. What the [government-fee] aided schools have that the other [government] schools have not been afforded the right to is the autonomy of principals to pick their staff. That is the biggest difference. Principals need more autonomy and people need to believe in the public-school system.”**

**Mary Lodge**

(former principal of St George's Preparatory School)

**“They have autonomy over enrolment, hiring of staff, and they have full responsibility for their payroll and premises.”**

**--In the Context of Charter Schools**

**Becky Ausenda**

(passionate education advocate of the Bermuda Education Network)

A model that is gaining popularity in both the US and the UK due to its academic success, is the Charter/Academy model, which relies on a level of Government funding comparable to public schools. However, the accountability and autonomy created as a result of this adoption has improved overall student performance. This would be an option for existing aided schools, (and this transition in reality would change little in terms of day to day operations), but also potentially could open the door to other charitable trusts who may have responsibility for one or more schools. From a Ministry of Education perspective, given the scale of the transformation ahead, this option would effectively reduce the number of schools and children that reform needs to touch, without causing additional capital or operating spend, allowing greater focus for those that remain. These schools would still be subject to the same regulation and inspection criteria as other government schools, but may take less effort in terms of central management and therefore could actually result in centralized cost savings.

# A Different Approach

## What is a Charter/Academy School?

- Government Funded
- Independent of Local Authority Control
- Terms are set out in individual academy funding agreements where accountability extends to academic, operational and financial performance
- Self-governing, non-profit charitable trusts
- May receive additional support from personal or corporate sponsors, either financially or in kind
- Do not have to follow the national curriculum but have to ensure curriculum is broad and balanced and include core subjects
- Subject to inspections in the same manner as all public schools
- Flexibility to be innovative

**In the USA, between 1993-2009 the number of charter schools grew 10-15% each year. In the UK, academy schools grew from 200 in May 2010 to 4,500 in March 2015.**

# 6 References



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Unique ID: 000039

Good Day,

Please see attached the Bermuda Education Network's response to the public consultation on the government's Parish School Proposals.

Regards,

Bermuda Education Network



**BERMUDA  
EDUCATION  
NETWORK**

# **PARISH SCHOOL SUBMISSION**

REGISTERED CHARITY #899

ADMIN@BEN.BM

707-5020

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# Executive Summary

All of Bermuda's students deserve to succeed and changes at all levels of the system are urgently needed to ensure this. At the primary level, over 50 per cent of students are struggling with reading, and Bermuda Education Network (BEN) and its members estimate that at least 25 per cent of students have attention issues. Principals and teachers know that many students are not receiving the specialist services they need, but their appeals for more resources are often denied by the Department of Education.

The most common reason given for services not being available in the public schools is "lack of funding." If there is insufficient funding for interventions that address executive function and language deficits, it is our opinion that the government cannot afford to waste funds on building renovations. We agree that some school consolidation is unavoidable to reduce costs of maintenance and to create staffing efficiencies, but rather than closing nine schools to form ten Parish Schools with 300 students, we are proposing a more sensible approach that is to close schools with low student enrolment only and to limit the costs of new buildings.

## 50%

OF PRIMARY STUDENTS  
STRUGGLE WITH READING

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- **We oppose the plan to create an Alternative School at Elliott**
- **We oppose the closure of St. David's Primary and St. George's Prep.**
- **We propose to close 5 schools so that 14 primary schools remain open**
- **10 of these would have 200 students (two streams) and 4 would be smaller and specialist**
- **We support the plan to move Hope Academy to a renovated site at Prospect Primary**
- **We suggest a thorough review of key-player departments.**

## 25%

OF STUDENTS HAVE  
ATTENTION ISSUES

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We believe that it should be possible to implement these changes relatively rapidly while ensuring that enough public funds are available to implement a thorough overhaul of early intervention programs. This alternative proposal eliminates the need for renovations at Harrington Sound, Gilbert Institute, West Pembroke, and Purvis and comes at substantially less cost to the public purse. There are numerous other considerations, which we have included in our response to the specific Parish School proposals.

## Projected Student Numbers

School	Number of students 2021	Number of students 2022	Extra classrooms needed ?
Dalton E Tucker	100	200	Yes
East End	77	75	No
Elliott	121	200	Yes
Francis Patton	125	200	Yes
Gilbert Institute	107	75	No
Harrington Sound	215	200	No
Paget Primary	137	200	Yes
Purvis	166	200	No
Somerset Primary	101	200	Yes
St. David's	73	100	No
St. George's Prep	108	200	Yes
Victor Scott	144	200	Yes
West Pembroke	204	200	No

# Bermuda Education Network

Since our establishment in 2011, BEN's network of business and community supporters has supported thousands of students and hundreds of privately funded projects and programs in public schools.

