

f

## CITATION

**PRESENT NAME:** BRISBANE CENTRAL STATE SCHOOL

**FORMER NAME(S):** Leichhardt Street State School

**ADDRESS:** Cnr St Paul's Tce & Rogers Street, Spring Hill

**PRESENT USE:** State School

**PREVIOUS USE(S):** State School

**OWNER:** Education Department

**LOCAL AUTHORITY:** Brisbane City Council

A successful request made in November 1873 to establish a school in Spring Hill led to the calling of tenders by the Board of General Education for a brick school designed by R.G. Suter. The contract was signed by Dennis and Son for £1,970 on 5.2.1874 with completion scheduled for 1 September 1874. The school, consisting of three sections (in effect, three separate schools) - the State School for Boys (Leichhardt Street), the State School for Girls (Leichhardt Street) and the State School for Infants (Leichhardt Street) - opened on 1.1.1875. Although both the Girls' and Boys' Schools were each designed for an enrolment of ninety, the enrolments by October 1875 were 241 boys, 176 girls and 250 infants. This may have been responsible for some of the complaints about overcrowding and poor ventilation. On 4 September 1927, each of the schools closed, but reopened the following day renamed the Leichhardt Street Practising School (unofficially known as the Central Practising School). This school included all three sections together with the staff and pupils of the Central Practising School or Normal School. The Normal School had closed the same day for the building of Anzac Square and State Government Buildings adjacent and its foundation stone has been relocated to the Brisbane Central State School. "Practising" in the title of the school referred to the role of the school in education of teachers. The highest enrolments at the school were reached during the following few years, the highest average enrolment for a year being 960 in 1930.

From 1927 to the time of its centenary in 1975, over 14,000 students were educated at the school, including amongst its teachers and pupils many persons who played an important part in the development of Queensland. It was known at one time as the "Scholarship Factory", partly due to its high academic performance as well as to its size. As enrolments fell with a declining population in the area, a new role was found in the teaching of English to migrants who by then formed much of the local population. At one time over 1,000 migrants were being taught. Though enrolment at the school, called the Brisbane Central State School since 1954, has now fallen to eighty, it is hoped that this may increase with reviving interest in the inner suburbs. In recent years the school has been part of this revival, being the meeting place for the Spring Hill Association and the venue for the first attempts by the Brisbane City Council to involve the community in the planning of the area.

The Boys' School occupied the western wing, the Girls' occupied the eastern and the infants' occupied the shorter northern wing. The ventilation, which was a problem from the beginning, was improved by the addition of three gable roof vents to the east wing and one to the west wing, each glazed north and south with louvred vents to the gable, astride the ridge of the main gable roofs. The northern wing has been demolished and the whole of the northern wall rendered. In the southern side, additional subsidiary rooms of timber have been built to each of the west and east wings, both with dual gabled roofs.

Other teaching buildings have at some time been built on the site. Of these only an adjacent block to the east remains. It is constructed of timber, is elevated on high stumps and has a gable roof. A much larger building to the west has been demolished and this section of the site is used for the Institute for Child Guidance. The north-eastern section of the site is now used for the Children's Dental Hospital. Neither of these two existing buildings is part of the listing.

The planning of the school grounds is of particular interest. As early as the first report of the School by inspectors in 1875, there is a mention of tree planting. In 1889 a "Grand Gala Day for Planting Trees" was held and may have been influential in the adoption by the Education Department of an Arbor Day in the following year. Of particular interest is the avenue of camphor laurels leading up to the school, mature specimens of weeping figs, eucalypts, camphor laurels, palms, etc., and shrubs around the playgrounds on terraces to the left and right of the entrance drive. Reinforcing this pattern is the very impressive street planting to Rogers Street (the main approach to the school) and around the corner into St Paul's Terrace, which consists of mature weeping figs. Some outbuildings (a play shed and lavatories), together with some (unfortunately unpainted) timber fencing and stone and brick retaining walls, contribute to the interest of the site.

The School is listed

- as an early and at one time the most important primary school in the city;
- for its architectural interest - in particular the brickwork, the roof generally, vented skylights, and spire - and as the work of an early and noted architect, R.G. Suter;
- for the planting and site works of, and adjacent to, the school grounds.

