

St. Eustatius, June 1, 2022.

Your Excellency, Dear Minister for Primary and Secondary Education, Dear Dennis,

Today you visited St. Eustatius and there you visited, among others, the Gwendoline van Puttenschool. At the end of your visit to this school we met briefly and got acquainted. On that occasion you gave me your e-mail address and that is how I am writing to you.

It was only a short conversation (your schedule did not allow you more space) and I will not go into too much detail in this bill. At the same time, of course, I would like to take the opportunity to bring attention to the Statian cause.

A brief introduction of myself: after having served in the Royal Netherlands Navy (and therefore the Ministry of Defence) for almost forty years and having worked at the Mauritshuis for three years, I have now been working as a teacher of mathematics at this Gwendoline van Puttenschool for eight years. All this time I have, of course, also been living here and from the intervention by the Central Government in February 2018 on St. Eustatius (and actually before that) we - my wife and I - have been interested in the governance of the island with a special focus on the interaction between European Netherlands and the island administrators.

Because in my opinion (read: conviction) the information from the island towards the administrative The Hague has in practice only one voice, namely that of the government representative, who is directly managed by the State Secretary of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, and according to my observation this one voice is certainly not broadly colored, I thought it would be a good idea (in the absence of an objective and independent press) to share my findings with the Kingdom Relations Committee of the House of Representatives and, where appropriate, with other Committees in the House (and also with the Kingdom Relations Committee of the Senate, as well as with the National Ombudsman). All these letters are published on a specially designed website: <http://statia.nu> (English) and <http://statia.nu/nl> (Dutch). In particular the menu items *Developments/letters* and *How it continued* provide insight into my letters.

Under *How it continued* you will see *Education* with a most recent letter dated April 28, 2022. I am keen to emphasize that I always write my letters in a personal capacity; you will also read my personal sound on the subject of education. I expressly do not write as a teacher of a school; after all, it would be rather improper - in that case - to send letters outside the management and administration of the school.

If you see any reason to reflect on my letters that concern the educational domain, I would be pleased to receive your response. At the same time, I can imagine that you do not wish to commit yourself outside the formal institutions. In that case you have at least one more source of information ;-))

I wish you much success and learning opportunities (for example on the island of Bonaire, where your journey continued).

Kind regards,

J.H.T. (Jan) Meijer MSc MBA,  
Bellevue Road 4, Upper Round Hill,  
St. Eustatius, Caribbean Netherlands.