Our mission is to be an ally in improving public education through opportunities that empower teachers. For our response to the Parish School proposals we have drawn on the expertise of members who include:

- Special Education and learning difference experts
- Field educators and content specialists
- Psychologists and guidance counsellors
- Project Management professionals
- Construction companies
- Business leaders including insurers, lawyers and accountants
- Public school parents
- Public and private school teachers
- Public and private school leaders



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While our members have strong reservations about the Parish School proposals, they are supportive of the overall goal to deliver customized learning experiences for students and to improve family and community engagement. Several of our members serve on the Learning First initiative and BEN's board was actively involved in the previous Plan 2022 Consultation. There is strong desire and commitment amongst our members for public education reform and underlying this is our belief that stronger communities build stronger schools.

BEN provides experiential learning programs to 14 public primary schools and we have regular contact with principals, parents and teachers. Our goal is to combine action with advocacy in order to promote change. In 2017 we distributed stationery vouchers to every public school teacher while calling for more classroom supplies, in 2019 we organized Bermuda's first Wellness Retreat for teachers while warning that teachers are increasingly at risk of burnout. Our advocacy has included an active role in the 2019 consultation for Plan 2022 in which we urged more opportunities for teacher professional development. BEN's Organise Teach Connect program currently provides support for school improvement plans and teacher professional development.

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*The school reforms present an opportunity to recruit world leaders in special education, and to bring Bermuda's intervention systems up-to-date with recent developments in the fields of neurology, psychology, child development and learning differences.*

---

# The need for better early intervention and “wrap around” services.

Student needs have increased primarily due to changing demographics. Twenty years ago an average classroom of sixteen students had students who were struggling with reading or behavioral challenges, but the majority were ready to learn. At that time, a few schools had a higher proportion of students from a low-income background, many of which needed learning support.

Now, in all public primary classrooms about half the students need additional support of some kind. The Parish School Proposal will not solve these issues. There is no evidence that new curricula helps students with undiagnosed learning differences or that new buildings turn disruptive students into high performers. Prioritising building renovations for education improvement is like wasting resources on new hardware for an IT system that suffers from a software issue.

The proposal makes reference to improved “wrap around” services but does not provide details of what the increased services will be. Currently, the crucial work of providing interventions to students with learning differences and behavioral issues is delivered by a department that is poorly led and inefficient. The Student Services department has a budget of over \$20 million and is not held accountable for the delivery of assessments, adequate interventions and ongoing support. In our opinion, this department needs a thorough review.

Our members include Special Education experts with experience of both Bermuda’s private and public school sectors. They have identified several major issues.

The Health Department provides therapy from speech language pathologists, physical therapists, and occupational therapists, shared among the schools.

- Schools complain of lengthy delays
- Children are released from services too early
- Inconsistent delivery of services being provided to children due to inadequate communication from the Department of Health.
- Many children who qualify for services cannot receive the intervention they need, due to the lack of therapists
- Those who are receiving services do not have enough to be fully effective.

We need an intervention program in place that begins at the start of school and finishes at the end of the school year, using July and August for assessment and follow-up with parents on progress. The school reforms present an opportunity to recruit world leaders in special education, and to bring Bermuda's intervention systems up to date with recent developments in the fields of neurology, psychology, child development and learning differences. Funds should be conserved to hire the expertise needed to review and design effective “wrap around” services.



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# Reading Interventions

The Parish School proposal does not include any special measures to improve reading outcomes, but weak reading results are arguably the most serious failing of the public schools. Sixty per cent of public primary students are not reading on grade level.

BEN's members include experienced reading specialists, some of whom have worked in the public primary school system. We are deeply concerned that funds needed for training teachers how to teach students to read and assessments and interventions (that are urgently needed for struggling readers) will be diverted to non-essential building renovations under these proposals.

Literacy experts agree that ninety per cent of children are capable of learning to read fluently by P4 and this needs to be the highest priority of primary schools along with supporting students with acquiring the mindset to be a learner.

We are aware that current initiatives include the introduction of Heggerty for Phonemic and phonological awareness in P1 and the Gates-MacGinitie assessments, Beginning Reading Level, with Sub-Tests in Initial Consonants and Clusters, Final Consonants and Clusters, Vowels, and Basic Story Words (sight words).

We've uncovered a gap in The Parish School proposal, which does not include how the above initiatives will be delivered to ensure that all primary teachers are trained to recognize why emerging readers are struggling and effective ways to support them.

The Cambridge checkpoint tests provide diagnostic data that helps the Department of Education (DoE) and principals to identify areas for improvement. Anecdotally, we understand from our teacher colleagues that teachers need to use more explicit teaching of phonics, vocabulary, word study and inference.