AUTHOR/S OF CITATION: D. Watson

APPROVAL BY LISTINGS COMMITTEE: 8.12.1980

RATIFIED BY EXECUTIVE: 23.2.1981

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
EDUCATION



BRISBANE NORTH REGIONAL  
OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 153  
CHERMSIDE, Q. 4032  
TELEPHONE 359 0055

B/c

Ms V. Fawcett  
Principal  
State School  
BRISBANE CENTRAL

For your consideration and comments  
as soon as possible please.

*N.E. Adsett*

N.E. ADSETT  
Regional Director of Education

NEA:KB

29 May 1990

Released under the  
RTI Act by DETE

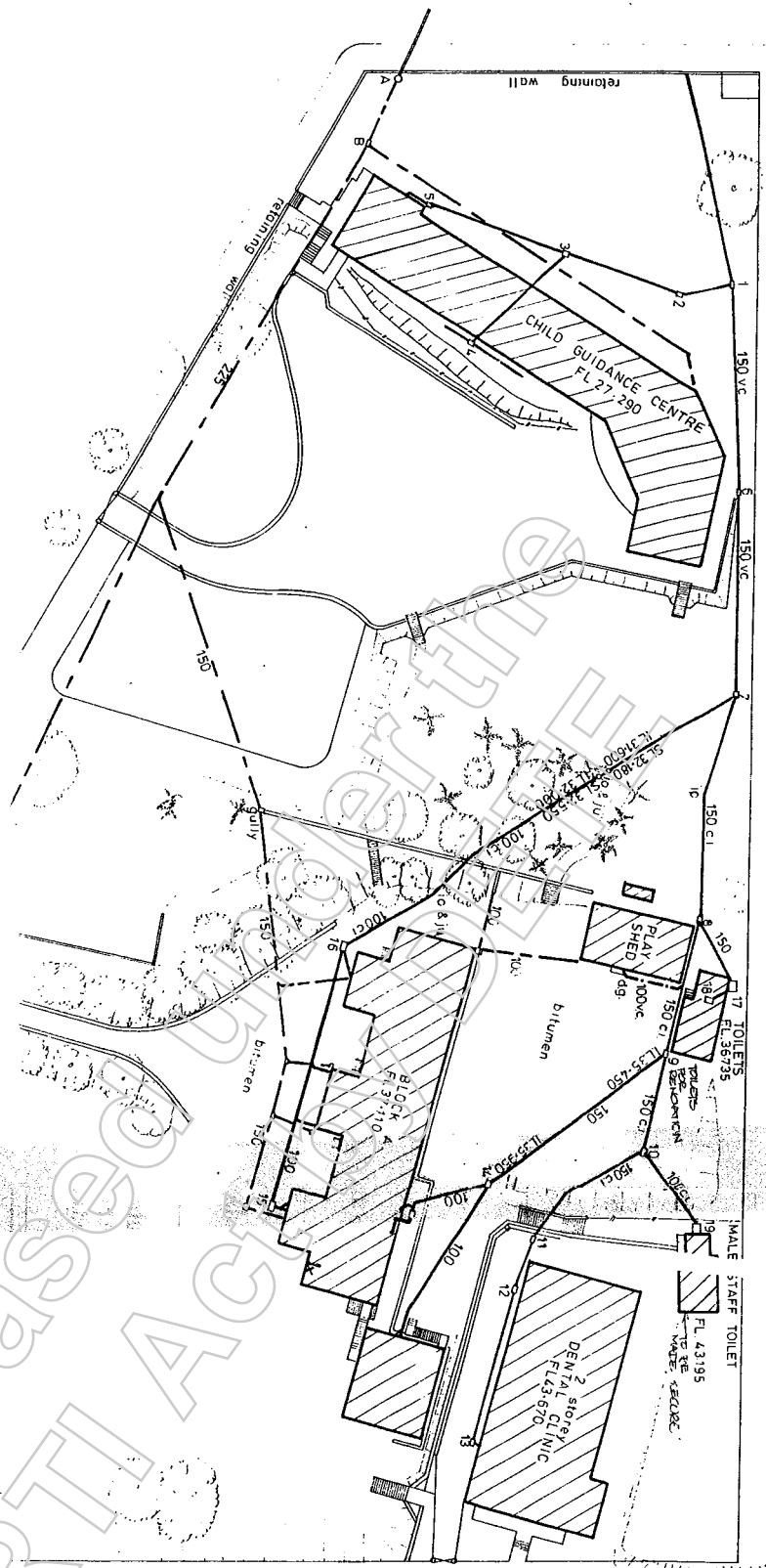
WJH:jmk:OPLAN  
CHILD2.GDE  
25.05.90

TO: REGIONAL DIRECTOR, BRISBANE NORTH REGION  
FROM: DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF FACILITIES  
TOPIC: EXCISION OF LAND R.650 FOR CHILD GUIDANCE FACILITIES

1. On 19 January 1965, Cabinet approved the transfer of a portion of the Brisbane Central State School known as R.650 to the Department of Health for the establishment of child guidance facilities. Such a transfer was to occur at a mutually acceptable date.
2. At that time, however, enrolments at Brisbane Central State School were increasing. There was concern about the need for expansion to cater for anticipated growth. Accordingly, official transfer of that land did not occur. Instead, an informal agreement was negotiated between the Principal of Brisbane Central State School and the Officer-in-Charge of the Child Guidance Centre concerning use of the land and building by the Department of Health.
