



**Government  
of South Australia**

TRS20D1919

Hon Tammy Franks MLC  
Parliament House  
North Terrace  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

**Treasurer**  
Level 8  
State Administration Centre  
200 Victoria Square  
Adelaide SA 5000  
GPO Box 2264  
Adelaide SA 5001  
DX 56203 Victoria Square  
Tel 08 8226 1866  
treasurer.dtf@sa.gov.au

[franks.office@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:franks.office@parliament.sa.gov.au)

*Tammy*  
Dear Ms Franks

**APPLICATION UNDER THE *FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1991***

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act), dated 11 June 2020.

Your application seeks access to:

*"Copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to hard copies or electronic briefings, minutes, reports, emails, letters, meeting agendas, diary entries and any other correspondence) held by the Treasurer and/or Treasurer's office staff regarding Springbank Secondary College from and to dates: 18 March 2018 to 11 June 2020."*

The legislative prescribed timeframe to determine this application has expired and is now deemed to have refused you access to all documents relevant to your application. However, I have determined to process the request as if the statutory timeframe had been met.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of my determination. An extensive search was conducted within this office. A total of 11 documents were identified as answering the terms of your application.

I grant you access in full to 4 documents; copies of which are enclosed.  
I grant you access in part to 6 documents, copies of which are enclosed.  
I refuse you access to 1 document.

**Released in Full**

Document 1, 2, 5 and 10.

**Released in Part**

Document 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

Documents 3, 4, 6, and 7 are correspondence from the general public, personal identifying information has been redacted pursuant to clause 6(1) of the Act. Please note that the applicant was also in receipt of documents 6 & 7.

Documents 8 and 9 are a table indexes listing titles of the Treasurer's Pair Parliamentary Briefing Notes, with out of scope information removed.

### **Documents Refused in Full**

Document 11 is a Parliamentary Briefing Note which was prepared specifically for use in Parliament, the disclosure of which would infringe the privilege of Parliament. I have therefore determined exempt this document in full pursuant to clause 17(c) of Schedule 1 to the Act.

### **Exemptions**

#### **Clause 6 – Documents affecting personal affairs**

- (1) *A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person.*

#### **17—Documents subject to contempt etc**

*A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the public disclosure of which would, but for any immunity of the Crown—*

- (a) constitute contempt of court; or*
- (b) contravene any order or direction of a person or body having power to receive evidence on oath; or*
- (c) infringe the privilege of Parliament.*

Please note, in compliance with Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045 - *Disclosure Logs for Non-Personal Information Released through Freedom of Information* (PC045), the Department of Treasury and Finance is now required to publish a log of all non-personal information released under the Act.

In accordance with this Circular, any non-personal information determined for release as part of this application, may be published on the DTF website. A copy of PC045 can be found at the following address: <https://dpc.sa.gov.au/resources-and-publications/premier-and-cabinet-circulars>. Please visit the website for further information.

As I am determining this application as Principal Officer, section 29(6) of the Act does not provide for an internal review. If you are dissatisfied with my determination you are entitled to exercise your rights of external review with the Ombudsman.

Alternatively, you can apply to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. If you wish to seek a review, section 39(3) of the Act states you must do so within 30 calendar days of receiving the determination.

If you require any further information, please contact Vicky Cathro on (08) 8226 9769.

Yours sincerely



**Hon Rob Lucas MLC**  
*Principal Officer*

23 July 2020



RELEASE



**CarolynPower** MP  
MEMBER FOR ELDER



Our Reference: 200513

Hon Rob Lucas MLC  
Treasurer  
GPO Box 2264  
ADELAIDE 5001

By Email: [treasurer.dtf@sa.gov.au](mailto:treasurer.dtf@sa.gov.au)

Dear Treasurer

I am writing on behalf of Ms Carolyn Boyd regarding the Springbank Secondary College Review.

Ms Boyd contacted me to share her strong views in favour of Springbank Secondary College and asked that I write to you, and the Minister for Education, on her behalf.

