

To: Chairman, Panel on Education, Legislative Council

From: Paul Dodds, Parent Representative from Lantau International School

Date: 7 Feb 2011

**Lantau International School Parents' Position**  
**regarding "Provision of school places in South Lantau"**

**Education Panel, Legislative Council, 14 February, 2011**

Dear Chairman,

Regarding the captioned subject, **we strongly object to the Education Bureau's exclusion of student numbers from our school and expatriate families in their calculation for the provision of school places in South Lantau.**

1. Demand for LIS places has increased sharply in recent years. The school has expanded to 2 classes (44 students). Every year, over 100 applications for P.1 classes are on our waiting list which closed long ago. Average waiting time: 2-3 years.
2. The school will reach its full capacity in 2013 with 264 students. This fact alone speaks for itself.
3. Most of the local kindergartens are full and have waiting lists. Where will these children go in the future?
4. Over 90% of P.6 graduates apply for secondary places at YMCA Christian College, Tung Chung, the only English-medium school within reasonable traveling distance on South Lantau. However, YMCA is over-subscribed by 100%. Over 300 applications were received for 160 places. Some of our children have not been granted a place this year and parents' are extremely worried. **With our growing student number, the shortage of places will become worse**, not to mention those who failed to get into P1 in the first instance.
5. Children turned away from LIS and Tung Chung have limited options; ESF/international schools for the South Lantau catchment area are either:
  - a. **all** full;
  - b. fees (and debentures) are too high; a good proportion of our parents cannot afford high school fees;
  - c. locations too far away from home (3-4 hours commuting)
6. Most LIS parents prefer local school (English-medium) for

- a. Affordability
  - b. Proximity
  - c. Socialization into the Chinese community
7. LIS parents fully support the reopening of the New Territories Heung Yee Kuk Southern District Secondary School (SDSS). **16 of the 23 P.6 students (nearly 70%) have applied for the school through the pre-registration exercise.** This shows a good proposition of our parents believe that SDSS is potentially capable to provide the much needed English-medium of instruction places for our children.
8. We urge the EDB to:
- a. Recount student numbers, including non-Chinese speaking children who are currently **missed** in the EDB's calculation.
  - b. Reassess the demand for government-subsidized secondary school places by non-Chinese speaking children; provide information for the Secondary School Allocation of Places timely.
  - c. Respect LIS parents' choice for a local English-medium secondary school **near home**.
  - d. Reopen SDSS for the multicultural community of South Lantau without further delay.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Dodds  
Parent Representative,  
Lantau International School