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Measures to improve reading outcomes have been neglected in the Parish School proposal and have not been given adequate priority for several years. There has been a marked decline in the Department's expertise in reading since Darnell Wynn's departure in 2012. The Literacy Collaborative initiative was abandoned and a number of good recommendations included in the 2014 National Literacy Strategy have never been implemented. Perhaps one of the largest setbacks was the decision in June 2017 to make the content specialists redundant. We applaud the efforts of the current Acting Reading Officer but believe that a larger team including reading coaches is needed. The following are recommendations to improve the primary school reading program:

- Invite retired reading teachers to work part-time as reading teachers and identify who has reading expertise in Bermuda.
- Update the content on the MOED website and include videos explaining the science of reading
- Hire consultants or staff to work alongside classroom teachers as coaches and ensure they are implementing Heggerty and teaching phonics with integrity at lower primary and using guided reading effectively throughout the year groups.
- Ensure that the reading assessments are being implemented with fidelity and that students who are not approaching expectations are referred rapidly for services.
- Forge new connections with private school reading teachers and expand support provided by the Reading Clinic.
- Research whether summer and after-school reading interventions could be organized to boost confidence of struggling readers.

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## Objections to the proposals for St. George's

The transport connections between St. David's and St. George's are challenging and we believe that having a primary school is important to the St. David's community. The Parish Proposal concept of a community hub seems particularly needed in St. David's where the loss of the Black Horse and the supermarket have already eroded community.

We oppose the closure of St. David's Primary and St. George's Prep for four reasons:

1. We oppose the closure of St. David's Primary because it is a high performing school that serves its community well. The St. David's Primary School achieves good results for students but it is unlikely to attract enrollment over 100 students. While we recommend that most of the primary schools should have 200 students, we suggest that an exception should be made in St. David's where a small school is appropriate and needed.
2. Likewise we oppose the closure of St. George's Prep because it is a high performing school that serves its community well. The concern that government should not pay for renovations buildings located on land which belongs to a trust are outweighed by a greater public interest – to keep a high performing school open. There is strong community support for returning SGPS to its previous size as a two stream school and increasing the numbers of students who can attend there.
3. East End Primary should also remain open and its role serving students with learning differences should be developed.
4. More generally, we reject the claim that old school buildings are incapable of supporting 21st century learning. With the exception of Somersfield Academy, all the private schools in Bermuda include old buildings which even without major renovations have been modified to support IT upgrades and new programs.

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## Objections to the proposals for Paget

We oppose the closure of Gilbert Institute because it is in a central location which is close to the hospital and has the potential to serve students with special needs. We believe it should remain open and have smaller numbers of students (75) including those with hearing disabilities who it currently serves and potentially some students with physical disabilities in order to relieve the pressure on Hope Academy.

## Comments on the proposals for Devonshire

While we agree that education is a priority area for investment, and we desire an equitable education system, the most serious examples of inequity relate to the failure to provide appropriate special needs education. We therefore support the plan to find a new location for Hope Academy. We feel that the choice of the current Prospect Primary site is sensible, but should be discussed with Hope Academy parents. In the meantime, we suggest that two small schools, Gilbert Institute and East End Primary who have each provided special needs programming in the past, might be refitted in order to accommodate some of the students from Hope Academy, temporarily reducing the problems at Hope Academy while the Prospect site is renovated.

We do not agree with the proposal to convert Elliott into an Alternative School for a number of reasons. The proposal refers to the Alternative School serving the two current “Success Academy” schools. Unfortunately the Success Academy pilot at Heron Bay does not appear to have been a success and unless a clear and detailed design for Success Academy is made public we cannot support this proposal. Moreover, we believe the combination of the two age groups is ill-advised. The idea to create a separate institution for students with social emotional needs due to trauma is troubling. If students are disruptive and cannot be managed in regular classes, there should be interventions, but these should be temporary and there should be a plan for reintegration into the mainstream classes once issues are resolved. Research shows that behavioral needs mainly arise due to learning differences and therefore if the wrap around services provided by Student Services are adequate and consistently implemented, there should be no need for an Alternative School.

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# Financial and budget considerations

Closures are intended to result in the elimination of costs of maintaining aging buildings but no information is included in these proposals about the current annual maintenance cost for the schools that are proposed to be closed.

Neither has a budget for the proposed renovation of the 10 Parish school buildings been revealed. The public has a right to demand fiscal responsibility and to have an opportunity to assess the cost/benefit of proposals which could cost anything from \$50 million to \$200 million.

If the budget is \$50 million, and the current proposals are to add classrooms and other facilities at 10 schools that would allow \$5 million per school.

Our members with construction expertise have estimated that the costs of renovating an average size primary school and adding several classrooms could be at least \$2million per school. An extensive renovation project to add design and technology labs, auditoriums and other facilities would be at least \$5million.

For example, the Innovation Centre at BHS costs were \$9 million for construction \$1 million for Design fees and \$1 million for Furniture Fittings and Equipment. Construction costs run between \$300/sq.ft and \$350/sq.ft for new school structures while renovations are likely to be approximately \$200 - \$250/sq.ft

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## Other Considerations

While current enrolment in primary schools is 2074, if primary schools add three more year groups K – P8, we will need to accommodate approximately

2650 students. For ten schools that means 265 students each. If there were 14 schools that would mean 190 students but we feel that a better proposal would be to have 4 small schools which include special education students and 10 schools that serve 200 students.