Please find attached a copy of her submission to the Independent Review Panel for your consideration. Her submission outlines her views regarding both the school and review.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

**CAROLYN POWER MP**  
Member for Elder

11 June 2020

Enc Submission from Ms Carolyn Boyd regarding the Springbank Secondary College Review





Ms Terry Sizer  
Presiding Member  
Springbank Educational Review Panel  
Level 10, 31 Finders St  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

By email: [Education.SouthMetroReview@sa.gov.au](mailto:Education.SouthMetroReview@sa.gov.au)

Dear Independent Panel Members,

**I write to ask you to keep Springbank Secondary College open.**

**I request my full submission be provided to all panel members and I give permission for all panel members to read my submission in full.**

I am a mum of three children aged 3-13 living in the Springbank Secondary College zone. Two of my children attend Edwardstown Primary School and the third is due to start in 2022.

I ask the panel to make the following recommendations to the Minister for Education:

1. Retain Springbank Secondary College as a co-educational high school for mainstream children and children with disabilities
2. Declare a shared zone with Unley High School to provide families in the area with genuine choice between a large school of up to 1700 students and a smaller school of up to 450 students at its present capacity.
3. Invest the 2020-21 budgeted \$10m to upgrade Springbank Secondary College, funds that have been promised since late 2017.
4. Capitalise on the positive momentum and community spirit that the review has created and work with the school to strengthen community links and swiftly launch a local marketing campaign to promote the school.

**I note the current review process reneges on a commitment by the current Education Minister to keep the school open. The commitment was provided in multiple ways, as far back as 2016 when he asked this question of the then Education Minister ...**

Search

<https://hansardpublic.parliament.sa.gov.au/Pages/HansardResult.a...>

## **SCHOOL AMALGAMATIONS**

**Mr GARDNER ( Morialta ) ( 15:13 ):** My question is to the Minister for Education and Child Development. Will the government give a commitment to parents at Pasadena High School that, if they vote to keep their school open, the government will ensure it stays open?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE ( Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for Higher Education and Skills ) ( 15:13 ):** Yes, I will. The idea of amalgamations in the process we are going through is that it is a voluntary process. If either Unley or Pasadena votes no in the current process, then we will accept that. Obviously, there may be circumstances in the future, such as zero enrolment, which would jeopardise that, but I am absolutely clear that this amalgamation process is a voluntary one. If parents at Pasadena or parents at Unley are not willing to go forward with it, then the power sits with them. They get to make that decision.

And as recently as last year:



**Government  
of South Australia**

Hon John Gardner MP  
Member for Morialta

19ME0507

Ms Carolyn Boyd  
138 Caulfield Avenue  
CLARENCE GARDENS SA 5039

Dear Ms Boyd

Thank you for your email dated 4 March 2019, regarding Springbank Secondary College.

It is pleasing to read your positive feedback about the rebranding of the school, and the school's review of its curriculum to focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM), through engagement with Flinders University and the Australian Science and Mathematics School.

The \$10m capital works upgrade for Springbank Secondary College, which is still in its early stages, will provide a great opportunity to modernise the school's facilities. This funding represents a significant investment and commitment to the school and its business plan. The upgrade is being developed in close consultation between the Department for Education and the school, and in line with the school's business plan.

The school is currently implementing its business plan to meet strategic milestones set over 2018 and 2019, which include developing personalised learning methods for all year 8 to 12 students, timetable and organisation redesigns, developing STEAM learning pedagogy and establishing a basketball academy with Flinders University and Basketball SA. Reaching these milestones will establish a strong foundation for Springbank Secondary College for the future.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention, and I wish your children all the best for their future schooling.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Gardner".

