

Wed, Nov 13, 2024

Dear PS Smith,

On behalf of the PTA of St. George's Preparatory School, we are reaching out to express our concerns to the Education Reform Unit and the Ministry of Education regarding recent developments. We feel that the goal of collaboration has not been fully realized in this process.

Our parent body is extremely concerned about the recent announcement that St. George's Preparatory will no longer have a P1 class starting from the 2025-2026 academic year. This decision was made without consultation, despite our previously communicated understanding that the school would remain open until the full transition to the new St. George's Parish School is complete.

Furthermore, the presentation provided lacked essential details and clarity. We are also disappointed that our Principal was tasked with delivering this limited information without adequate support from the ERU or Ministry.

We have prepared a list of questions and concerns and respectfully request a meeting with representatives from both the Ministry and the ERU before November 18. We also ask for a written response to these questions and an offer of a meeting by November 15. Should we not receive a response, we may need to explore other avenues to ensure our concerns are heard.

Here are our current questions and concerns:

1. Does any legislation need to be passed before you can close a P1 or make any of the other intended changes for the 2025/2026 school year? What legislation do you intend to pass and when?
2. What 'collaborative' work, which was promised multiple times, has been done before this decision was made?
3. Will students be forced to relocate to complete construction to transform East End Primary into a Parish Primary School?
 1. If so, what will the plan be for that period, and when is it expected to happen?
 2. If students are not to be relocated, and construction is in progress while school is in session, will all workers be SCARS trained, have background checks completed, and any other requirements that would be typical of staff at a primary school?
4. The Ministry has previously expressed an unwillingness to invest public funds in privately held land as a major factor in the selection of East End Primary over St. George's Preparatory as the location for St. George's Parish Primary School. Why did the ministry provide no response to the Trustees' offer to deed the property to the government to overcome this challenge?
5. How did you communicate to all parents of incoming P1 students with the change of options with enough time to change plans if needed?

6. When will P7 and P8 at St. David's Primary be available as an option for residents of St. George's?
7. What are the projected spaces at FPP and HSP for p7 for 2025 and 2026? How are spaces allocated?
8. Why was there no representative from the Education Reform Unit or Ministry of Education in attendance to present this material to our school community and respond to questions and concerns?
9. Why was it decided that a school with extremely low levels of enrollment registration should be a priority over a school with enrollment that has consistently been at or beyond capacity (as limited by your administration)?
10. Can you confirm that Elliot School is no longer part of the Eastern area for the purposes of selecting possible schools for our children?
11. The lack of intake for P1s is going to force families to have children at multiple schools.
 1. How is this serving your mission of being supportive of the community?
 2. How do you plan to sport families with students in two schools, PTA meetings, teacher nights, concerts, field days?
12. Has a closure date been decided for St. George's Prep, or will the government keep denying incoming classes until the current P1 class graduates?
13. What have you learned from the process of "opening" the Parish Primary Schools to date in terms of the structure of education reform, construction process, soliciting and implementing teacher and family feedback, or any other learnings?
 1. Having these learnings, how are you changing your course of action to support our children, families, teachers, staff, and communities?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your timely response.

St. George's Prep PTA

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St. George's Preparatory School PTA

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