A reason was not provided why 300 students is seen to be the ideal number for Bermuda's primary schools although it is similar to the UK primary school average of 282 students. We know that the authors of the proposals have a vision for the schools to be community hubs. Over the past decade, BEN has been involved in three initiatives to build community amongst teachers, students, parents and extended family members and it has been our experience that the work of building community is extremely challenging.

One of the many factors that may need to be taken into account is whether creating large schools of 300 could have the unintentional effect of weakening social capital. The research on social capital includes the Dunbar number theory recently popularized by Malcolm Gladwell in "The Tipping Point". Social anthropologist, Robert Dunbar, identified 150 as the maximum number for groups to feel like a community. But there are more immediate practical reasons why we reject the proposal to create 10 schools for 300 students.

In summary, the work to convert ten schools to be Parish schools for 300 students will be extremely costly and we believe that the benefits of these proposals could be more quickly and more cheaply achieved by having two stream schools of 200 students with much less disruption to students, parents and teachers.

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**We thank you for allowing us this opportunity to comment and if you wish to discuss our proposal further please email us at \_\_\_\_\_  
admin@ben.bm**

Unique ID: 000040

Good Afternoon Minister,

Please find attached a submission for Sandys Parish School.

Thank you,

Dear Minister,

I have had the opportunity to attend three of the consultation sessions (two of which discussed the West End School and Somerset Primary) and have watched others. I remain extremely saddened that the Ministry proposes to close The West End School. This is the very heart of the black community in Somerset. This is our field of dreams. Each day, we arrived at our school from all over Somerset. We came down from Cooks Hill, from Scott's Hill and from Beacon Hill. We walked from Broome Street, from Manchester Street, from Cambridge Road, from West Side Road, from Bobs Valley, from Elys Harbour, from Heathcote Hill, from Sound View Road, from East Shore Road, from Loyalty and from Ferry point. We arrived on foot from as far away as Boaz Island, Ireland Island and Dockyard. We were determined to get to school. We experienced an enormous sense of pride to don our uniforms and head to school. The Blacks in Somerset are who we are because of The West End School. Our parents fixed the school when the Government of the day would not, as their focus was on the white school. Today, the residents of Sandys know where 'white school' is. Every Somerset child who is at Somerset Primary has either parents or grandparents who attended the West End School. A school is much more than a building!! We know it is an important part of a community and that community has always surrounded the West End School.

On a personal note, during my time at West End, we were sent to cooking class in a little house that was purchased by the Board at Sandys Grammar School. That house has been expanded and is now the home of the Lagoon Park Preschool. We were prohibited by the racists who owned the property from walking on their field, hence had to walk around the field on the main road and enter the building from Long Bay Lane and during our journey to and from class, we were forced to suffer the indignities of the name calling. Yes, the wounds run deep!!

When looking at the criteria for the decision making, the very first thing that hit me was the claim that Somerset Primary was built in 1960. I walked past that school often on my way from West End to cooking class, and I am certain that the date is incorrect. It might have been expanded, but that is certainly not the date it was built. Sandys Grammar School was in that location when I was a child. There is also a history of the Government of that day ignoring the black schools, so it comes as no surprise that Somerset Primary would come ahead of West End when we look at things like existing building conditions. All of these things are the responsibility of the Government. Successive Governments have not paid attention to the schools that house black children. This, I might add, is not the first time we would have to fight for our very existence. I recall the former Government trying to change West End to a one form entry school back in the early eighties. In short, we have always had to fight to exist and today, with a Progressive Labour Party Government, there is no difference and that saddens me.

The constituency of Sandys North was always a UBP stronghold. Sandys Parish was divided as Sandys South was a PLP stronghold from the time we (blacks) were allowed to vote. I am thankful that my home was in Sandys South. We used a team of young professionals (myself included) in the mid to late seventies to comb the area of Sandys North on the back of a pickup truck with a bull horn to change the will of the people. We were successful in splitting the constituency when Mr. C. Eugene Cox (an alumnus of the West End School) won one of the seats and in the very next general election, the election of 1980, Mr. Cox was joined by Mr. Lionel Simmons thereby making Sandys Parish the first parish to win all four seats for the Progressive Labour Party. We salute Mr. Eugene Cox, Mr. Lionel Simmons, Mr. Walter Lister and Mr. Walter Roberts (Sandys MCPs 1980). The process of riding in the back of an open truck using a bull horn was soon prohibited. The parish has continued to hold all four seats. I, and many others, are hopeful that the MPs of Sandys Parish will stand on the right side of history. The four I mentioned certainly would have. The fact that we must fight for the right to remain a school is reminiscent of the situation in Tucker's Town. To think that this is happening under a PLP Government is frightening. Our school (our heart) today, What tomorrow?

As we look at the second section (Land/Property Conditions), I did ask the question about land size as that was left to the imagination on the score sheet, and was told that West End had less property. This should come as no surprise to anyone, but all of us should be aware that this disparity has always existed and will continue to exist. That is the very nature of the racism which existed and continues to exist today. I asked what Community Services were, and received no answer. As I look at the West End School, I see Baxter's, Bailey's, Trojaneer's, Sandys Secondary and The Somerset Cricket Club. What of Somerset Primary? The Market Place? I do not understand how the road at Somerset Primary is better than the road at West End.

