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Ringwood Borough Council Meeting

1. 12. 1938

The Case for Higher Education
in Ringwood.

Presented by.

D. V. Dungey
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The Case for Higher Education in Ringwood

Prelude.

For many years past it has been felt by a large section of the Community that better facilities for advanced education at a minimum cost be available for the pupils attending the schools in and around Ringwood. Previously it had been made a plank of the platform of Candidates for the Borough and it is to be regretted that for some unforeseen circumstances the matter was never considered.

However His Worship, the Mayor, C. J. McCaskill, has seen fit to again raise the question, and he called, on 21st ult., a meeting of Head Teachers and representatives of School Committees to discuss the matter.

This is highly commendable.

After a long discussion it was decided unanimously "that the time was opportune for the establishment of some form of Secondary education in Ringwood", and a Committee consisting of Messrs. D. V. Dungey, H. J. Ringwood, J. F. Maher, H. J., Ringwood East, and E. C. Garing, H. J., Ringwood North, be appointed to present a case covering the above motion, and wait on the Council as a deputation and to advise.

Much consideration has been given by this Committee to this vital matter and after having met and fully discussed all
all

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points governing the position the following facts are presented for your guidance and earnest consideration. Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen we now submit these particulars bearing chiefly on the object of our visit.

1. Type of School:

Bearing in mind many points brought forward by teachers and others at the meeting we feel that "Central Classes" was thought to be the best type of school to be incorporated in the Ringwood Centre. Therefore we recommend that Central Classes be the aim of any effort by this Council or of any other section of the Community. In support of this the points are shown in sequence and in brief.

1. Central Classes ∴ (a) minimum of cost. (b) room available (c) continuity of education in primary plus secondary subjects. (d) Can be easily extended in scope to the following ∴ dual purpose, higher elementary high &c (e) Continuity is still maintained for the child's future secondary education.

2. What are Central Classes?

- (a) These are for pupils from Grades VI to VIII primary plus secondary subjects as languages, higher maths, Science, applied Art.
- (b) It is a cheaper form of part secondary education. Why? Because 7th & 8th grades become F and E forms covering a higher standard.

Schools affected.

As Ringwood is a railway junction with a good train service and outlying bus services we feel that Ringwood is in an ideal position to supply a community want at a minimum cost and at the same time is a link with secondary education at Lilydale, Box Hill and Upwey.

We consider from the unanimous decision of the recent meeting attended by head teachers that most, if not all, will take advantage of the facilities provided by the Ringwood Centre.

It is estimated that approximately 2000 (two thousand) children are attending the near primary schools of this district and a conservative estimate is given of 5% of pupils of these schools would take advantage if opportunities were available. It is therefore considered that about 100 children would be enrolled in Ringwood Central Classes.

Present Conditions regarding entrance of pupils to High, Technical, Higher Elem. Schools which would not apply to Central Classes.

A very important feature in connexion with the entrance of pupils from primary schools to any of the above is that pupils invariably have to pass an entrance examination because limitations of available space, thus those failing cannot participate in opportunities of secondary education. This, Gentlemen, is a vital factor affecting some pupils.

Conveyance of Pupils

Ringwood is a railway junction with branch lines to Croydon and Fern Tree Gully. This affects the following schools :- Ringwood East 8.30 train Croydon 8.56. Boronia 8.55 Baywater 8/30. Baywater North 8.30. Mitcham 8/30 Vermont 8/30 Forest Hill 8/45 Waverley - cycle.

Bus services from Waverley, Waverley Sth and Ringwood North and a proposed bus service from Croydon North to Ringwood is almost assured.

Although these services are shown for your information still it is considered by this deputation that, as all of these schools are within a radius of approximately 5 miles it would not be too great a burden for pupils to cycle to Ringwood and in bad weather other services are available.

This again suggests a limited cost to parents for higher education.

Cost to Borough Council and/or the community.

An important feature that will naturally affect the Council and/or the community has been seriously considered. In view of the particular type of school recommended there should be no drain on the resources of this Borough or of the community, although it is felt that the Borough and community in general should always feel a responsibility in regard to such a vital matter of education in its boundaries and as a national question.

This deputation is very proud of the fact that it has had an opportunity of meeting this Council to present a case

for higher education in Ringwood, and we feel that the Borough and its representatives should feel privileged to be able to advance any cause for a better system of education in their locality.

The Borough of Ringwood must ^{feel} its want, and the fact that facilities for higher education have not been available to its own children should stir all to action, and therefore with the incorporation of Central Classes the status of the Borough must be enhanced; and thus it is discreetly suggested that with such a system available a possible increase in the population will result.

Ringwood will be better able to play its part as an educational Centre and the training of the boys and girls under such local conditions must have some influence on making better Ringwood and District Citizens of the future. ; therefore Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen we commend this project to you and we earnestly recommend that the matter be considered such a vital one to the community that it deserves your best endeavours to see that this be instituted in Ringwood at the earliest possible moment.

We desire to express our appreciation to you for your attention and we do trust that Ringwood will boast a system of better education as a result of your endeavours.

(Sgd.) D. V. Dungey
J. F. Maher
E. C. Garing