3. The Department of Health, by letter of 12 March 1989, has advised that significant and urgent expenditure may be required as a result of emergent professional and technical issues, including possible structural deficiencies in the building occupied by the Institute of Child Guidance. The present arrangement between the Department of Education and Department of Health presents difficulties for the Department of Health in planning expenditure strategies for the Institute of Child Guidance.
4. Enrolments at Brisbane Central State School have not exceeded 100 students in the past 10 years. As at February 1989, enrolments decreased to 58 students. It is not expected that enrolments will again reach the levels experienced in the 1960s. Accordingly, it is suggested that the land and associated building currently occupied by the Institute of Child Guidance be transferred to the Department of Health. Since there has been a long-standing arrangement, though informal, between the two Departments concerning the Institute of Child Guidance, it would seem appropriate that this transfer occur at no cost to the Department of Health. The land in question is marked on Attachment A.
5. Before any recommendation can be made to approve the excision of a portion of the State School Reserve R.650, I seek your comments on any concerns you may have regarding such a decision.



N.J. CHRISTIE  
Director  
Division of Facilities  
25 May 1990

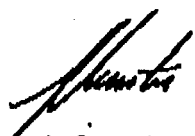


f. PAULS TERRACE

WJH:jmk:CPLAN  
CHILD2.GDE  
25.05.90

TO: REGIONAL DIRECTOR, BRISBANE NORTH REGION  
FROM: DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF FACILITIES  
TOPIC: EXCISION OF LAND R.650 FOR CHILD GUIDANCE FACILITIES