When I look at Safety and Health, the environmental conditions are not a problem of the school, but a problem of continuous neglect. Neither school is accessible at the moment, but Somerset Primary received a much higher score.

It would be expected that West End would receive a higher score when speaking of bus route as it is the only one that is accessible by bus, but I am baffled that there is no difference with traffic congestion.

I also asked if it was the Government's intention to get rid of Warwick preschool (the only purpose built preschool in the island ). There was no answer. I asked because of the emphasis on having an onsite preschool. That question came about as it appeared in the discussion that having a preschool on the property was important. West End presently has fourteen classrooms while Somerset Primary had eight. There are four in the preschool. If four classrooms were used for the preschool, there would be ten remaining.

All vestiges of white supremacy ought to be removed, not rewarded. I am not surprised that there might be more land there, white people owned the land. Today our black children at Somerset Primary are still encouraged to honour the racists as the sports houses continue to carry the names of Findlay, Patterson and Gilbert.

How Somerset has changed! We once had many black businesses that were thriving. We have lost most of them. Many were forced to close as a direct result of racist policies of the banks in Bermuda. We have lost Simmons Ice Cream factory, Harney's, The Garden Patch, Mincy's, Todd's Cycles, Horton's Carpentry, John Davis' and the list goes on. I urge you not to remove one of the few remaining pillars of our black Community in Somerset.

The mere thought of the removal of the West End Primary School is a huge stab in the heart to all of us in the black community. I really do not want to wake up and hear such a story. I just find it difficult to believe that the Ministry of Education did not even look at history or legacy when considering this proposal. I am hoping that we have learned a lesson from the pain and suffering that the Smith's Parish residents endured during the land grab and trust that we do not do the same to the residents of Sandys Parish.

I do believe that the process was flawed. I am also concerned that many have not had the opportunity to read the entire proposal. When one sees more than eighty pages, it is overwhelming, especially for my people. Perhaps an executive summary placed in each mailbox would have assisted. The fact remains that if everyone did nothing, the proposal would automatically be the accepted and West End would be gone. That in itself cannot be considered just. One of my concerns was that once the schools were named, persons would feel compelled to chose the named schools to send their children to. I currently run a preschool and I am aware of two situations where families chose their preferred school and changed their minds after the announcement so as to cause less disruption in the lives of their children.

Minister, you made it clear that the decision was yours and yours alone. I believe that you are from the Tucker's Town area, and therefore you must understand the pain felt by the residents there. I trust that you will keep the black community of Sandys from experiencing a similar fate. West End School is one of the last vestiges of the black community in Somerset. I urge you to save our school.

Bigger is not always better. West End belongs to us. West End created us. West End IS us!!!

Sincerely,

Unique ID: 000041

Subject: From Constituent (former educator)

Good Day Mr. Swan,

I am unable to be part of the discussion regarding east school restructuring because I am on the road picking up my daughter from work. I thought I might share my thoughts with you. I have filled out the consultation form but it limited my responses.

I read in the paper this morning that Mrs. Richards stated that East End Primary can take 300 students. That means that according to best practices there should be at 16 students per class. I did programme supervision at East End, and of course class sizes then were about 25 students per class. I am wondering whether there will be additional classrooms added. East End is the school with wheelchair accessibility. Along with those challenges come the need for therapy rooms. Accessible bathrooms should already be in place.

I trust that the infrastructure will be upgraded so that every class will have a computer per child.

We are looking at parish schools. Someone has forgotten that St. Davids is a community unto itself - not part of St. George. We should also be mindful that financial assistance provides support for children in that area to attend Aunt Sarah's nursery that feeds into the preschool and then the school. There are housing buildings for low income families in Southside where several children live. There is a breakfast feeding programme at the school.

This school could be kept open and managed by one principal. This was carried out years ago when Allan Leigh was principal of Heron Bay and Port Royal.

The plus of this exercise will be that our children will be exposed to excellent teachers thereby getting rid of poorly qualified teachers. Trust me there are several that should have been given the opportunity to find another occupation years ago.

Unique ID: 000042

WeTransfer

Good day,

I have read the Consultation on the Proposal for the Introduction of Parish Schools and here is some feedback.

Studies show that play is the best way for our children to learn. More play based learning needs to take place in our schools.

Also research shows that having our children begin their formal education at ages 6/7 is more developmentally appropriate than 4/5 years old.

The attached video provides more information on this.

Kind regards,

Kimberlee Tankard

**Link to Video:**

[All Work and No Play Makes Jake a Dull Boy by K. Tankard](#)

Unique ID: 000043

East End Primary PTA

Good day,

As you are aware, East End Primary PTA recently held a general PTA to discuss the Parish Primary School Consultation. For this meeting we drafted a series of questions to present our parents with and recorded their responses.

Attached is a list of the questions with the noted responses.