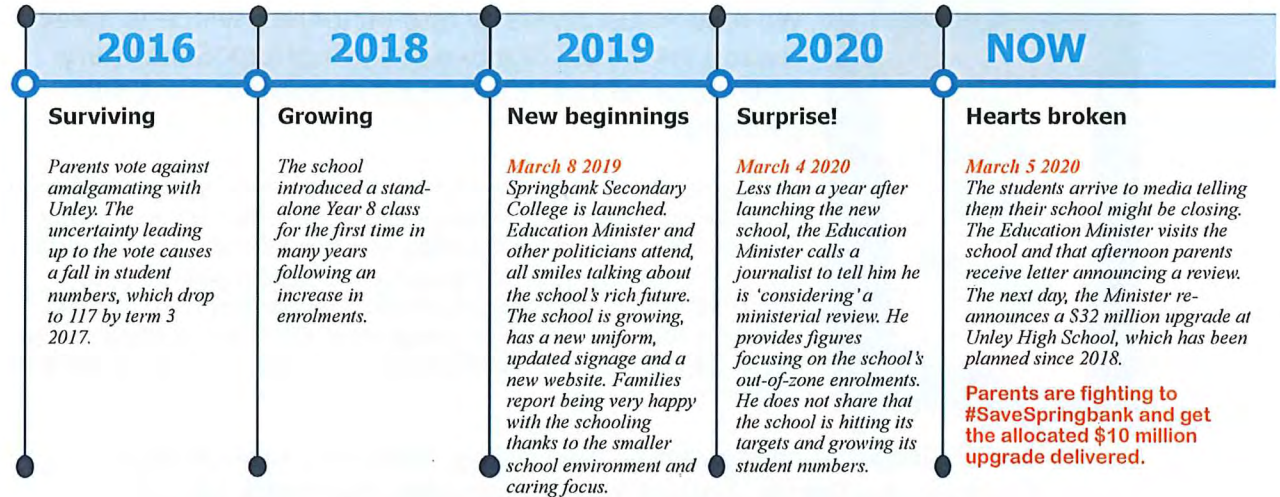
Hon John Gardner MP  
Minister for Education

1 April 2019



# Springbank's recent history

*The little school that could*





### **A diverse school experience**

As a family we value education extremely highly. We see education as our children's key to their future and we work each day to instil this same passion in our children – to take up as many opportunities as they can, to achieve as best they can, and to understand and appreciate that we live in a very fortunate country.



**We also value diversity and inclusion, which is a key reason we would like to see Springbank Secondary College provided time and investment to continue growing.**

We are very familiar with the diverse offerings at Springbank, including the inclusion of students along a sliding scale a disability in both the "unit" and the "mainstream" cohorts. Our two older children (aged 13 and 11) have already had the good fortune to be a part of this as basketball umpires at Pasadena Stadium where they have umpired dozens of after-school games alongside students with disabilities who attend Springbank Secondary College who are also being trained and employed as umpires.

**Our children do not have any disabilities. They are "mainstream". However, having the opportunity to complete their high school education side-by-side those with varying abilities is a rare chance to help them develop the diversity and inclusion skills and understanding that will stand them in good stead in adult life, and in the workplace in particular. We welcome this opportunity.**

### **Local school options that reduces traffic and increase exercise**

We appreciate the opportunity for our children to walk or cycle to their local school. Currently they walk to and from their primary school each day and from this gain exercise, build friendships with the local children and also do not add to the significant morning and afternoon peak transport and parking challenges.





## Addressing subject choices

***“They’ve got barista courses, astronomy course and a range of jewellery courses.”***

- *Treasurer Rob Lucas, ABC Radio, Tuesday May 26 2020 speaking about the courses that bigger schools, such as Adelaide High School, can offer their students.*

We have been bemused to hear over and over about the lack of subject choices available at Springbank Secondary College. The Treasurer Rob Lucas spoke on ABC Radio just this week about Springbank – calling the school Springfield, from *The Simpsons* - and highlighted that other schools attract students as they can offer jewellery, astronomy and barista courses.

**Say what? Geography? Maths? Science? English? Drama? Arts? Music? These are the courses I wish my children to be able to access in high school.**

While, as the current president of a little athletics centre and a hard-working volunteer at a local football club, I highly value the importance of extra-curriculum activities, if I need my children to learn how to make a decent coffee I can teach them at home, if they desire to thread some beads on a necklace, they can check out YouTube or take up one of the very fine community courses offered by the City of Mitcham Community Centres. During COVID we’ve also all had our eyes open to the opportunities to learn online and there is enormous potential for our schools to work together to offer subjects to students from neighbouring schools when needed.

**Treasurer Rob Lucas puts jewellery courses ahead of an inclusive education for students with disabilities.**



And astronomy. Well Springbank does offer that from time to time and can also work closely with the neighbouring school Hamilton Secondary College, which is building a very fine space school addition.

