



Brothers of the Christian Schools (La Salle Brothers) Singapore

Office of the Area Director

Note from Bro Collin Wee, Area Director of Singapore, 31 March 2010

I would like to register the Brothers' appreciation for the passion with which the old boys of St Joseph's Institution (Independent) gathered on Friday 26 March 2010. It takes courage to speak up for what they must have deeply felt in their hearts for their alma mater. The concern for SJI's future was well demonstrated by the numbers who turned up to witness the event and to give their opinions. The SJI OBA must also be commended for allowing the views of the alumni to be aired and discussed. In the same way, I am glad to note that a representative of the SJI Board of Governors was also able to provide its stand on the future of the school.

The Brothers together with our lay partners carry out our educational mission in the context of the changing educational landscape in Singapore through a network or family of schools. In the light of this, we seek to cater to all students with differing needs whom God has confided to our care through this family of schools. Old boys of SJI understandably would want their sons or relatives to be admitted to SJI but the value of a Lasallian education cannot be restricted to SJI alone. That Lasallian education is also a hallmark of its brother school, St Patrick's School. It is in this context that we refer to a Lasallian family of schools that cater to all our students.

The controversy that shadowed SJI some twenty-two years ago when it became an independent school has come up again. However, twenty-two years hence, today, SJI is on a different playing field. The hard work of the past principals and staff in building up the school to what it is today should not be undone. That hard work consists not only in the provision of academic excellence but also the promotion of Lasallian values through the many school programmes.

In the light of what has been aired at the SJI OBA AGM, I am confident that the SJI Board of Governors is determined within the limits it faces to continue to take in as many of the students from our four primary schools as it possibly can without compromising on the schools' ability to compete with the other independent schools.

Bro Collin Wee, FSC