1. The Government Proposal for the introduction of Parish Primary Schools suggests the consolidation of existing Primary Schools within a Parish. This is to also include the first two years of Middle School in a single campus, accommodating up to 300 students. In general, are you in favour of this idea?

Response: There was an overwhelming response with a majority of parents “not in favour”. While most parents were not in favour, there was favour by a few parents who did not oppose to adding two years back to primary school and phasing out middle schools.

Concerns:

Students not receiving adequate attention due to larger class sizes.

More students lost in the system due to added class sizes.

Quality of education will be changed or challenged.

2. For the Parish of St. George’s, this facility is proposed to be located at the current campus of East End Primary. Would this be agreeable to you? What would be your concerns?

Response: Majority of parents not in agreement.

Concerns:

School not large enough.

Extensive construction required to add on to existing building.

Students dis-placed due to construction.

Access to school is not adequate.

Transport system is not up to standard, parents may have transport challenges.

Funds spent on renovations and expansions will preclude funds for developing staff.

3. The Government Proposal is mostly based on infrastructure, and focuses on creating the physical space necessary for improving the model of education provided for our students. What structural improvements would you like to see in our primary schools?

Response: Majority of parents felt that consultation should be held with the teachers as they are the ones who have to work there and know what they require.

Other responses:

Therapeutic rooms

Smart technology

More physical equipment and playground areas

Proper library

Cafeteria

4. The response to the proposal as linked above requests a deepened, more meaningful public consultation process. How would you like to interact with Government to provide feedback? (More public notice of consultation opportunities, online surveys, non-technology based methods, questionnaires distributed from schools, public meetings, etc?)

Response: Majority of parents stated that all the listed methods should be used.

5. The response linked above suggests a phased approach and a pilot program of Government's proposal. How would you feel about St. George's participating in such a trial?

Response: Majority not in favor of using St. George as a "test run". It was suggested that it should be tried in larger schools and if successful it should be implemented in the smaller schools.

6. Based on what you know about the three existing St George's primary schools (St. David's Primary, St. George's Preparatory, East End Primary) what is the best thing about each school that should be brought into a consolidated school?

Responses:

Smaller class sizes; student to teacher ratio

An expanded after school program that works along with the Community Centre.

EEP style of encouraging parent/family involvement

Pride and history of each school

The cultural diversity of each school

Unique ID: 000044

Minister Diallo Rabain,  
Ministry of Education,  
44W, Church Street,  
Hamilton HM12.



Dear Sir,

Please find attached a copy of a letter that I have delivered to the Premier on the proposed reform of the Island's public education system.

Sincerely yours

The Premier,  
The Cabinet Building,  
105, Front Street,  
Hamilton HM12.

12/3/21

Dear Sir,

I write regarding the education reform proposed by your government.

A couple of weeks ago, I visited the Department of Education's web-site. The web-site provided a link to a YouTube video by the left of centre intellectual Noam Chomsky entitled '*The Purpose of Education*'. The video was posted by an organization called *learning without frontiers*. When this organization was googled, the most recent video suggested by You Tube was dated September 29th, 2012. When the web-site *Learning Without Frontiers- Home* is visited, the most recent content also appears to date from 2012 with most of it being from 2011. Interestingly, the video cited below of Miss Birbalsingh's speech at the conservative party conference was also posted by *learning without frontiers*. Yet despite Miss Birbalsingh being a professional educator with overwhelming and up to date evidence of success, the Ministry chose not to provide a link to any of her numerous YouTube videos on education.

A review of the bibliography provided with your proposal for the introduction of Parish Primary Schools shows ten out of the sixteen sources to have been provided by, or available on, the internet. Considering that such extensive use was made of the internet, the absence of the thoughts of people such as Thomas Sowell, Glen Loury and John McWhorter on education is also interesting, all the more so when the prominence given to Mr. Chomsky on the Ministry's web-site is taken into consideration.

I urge you to find the time to watch the following:-

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJxEM\\_i3iXo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJxEM_i3iXo). (Katharine Birbalsingh:- Speech at Tory party conference 2010)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvH3UDwlUfw> (Katharine Birbalsingh:-Dinner lecture in New Zealand)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9boQrCPwMws> (Thomas Sowell on Charter Schools and Their Enemies)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbJWi6KkcHs> (Glenn Loury & John McWhorter:- In Defense of Knowledge)

It is entirely reasonable to conclude from the Ministry of Education's web-site and the parish primary school consultation document that neither Minister Diallo Rabain, nor yourself, seek an open and robust debate with regard to education reform. Rather, the evidence available allows the very reasonable suspicion that the education reform proposed by you is ideologically driven, as opposed to being guided by what would be best for the Island's children. Furthermore, it is not unreasonable to suppose that the decision on what form the reform of our education system will take has already been made, and that the public consultation which you have engaged in is nothing more than a public relations exercise.