Let’s put aside the silliness of Rob Lucas’s public comments for a moment – not to mention the inappropriateness of the government wheeling out the Treasurer to take on a parent on ABC Radio twice in one week (May 19 and May 26 2020) where he consistently talked the school down to try to backflip on spending \$10m and free the land up for sale – Springbank does offer a range a suitable additional options through its own courses and community links, including the basketball program, ice hockey, music, arts, drama and the access to the Trade Training Centre for selected students. All of these are ripe for further development.

My children both play district basketball and both umpire. They see the basketball program as an opportunity to lay the foundations for careers in the health sciences area. They are considering attending Springbank first and then applying to the Australian Science and Mathematics School for their senior years.

Please don’t take that opportunity away from them.





### A marketing opportunity in the waiting

If there is one upside to this review, it is the strong interest created in Springbank. Through countless of personal conversations, social media, email interactions and stories in the mainstream media including The Advertiser, Fiveaa, ABC Radio and the television news stations, community members have been learning the school is small, inclusive and able to look out for each of its students – the very things many people seek in an educational setting.

Unfortunately, despite the good work going on inside the school and the impressive re-branding and smart looking new uniform, many local families have not had the opportunity to hear the positives of the school. There has been a remarkable lack of marketing of the school.

We clearly recall when Plympton International College was relaunched in 2017/18 there were beautifully designed bus station advertisements displayed throughout inner Adelaide, including along Greenhill Road, accompanied by equally appealing newspaper ads. Plympton's positive branding has continued and we can see Plympton's student numbers climbing, propelled by its marketing.

Year	Number of Students at Plympton
2014	423
2015	384
2016	372
2017	398
2018	414
2019	506

Source: MySchool



We welcome families to experience our College community

**OPEN DAY**  
Wednesday 25th March 2020

College Day Tours:  
9.15 am Primary and Secondary tours  
11.00 am Secondary tour

Open Evening:  
5.00 pm - 7.00 pm Showcase of Learning, includes student led guided tours showcasing facilities and principal address.

Plympton International College provides a high quality education from Reception to year 12 and has become a school of choice.

21A Errington St, Plympton 5038  
Phone: (08) 8297 0488 www.plymptoncollege.sa.edu.au

Government of South Australia  
Department for Education



**OPEN DAY**  
Wednesday 25th March 2020

College Tours:  
9.15 am Primary and Secondary tours  
11.00 am Secondary tour

Open Evening:  
5.00 pm - 7.00 pm Showcase of Learning  
Register Online

**A capital upgrade coming ... that will be THE VOTE of confidence the community needs**

When the government announced in October 2017 that the school would receive a \$10 million upgrade many locals sighed with relief.

**We were finally seeing signal that our local high school was here to stay – meaning we could, once the upgrade had been completed, confidently enrol our children.**

Local parents say they want to see an upgrade before they enrol as it is evidence the school will remain open and be invested in. The constant rumours of closure have dragged down enrolment numbers, as evidenced by this comment in the *Unley Pasadena Amalgamation Feasibility Report* from June 2016

*"Rumours in regards to the school's future have been circulating for many years and believed to be a contributing factor to the enrolment decline."*

- Unley Pasadena Amalgamation Feasibility Report from June 2016, Prepared by: THOMSON ROSSI

It is time to put a stop to those rumours once and for all. The \$10 million should be spent in 2020 and is ready to be spent, as confirmed in writing by Carolyn Power, MP on Sunday May 24 2020 when she wrote to parent to say:

*"I can confirm there is a \$10 million commitment for capital infrastructure upgrades for Springbank Secondary College in the budget, scheduled for release during this year. That project will be delivered if the school remains open ... and I am sure you will be pleased to know that those funds remain allocated in the budget as per original plans."*

-Carolyn Power, MP, Email, 24 May 2020 at 3:47:18 pm ACST

The \$10 million is much more than building works. It is a concrete statement that Springbank Secondary College has a future. It brings substance to the words used by the Education Minister, John Gardner in his 2019 social media post below.

We note the social media post was just one year before the Minister's office phoned a journalist at The Advertiser to drop that a review was likely – before even telling the school. Sadly, as a non school parent, I knew about the review before the parents at the school, as I was then called for comment as a local parent in the area.





## Support from the Minister

The lack of paid marketing support at the school is not the only marketing challenge.

