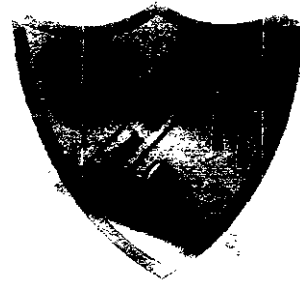


Llantrisant County Primary School
Cwm yr Esgob
Llantrisant
CF72 8EL



Tel/Fax: 01443 237829
Admin.llantrisantpri@rctodnet.net
Head Teacher: Mr. Mike Emanuel

18th December 2007.

FAO Dr. Kathryn Jenkins
Clerk to the Committee
Assembly Parliamentary Service
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Dr. Jenkins,

Please consider the following views in relation to school funding:-

1. School Funding Process

Understanding the processes is one issue, however the most important question is the suitability of the process. It is unsuitable because it is difficult for anyone to identify where the problem with underfunding lies. Each level of decision makers within the process is able to pass blame for responsibility for underfunding on to a different level. This is the main problem. ~~If there was a consistent funding strategy throughout Wales and schools were funded in the same way where ever they were, through a needs base, and not a formula based principle, the true nature of any funding problem could then be identified and either addressed or strategies changed to make them realistic within funding constraints.~~

2. Access to Information

The information needed is an accurate three year budget prediction so that planning for resources can be put in place. It is necessary to know how much money will be available, after basic staffing requirements are met, in order to allocate support strategies and resources, as well as staffing the day to day running of the school and caretaking and cleaning issues.

3. Additional Funding

All additional funding sources are welcome as budgets are always tight. However, if this money was planned and targetted better through a whole Wales strategy, again with certainty over three years, schools would not need to be responding to last minute initiatives, but could plan the money even better to be effective over the timescale of its availability. The RAISE funding for example, unrealistically expects these strategies to remain in place once the funding has ceased. Is this a realistic expectation?

4. Investment in School Buildings

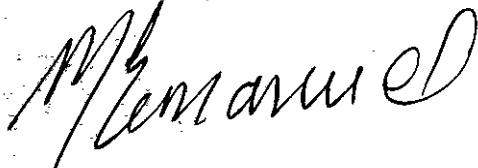
Currently a local responsibility but reliant on funds from the Welsh Assembly Government. A whole Wales audit of school buildings needs to take place and the worst buildings replaced wherever they are. This means some authorities get more than others, but it is the children in

the worst buildings who should be prioritised and the facilities they have should not be decided on a post code lottery.

5. School Budget Fora

In principle these are a good idea. The fact that each LEA has a different funding formula cannot help with consistency for these committees.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Emanuel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Mike Emanuel
Head Teacher.