Ultimately, and not for the first time, the Bermuda Government is late jumping onto an educational band wagon. Mr. Gerald Simons and the UBP made the same mistake in the 1990's with their implementation of the comprehensive public school system that we are now suffering from. Time has shown the reforms introduced by Mr. Simons and the UBP to have been disastrous for the Island's children. It does not take a prophet to predict that the reforms proposed by Minister Rabain and yourself will be no less disastrous for them.

Miss Birbalsingh has no need to employ esoteric educational theory or modeling to support her position on education, she has provided cold hard evidence. The success of the children of the MCS in their 2019 GCSE examinations demonstrates very clearly that the two most important elements in the provision of a good quality education are the teaching methods and quality of teaching, not technology, or the built environment. Minister Rabain and yourself appear to be consumed with theories, modeling, technology and infrastructure.

## **Buildings**

With regard to the existing primary school buildings, it would not be difficult to put together a convincing argument that their current state is due, not to age, but to neglect and poor and misguided maintenance practices. The condition of Dame Marjorie Bean Hope Academy confirms quite nicely that it is largely the materials used in a building's construction that determines the lifespan of a building. When the deterioration of the masses of reinforced concrete used in Cedarbridge and the new Berkley begins to present itself over the next twenty or thirty years, the government will be faced with some truly eye-watering bills.

The massive building and renovation expenditure you propose for primary education is very largely the result of the ideology that you have chosen to adopt. Were you to adopt the teaching methods and staffing principals so successfully employed by the Miss Birbalsingh's Michaela

Community School, located, I believe, in a disused office block, many of the expenses you deem necessary would fall away.

There are numerous other ways to reduce costs, such as:-

(i) Removing air conditioning from schools. Air conditioning is more than likely at the root of the mould and air quality problems being experienced by schools. The simple and effective way to reduce mould and improve air quality is to open the windows. In order to justify the continued fiscal and environmental expense, it is entirely reasonable to expect that you to provide evidence that the use of air conditioning in schools is essential to the raising the standard of public education. Further points to consider include, (a) that air conditioning may well be contributing to childhood obesity; (b) that the thermal properties of Bermuda stone make the older primary school buildings cheaper to air condition.

(ii) Abandon the proposal of a swimming pool in each zone. Considering the marine environment around this Island, and the access to it, the decadence apparent in your desire for a pool in every zone is nothing short of obscene. All primary schools on the Island are within easy reach of fantastic natural swimming spots, either on foot, or by a short bus ride. Add a simple mask and snorkel to the children's swimming experience at these locations and the teaching opportunities become close to endless. Additionally, what kind of environmental example are you setting for our children? Swimming pools in Bermuda represent the antithesis of necessity so completely that they should be taxed at a rate that would make Bill Gates' eyes water.

(iii) Abandon the proposal for a dedicated school bus service. The public bus system proved adequate when both our tourist numbers and our school population were much higher. As for all of your infrastructure proposals, it is reasonable to expect that you justify this increased burden on the taxpayer by providing clear evidence demonstrating that a dedicated school bus service will raise the standard of public education on the Island. On the subject of buses, the Island's private schools, specifically Saltus, BHS and Somersfield, should be required to make use of buses, private, or public, in order to reduce the congestion that occurs at their entrances during drop off and pick-up.

The disproportionate focus of your government on buildings and other infrastructure in the Ministry of Education's 'Proposal for the introduction of Parish Primary Schools' suggests that, just as Mr. Gerald Simons and the UBP were, yourself and Mr. Rabain are on the wrong path. It would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to argue that either the building of Cedarbridge or the new Berkley raised the standard of public education in Bermuda. It is very difficult to view many of your infrastructure proposals as anything other than politically motivated window dressing.

## **Teaching Methods**

As mentioned earlier in this letter, Miss Birbalsingh has no need to employ esoteric educational theories or modeling to support the teaching methods she employs at the Michaela Community School. The children at the school through their 2019 GCSE results have provided her with cold, hard evidence which convincingly vindicates her approach. Miss Birbalsingh has demonstrated beyond a shadow of a doubt what can be done for poor and disadvantaged children. Why have Minister Robain and yourself chosen to ignore teaching methods that have been proven to be effective?

## **Staff**

The 'Proposal for the Introduction of Parish Primary Schools' devotes less than a page to the question of the staff and provides no explanation why current results are so bad even though many primary class sizes are currently 15 or under. Larger class sizes receiving good quality instruction are by far preferable to a small class size overseen by an inadequate teacher. Poor quality teaching undoubtedly has to be playing a part in the low level of achievement exhibited by the Island's public school children. The doctrine of Bermudianisation must also be reformed. Apart from the question of whether a population our size can provide the number of teachers of the caliber required to provide a high quality education system, the doctrine hampers accountability and lends itself to a culture of complacency. A conversation regarding teacher quality in the public school system will undoubtedly prove an uncomfortable conversation to have, but it must be had if the professed desire to improve the education of our children is a genuine one. A frank conversation regarding the caliber of the Island's public school teachers will inevitably lead to uncomfortable conversations with their union. At all times it must be born in mind that the union represents the interests of the teachers and that those interests do not automatically coincide with those of the Island's school children.