Another is a lack of visible support from the current Education Minister.

I ask the review panel to recommend the Minister includes supporting the school by visiting more often for positive occasions and endorsing it more often in his social media campaign plans.

Let's compare, visually, how many posts Minister Gardner has posted on his Facebook feed in recent years about the Springbank

**SPRINGBANK = 2. One in 2016. One in 2019. A long time in between and nothing since.**



**UNLEY (NON COVID RELATED) = 5. Relatively consistent support.**



## Statistics and all that spin

*"When it has come to the issue of Springbank Secondary College there have been lies, damned lies and government statistics. This school was told of this review, not actually by press release as the Hon. Frank Pangallo noted, but by a press conference held at their school. They woke up to see on the front page of the newspaper that this review had been announced, having microphones shoved into the face of children at the school, creating great anxiety, creating great distress and citing some figures which have just been repeated here today about a lack of choice for those in the zone."*



**- The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (17:41) Hansard, 8 April 2020**

A consistent line that has been used about Springbank to support this review is the low in-zone figures. It is clear to me, as a journalist of many years, the government chose this angle to justify backflipping on spending \$10 million to upgrade a unique, small school because the alternative stat - and the truth - that closing a small unique school that is GROWING was not as palatable to the electorate.

Schools are entitled to accept students from out of their zone. And relatively speaking, both Unley and Springbank have high out of zone enrolments. This should be a testament to their ability to attract students from further afield. They should not be punished for it and threatened with closure two years into a five-year turnaround plan that just a year ago the Minister and the local member publicly endorsed while posing for selfies and speaking in parliament.

2018 Comparison of the out of zone enrolments, Wednesday July 24, 2019.

Source: Figures obtained by the ABC under Freedom of Information Application

**FACT: Unley has one of the highest percentages of student from outside its zone in South Australia**

School: Unley High School
Total enrolment: 1191
Not in zone: 927
Percent outside zone: 77.8%

School: Pasadena High School
Total enrolment: 134
Not in zone: 84
Percent outside zone: 62.7%



### Stabbed in the back

As a close observer of the school, I firmly believe there is a key reason the school has not grown as strongly as it could since 2016. **Trust. And now that trust has been breached and hearts have been broken.**

Believing they had time to get their ducks in a row and complete a \$10m upgrade before embarking on a large enrolment push, the school leadership team was lulled into a false sense of security.

Being process driven, and admirably wanting to do things the right way, the present principal Wendy House understandably believed she had the backing of the Minister – and the time needed – to get this right, step by step. And why wouldn't she? Just 12 months ago the Minister came along to relaunch the school and the local member Carolyn Power MP presented a multi-page speech to parliament talking of its bright future.

**Springbank's \$10m upgrade has been pushed back beyond the original plan, with the Minister advising the delay was to prepare sites for year 7s into high school.**

I insert a copy of a letter I received on October 31 2019 from John Gardner regarding the timing of the upgrade after I wrote to him expressing concern:

Reference No. 19ME2364

SA SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Hon John Gardner MP  
Member for Morialta

Ms Carolyn Boyd  
138 Caulfield Avenue  
CLARENCE GARDENS SA 5039

Dear Ms Boyd

Thank you for your email dated 15 October 2019, in relation to the Springbank Secondary College redevelopment and why the project is not included in the list of education projects in the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure's (DPTI) 'Forward Work Plan – Major Programs 2022' document.

The Department for Education has advised that in order to deliver priority projects in readiness for the year 7 transition to high school in 2022, there are three rounds in the capital works program in which funding will be provided. I understand that the Springbank Secondary College project is scheduled to be delivered in round three of the program.

I am advised that DPTI's forward work plan only lists projects that have already entered the planning phase, which includes all round one and the majority of round two projects. I note that planning for round three projects is scheduled to commence in mid-2020.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me again in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely



Hon John Gardner MP  
Minister for Education

31 October 2019

### And let's address the elephant in the room, the likes of Jimbo, the teacher from Unley High School ...

The Springbank students already have a school that is growing and meeting their needs. It has a bright future, especially with a \$10 million upgrade already sitting in the state budget waiting to be spent before Christmas. The Minister himself, and our local Liberal MP, have both repeatedly said so.