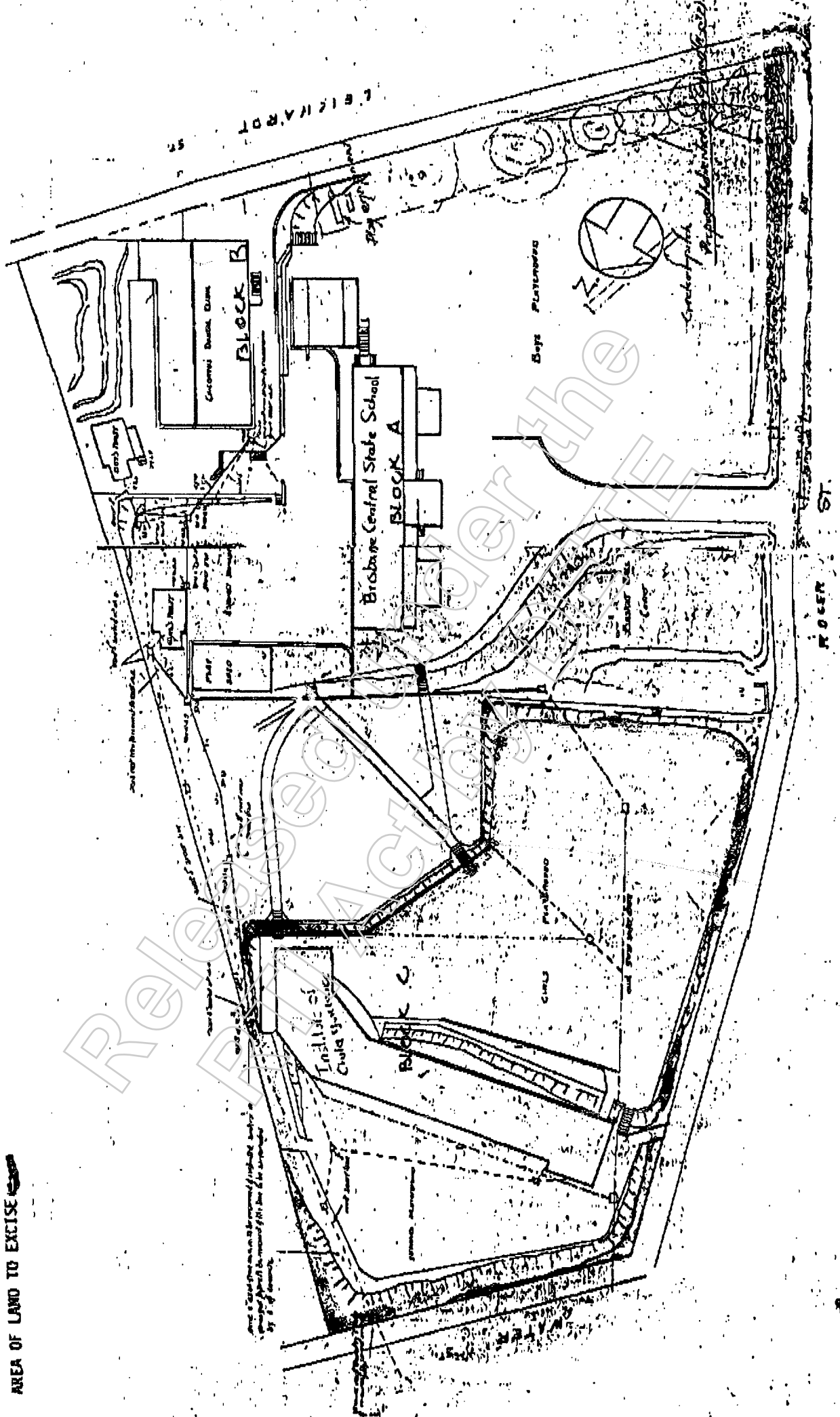
1. On 19 January 1965, Cabinet approved the transfer of a portion of the Brisbane Central State School known as R.650 to the Department of Health for the establishment of child guidance facilities. Such a transfer was to occur at a mutually acceptable date.
2. At that time, however, enrolments at Brisbane Central State School were increasing. There was concern about the need for expansion to cater for anticipated growth. Accordingly, official transfer of that land did not occur. Instead, an informal agreement was negotiated between the Principal of Brisbane Central State School and the Officer-in-Charge of the Child Guidance Centre concerning use of the land and building by the Department of Health.
3. The Department of Health, by letter of 12 March 1990, has advised that significant and urgent expenditure may be required as a result of emergent professional and technical issues, including possible structural deficiencies in the building occupied by the Institute of Child Guidance. The present arrangement between the Department of Education and Department of Health presents difficulties for the Department of Health in planning expenditure strategies for the Institute of Child Guidance.
4. Enrolments at Brisbane Central State School have not exceeded 100 students in the past 10 years. As at February 1989, enrolments decreased to 58 students. It is not expected that enrolments will again reach the levels experienced in the 1960s. Accordingly, it is suggested that the land and associated building currently occupied by the Institute of Child Guidance be transferred to the Department of Health. Since there has been a long-standing arrangement, though informal, between the two Departments concerning the Institute of Child Guidance, it would seem appropriate that this transfer occur at no cost to the Department of Health. The land in question is marked on Attachment A.
5. Before any recommendation can be made to approve the excision of a portion of the State School Reserve R.650, I seek your comments on any concerns you may have regarding such a decision.