Failure to engage robustly in either of these conversations unavoidably indicates disingenuousness and a surrender to political expediency on your part at the expense of the Island's children.

## **Suggestions**

### Secondary Schools

Initially, that either Cedarbridge or the new Berkley is closed and you do whatever is necessary to reopen it in September 2021 using Miss Birblesingh's Michaela Community School as a model for its operation. I believe that it took Miss Birbalsingh three years to open a new school from scratch. It may be difficult, but it should not be impossible for you to staff one in six

months. The best performing pupils from both current senior secondary schools should be enrolled in the reorganized school.

I will readily concede that what I have proposed will require the expenditure of political capital on your part, but the other side of the coin is that the educational legacy which is awaiting you, should you insist on continuing with your current proposals, will be reversed.

The Michaela Community School's 2019 GCSE results fully vindicate both the teaching methods employed by Miss Birbalsingh and her commitment to high quality staff.

## Primary Schools

Abandon your proposed doctrine on primary education and once again adopt Miss Birbalsingh's principals regarding teaching methods and teachers.

Give principals control over who teaches at their schools and how the curriculum is taught. It is then both fair and reasonable to hold them accountable for the performance of their school. Abandon caps on enrollment at individual schools and let the 'market' decide which primary schools remain open.

## Conclusion

This letter has been written in a hurry. It is therefore very bare bones and has not come close to addressing all of the questionable aspects of your proposals for educational reform. The intent of this letter provoke thought and introduce an alternative perspective.

The reform of our education system is not rocket science. The Michaela Community School has demonstrated that in five years we could have a public education system on a par with the local private schools. Miss Birbalsingh has taken poor and deprived London inner city children and put them on the road to being happy, productive adults.

Unique ID: 000045

January 31, 2021

The Hon. Diallo Rabain  
Minister of Education  
Dept. of Education  
Church Street  
Hamilton



Dear Minister Rabain,

We are past students of Elliot School. We attended the school when it was located on Jubilee Road and when it was spelled with 2 ts.

Many of us do not own computers and are not computer literate so it would be a challenge for us to complete the consultation form re the closure of certain primary schools-Elliot being one. We're, therefore, signing this document to ensure that we have a voice regarding the proposal on the introduction of parish primary schools.

We propose that:

- (1) the present location of Elliot primary on Hermitage Road be designated as the new parish primary school.
- (2) the Elliot name be retained because of the rich heritage and legacy that Elliot stands for.

WE all agree that the pros far outweigh the cons when it comes to the current physical plant. (The school sits on an ideal site on Hermitage Road and has become the adopted home of the Wolves Football Club.) Of course we understand and concur that there will have to be some upgrading but we don't anticipate that the cost would be more than building a new school as has been proposed.

We urge you to strongly consider these recommendations to retain Elliot primary school.

Sincerely,

January 31, 2021

The Hon. Dlalio Rabain  
Minister of Education  
Dept. of Education  
Church Street  
Hamilton



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We propose that:

(1) the present location of Elliot primary on Hermitage Road be designated as the new parish primary school.

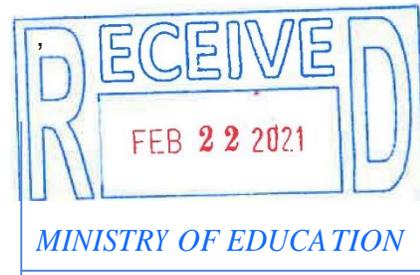
(2) the Elliot name be retained because of the rich heritage and legacy that Elliot stands for. WE all agree that the pros far outweigh the cons when it comes to the current physical plant. (The school sits on an ideal site on Hermitage Road and has become the adopted home of the Wolves Football Club.) Of course we understand and concur that there will have to be some upgrading but we don't anticipate that the cost would be more than building a new school as has been proposed.

We urge you to strongly consider these recommendations to retain Elliot primary school.

Sincerely,

January 31, 2021

The Hon. Diallo Rabain  
Minister of Education  
Dept. of Education  
Church Street  
Hamilton



Dear Minister Rabain,

We are past students of Elliot School. We attended the school when it was located on Jubilee Road and when it was spelled with 2 ts.

Many of us do not own computers and are not computer literate so it would be a challenge for us to complete the consultation form re the closure of certain primary schools-Elliot being one. We're, therefore, signing this document to ensure that we have a voice regarding the proposal on the introduction of parish primary schools.

We propose that:

(1) the present location of Elliot primary on Hermitage Road be designated as the new parish primary school.

(2) the Elliot name be retained because of the rich heritage and legacy that Elliot stands

for. WE all agree that the pros far outweigh the cons when it comes to the current physical plant. (The school sits on an ideal site on Hermitage Road and has become the adopted home of the Wolves Football Club.) Of course we understand and concur that there will have to be some upgrading but we don't anticipate that the cost would be more than building a new school as has been proposed.

We urge you to strongly consider these recommendations to retain Elliot primary school.

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