The students should not be forced to go to Unley High School, where despite some very fine teaching staff, we have attitudes like this, where a teacher – Jim DeGregorio - feels he can trash the neighbouring school on Facebook while the parents are fighting to keep it open. Jim provided this very helpful "recommendation" just a couple of months ago.



**Jimbo Jones** ★ doesn't recommend Friends of Springbank Secondary College.

39 mins · 🌐

This is a small minority group desperately trying to stand in the way of progress. They want the same funds and space for 100 students as a school that has 1200 students - totally unrealistic

### And the parents who have been led to believe they are locked out of Unley and Springbank is to blame ...

From a marketing stand point, a key driver of the school's reputation among parents is that they feel locked out of the Unley zone.

This is patently untrue as we know 78% of Unley students are out of zone and come from a wide area, including the Adelaide hills and the Plympton and Hamilton zones.

**While it may seem counterintuitive, retaining Springbank and declaring a shared zone will actually support the marketing of Springbank Secondary College.**

Declaring a shared Springbank – Unley zone while continuing to expand Unley to 1700 students will remove this barrier. It will remove the anxiety parents feel over school choice (smaller versus bigger) and let them look at all their schooling options with open eyes. It will also end the "school wars" and enable both schools to work more openly together – as we already know they do in the background.

Springbank does not need families to be locked into its zone to grow. Just like Urrbrae and Mitcham Girls it can drive its own reputation and identity – if given the time to do so. It just needs the time. It has already shaken off its reputation of past – it is a different school. People know that. I know that they know that from supporting the school in both 2016 and now – the reaction to this campaign is vastly different to 2016. The concerns over past reputation have been replaced with pride for this small, inclusive school. And as a deep recession looms on the horizon, current private school parents are looking at Springbank as it offers something different.

The Minister can aid this growth by telling the community that, in fact, the review uncovered some important outcomes at Springbank and the school is well worth retaining. He does not need to close the school. All stripes of politics have said they want the school to remain, including Labor and the Greens. So the Minister would be making a politically popular decision.

We could then progress on and invite the Minister to the school, where our families would welcome him with open arms.

A attach overleaf some Hansard from parliament, which I ask that each panel member is provided to read.

Yours sincerely,

Carolyn Boyd  
138 Caulfield Avenue  
Clarence Gardens, SA 5039



HANSARD from Carolyn Power MP,  
March 2019

#### **SPRINGBANK SECONDARY COLLEGE**

**Mrs POWER (Elder) (15:36):** I rise today to talk about an important school in my electorate, Springbank Secondary

College, and its recent transformation. Opened in 1965 as Daws Road High School, the school underwent a name change in 2002 to what many may know the campus by: Pasadena High School. As Pasadena High School, the school was best known in the community for its great basketball program and its superb support for students with a disability through the Pasadena Disability Unit.

**“I LOOK FORWARD TO  
CONTINUING TO SUPPORT  
THIS IMPORTANT  
AND VALUED SCHOOL.”**

**Carolyn Power, MP  
for Elder, March 2019**

On Friday 8 February, I was delighted to attend the official launch of the new identity of the school as Springbank Secondary College alongside the Minister for Education; the federal member for Boothby; Uncle Tamaru, Aboriginal elder; Mitcham council members; and other key community members. Driven by principal Wendy House, partnerships have been forged between Springbank Secondary College, Flinders University and the Australian Science and Mathematics School with a shared vision to re-create the school as a science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) school.

These partnerships present a great opportunity to demonstrate the value of collaboration with leading-edge, research-informed teaching practice for the 21st century. This is an exciting move for our local community. Principal Wendy House, and the governing council, currently chaired by Mrs Jody Moate, are to be commended for their efforts to reimagine what education can mean for their students at Springbank Secondary College. I would also like to pay special tribute to the previous governing council chair, Helen Shepherdson, whose leadership and hard work were also instrumental in the school's transformation.

When speaking with principal Wendy House, she has been very clear in highlighting that this is not just a new name and a new logo for the school; rather, it reflects a complete overhaul of the school's culture and pedagogy. Springbank Secondary College's new motto, 'Igniting inquisitive imagination', is a strong reference to the new teaching practice and approach to learning now being offered, with themes of creativity, research and forming new ideas and a strong knowledge base.