  
N.J. CHRISTIE  
Director  
Division of Facilities  
25 May 1990

ATTACHMENT A

BRISBANE CENTRAL STATE SCHOOL AND  
INSTITUTE OF CHILD GUIDANCE

AREA OF LAND TO EXCISE



① Is there an Ed. Dept rule or "principle" or whatever which says there should be "x" sq. metres / pupil - to account for adequate recreation & sport?

B.C.S.S. really has no sports ground. What could be done in the

<sup>Comparative</sup>  
<sup>substantial</sup>  
② Part of grounds outside the proposed extension are used for teaching (Environmental area). Part is given over to Dental Clinic?

Enrolments continue to grow - perhaps one could talk about "emerging professional & technical issues" ~~as~~ as being (from an educational viewpoint) justification for throwing the Health Dept out & reclaiming the bottom land for school use!

③ para 3 is really a load of gobble-geek! How can possible structural deficiencies be part of emerging professional & technical issues?

argued they have white ants in the beams.



- ④ What difficulties do they face in planning "expenditure strategies". Health Dept. <sup>Divisions</sup> generally either grossly overspend or grossly underspend.  $\int$   $\&$
- ⑤ Check enrolment forecasts. Is not school growing again; new housing in area; people coming back.
- ⑥ If you can't beat them - try to compromise & cut the area down. It looks as if they want plenty of off street parking.

Released under the  
RTI Act by DETE

(Date) 5th June, 1990

(No. of School) 01/0207

(Name of Writer) V.J. Fawcett

(State or Provisional) State

School Brisbane Central

(Nearest Post Town) Brisbane

(Subject matter of Letter) Excision of land R560 for Child Guidance

(Reference Number of Previous Correspondence)

Sir,

An official transfer of a portion of the Brisbane Central State School (R560) to the Department of Health still presents difficulties.

Enrolments at the Brisbane Central State School have increased by nearly 50% since the figure quoted for February 1989. They currently stand at 83 and with the increase in the value and desirability of local residential property are expected to rise further.

Increased enrolments raise demand both for class-room and recreational space. This may necessitate reclamation of that portion already informally ceded.

A substantial section of the grounds not already occupied by buildings is used for teaching. Environmental studies are an important part of the general curriculum. For such studies to be effective a planned, managed area within a secured perimeter is essential. The grounds at present provide this.

This is an area of the city where young residents do not have easy access to wide, open playing space so that the green lung provided by the school grounds is vital to the health of the youngsters.

Accordingly, my recommendation is that the 'status Quo' be maintained.

Yours faithfully,

V.J. FAWCETT

Principal

(Date) 08.06.90

(No. of School) 01/0207

(Name of Writer) V.J. Fawcett

(State or Provisional) State

School Brisbane Central

(Nearest Post Town) Brisbane

(Subject matter of Letter) Excision of land R560 for Child guidance

(Reference Number of Previous Correspondence) WJH:jmk:CPLAN  
CHILD2.GDE of 25 May 90

Sir,

The official transfer of a portion of the Brisbane Central State School land and associated building to the Department of Health as recommended per the Reference presents difficulties.

The arguments offered at the Reference, justifying the transfer on falling attendance numbers, are no longer valid as enrolments at the Brisbane Central State School have increased by nearly 50% since the figures quoted for February 1989. The current enrolment stands at 83 and is expected to rise further over the next several years. This is due to the revitalization of the inner city, increase in value and desirability of local residential property and the economy driven, forced return to the workforce of women, employed within the city, but still with children of school age.

Increased enrolment raises demand both for classrooms and recreational space. This will necessitate reclamation of that portion of the school property already informally ceded.

A substantial section of the grounds, not already occupied by buildings, is used for teaching. Environmental studies are an important and growing part of the general curriculum. For such studies to be effective, a planned, managed area within a secured perimeter is essential. The grounds at present provide this.

It is also essential to this city that significant grassed and treed areas remain. In the words of the Lord Mayor "Think Globally, Act Locally". - (5 June - World Environment Day). This need is compromised by any requirement to construct further school accommodation rather than reoccupying the ceded land and building for school use.

Accordingly it is recommended that the 'status quo' be maintained in the expectation that the area occupied by the Institute of Child Guidance will probably be required by the Department of Education.

Yours faithfully,

V.J. FAWCETT  
Principal