The redesigned school will look to emphasise learning approaches with a special STEAM focus embedded into the curriculum. Specifically, the school will integrate interdisciplinary curriculum design, inquiry and collaboration, along with research-informed teaching pedagogies, driving innovation, applied knowledge and entrepreneurship to achieve the best possible outcomes for students and to provide opportunities for growth.

Plans to establish a new senior school will enable curriculum choices to be expanded to include arts, design, support, recreation, food and hospitality. In the future, it is envisaged there will be an opportunity for students to prepare for careers and life after school by embedding local industry internships, VET and

school-based apprenticeships as a core component of the new senior school curriculum.

Learning spaces are also set to receive an upgrade to equip the school to support its STEAM curriculum. This will require integrating appropriate digital resources and facilities, colourful, flexible and appealing spaces and flexible furniture that can easily be adapted to meet the learner's needs.

In addition to its academic focus, Springbank Secondary College will also seek to grow its existing sports academy, in particular its special interest basketball program. The new sports academy will be supported through partnerships with Flinders University Sport, Health and Physical Education; the education department; and local sporting bodies, such as Basketball SA and the Sturt Basketball Club.

These partnerships will provide a high-quality program, including sports sciences, strength, conditioning and player management.

The principal, governing council, school staff, students, community members and local residents have all been instrumental in driving this change and new direction for Springbank Secondary College. As technologies evolve and people assume multiple careers in the future and new careers emerge, the school is really equipping its students for careers of the future.

Well done and congratulations to all involved. I look forward to continuing to support this important and valued school community in my electorate as this new school steams ahead.



**Hansard**  
**Susan Close MP**  
**March 5 2020**

What has happened in the last couple of years? They have rebranded, they have a new name, they have a new uniform and they have seen a growth in enrolments. What they have not yet seen is the expenditure of that \$10 million. What they have not yet seen is that money that was given to help them become the school of choice be spent in order to become that school of choice.

They have done work on what facilities they would like and they have cleared the ground in order to have a new facility, which was proudly talked about in one of their recent newsletters, then suddenly the minister decides, 'The school isn't growing fast enough. I'm not happy with this.'

How did he tell them? Did he go and have a conversation? No. He had a conversation with a journalist and made sure it was in the paper. Now he is saying to the school, 'By the way, at the end of the year you're probably going to be gone.' What does that do to the confidence of that school? In here he says, 'There will be a process. It means that we can consult with the community.' What that tells the community is that this school is done. How do you grow enrolments in an environment where you have taken the \$10 million away, you are not putting those facilities in and you are not listening to the people who are already at that school? What does that say?

One of the reasons people valued that school and wanted to see it grow was that it is not as big as some of the others. For some students, that is ideal. I remember while I was waiting to receive the vote from the school community that I received postcards from students at that school saying why it was special to them. A lot of the students in the disability unit told me what a difference that school made to them.

The idea that the person you talk to first is the journalist and you are going to give the story exclusively to that journalist—no call came through for a comment from the opposition, so that is when you know it is an exclusive: 'Just put this out. Just tell that school community when they open up the paper in the morning. Tell them.'

Public education needs the backing of the minister and the government. It needs the backing for the parents, for the students and for the staff, and that requires respect to be shown. This minister has treated this school disgracefully.

## HANSARD : John Gardner, MP, 5 March 2020

It is really important to reiterate, as I have over the last year and a half actually, that the government has confidence and the education department has confidence in the teaching and learning that goes on at Springbank Secondary College.

“The needs of the students at that school and in that community are our absolute priority in any decision that I may take.

“We are giving serious consideration to a school review. Obviously, in the things that were talked about this morning, that was one of the proposals that was put forward for consideration. It is fair to say that the principal and the chair of the governing council had a different view on what was best going forward.

“The whole community's views can be taken into account: a three-month time frame, a process where there are views of the schools potentially impacted in a school review, the communities impacted, the local councils and indeed, as a result of the fact that our legislature remains as it was in relation to this, also the education union. All these stakeholders have a voice in the review, and the process is one that gives the community a voice too.

“The point I am making is that a school review process is actually a very good process in which to engage with the community to flush out and flesh out all potential arrangements that might be available. What we would be seeking if there was a review, one very simple and important thing, is how we best meet the needs of students in this school, students in this community. That is behind anything, any decision that is to be made.

**“There is no driving budget motive here. It is purely a focus on the educational needs of the students. We will ensure that in any determination that is made that is our driving factor and that the needs of those students in this school, in this community—indeed, the needs of students in the primary schools in the local area who are looking at where they are going to go to high school—are met.”**



Hansard

In reply to **Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)**  
(5 March 2020).

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education):** I have been advised of the following:

No amount of the \$10 million funding allocated to Springbank Secondary College has been spent.

Separate from the capital works redevelopment project at Springbank Secondary College, demolition work and minor works have been undertaken at the school. The works included demolition of Building 01 E which was reported in April 2018 as being unsafe to occupy. During the demolition works, asbestos removal was required on multiple occasions. Minor refurbishments to other areas of the school were provided, including a toilet upgrade, painting and carpets. The works were completed in March 2020 with a total cost of \$1,764,734.

HANSARD

8 April 2020

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (17:20)**

Speech to SA parliament

"This government has shown nothing but contempt for the parents, staff and especially the students of the inner southern suburbs since coming to office.

"This is where the lessons of history come back into play: the tales of the Liberal government's agenda to close almost 50 public schools when they were last in government, a process overseen by the now Treasurer, the Hon. Rob Lucas. It took less than a year for the Marshall Liberal government to continue its crusade against the public school assets, moves that again show the Liberal Party's view on public education in South Australia.

"The Friends of the Springbank Secondary College and the Save Springbank campaign, along with the member for Badcoe, Ms Jayne Stinson, are calling for the school to remain open, the \$10 million promised to the school by the previous Labor government to be spent on the planned improvements to the school, and a shared school zone to provide parents and carers a choice about which school is right for their child.

"A shared school zone is of particular merit. Certainly, we have shared school zones in other parts of the state. Springbank and Unley are clearly quite different schools, especially in terms of size but also in terms of focus, and this is an important factor for any parent.

"Establishing a shared school zone is a sensible approach to satisfying those locally zoned families who believe Unley High is better suited to their children's needs, but also to meet the needs of those who believe Springbank is the better option for their child. It is a win-win, and we would very strongly urge the government to look at this option if their intention is to provide quality education, rather than closing a school to save money or even make money from the sale of the land.

"This community deserves better. They deserve to know about important decisions before the media does. They deserve to hear informed decisions from all their local MPs, not just the Liberals. They deserve a say in what the future of their education looks like. Most of all, they deserve a chance to grow their school and see it flourish. That is why Labor is supporting this motion and will continue to support the Springbank Secondary College community in their fight to keep this school open.



HANSARD  
**The Hon. F. PANGALLO**  
8 April 2020

"One parent told me how it has dramatically changed the life of his son: a once troubled boy who avoided school so much that he often refused to leave the vehicle when he was being dropped off. Now he looks forward to it every day. Another student with learning difficulties has responded to the nurturing philosophy espoused by Ms House and her dedicated staff. One child made a poster, which she handed to me

"The students are benefiting from partnerships with Flinders University, the Australian Science and Mathematics School and Basketball SA's academy. The stories I heard that night from parents whose children have had a positive experience that they may not have had at other public schools resonated strongly with me.

"I know what these parents are going through, and they hold legitimate fears that their kids may well fall through the cracks in a larger ... school environment.

"you never take hope away from parents and children. It can destroy confidence. Our public schools are really only now grappling with these complex children with special needs. Springbank is one of them and, by all accounts, is doing exceptionally well in this area. Smaller environments do produce much better outcomes. Experts in this field have confirmed this.

"The education minister, John Gardner, wants to take away all that good work they are doing, reneging on the accolades he was freely handing out in March last year that the school had a rich future with its smaller environment and a caring focus, and there was a promise of a \$10 million upgrade. Fast forward to 4 March this year: without consulting the school community, he announces, by press release, a ministerial review because the school is not hitting its targets and growing student numbers.

"you get the impression the minister has already signed Springbank's death warrant,

"I urge the minister to appreciate the enormous value and good that is happening at Springbank college and give it the time and opportunities to expand on Wendy House's exceptional achievements by abandoning the review.