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STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON ITS OVERSIGHT VISIT TO
SILVERSTREAM PRIMARY SCHOOL IN MANENBERG**

REPORT

The Standing Committee on Education, having conducted an oversight visit to Silverstream Primary School in Manenberg on 27 June 2017, reports as follows:

The delegation

The delegation comprised of the following Members:

Kivedo, BD (DA) (Chairperson and the leader of the delegation)
Botha, LJ (DA)
Christians, F (ACDP)
Max, L (DA)
Olivier, RT (ANC)

Parliamentary official:
Ms W Hassen-Moosa, Committee Co-ordinator

1. Introduction

As part of its oversight mandate, the Committee requested to be kept updated regarding progress with the maintenance of infrastructure, broadband access, upgrades and the daily management of all schools in the Province.

This oversight visit formed part of the Committee's programme after the Chairperson, Mr B Kivedo, alerted the Standing Committee about reports of gang violence around the school. The Committee envisaged the oversight visit would provide in-depth insight into the situation learners, teachers and other staff cope with on a daily basis and how gang violence affects this school. This school was built as a multi-functional school in order to assist the learners of Manenberg.

This report discusses the Committee's findings gathered during the oversight visit.

2. Overview

The Committee conducted an oversight visit to Silverstream Primary School on Tuesday, 27 June 2017. The visit started with a meeting with the Principal, Ms VI Ward and the departmental officials at 14:00. During the oversight visit, the principal briefed the Committee on the status of the school. After the meeting, the Committee conducted a walkabout on the school premises.

3. Findings

- 3.1. Silverstream Primary School is a full-service/multi-functional school with a curriculum co-ordinator and a learner support official.
- 3.2. The newly built Silverstream School is being maintained by cleaning staff, learners and administration staff of the school.
- 3.3. The principal, Ms Ward, has been with the school for more than 25 years and was appointed as the principal in 2016.
- 3.4. The teacher-learner ratio is 1:43, with a staff complement of 23.

- 3.5. The School feeds about 713 learners daily through the feeding scheme.
- 3.6. The School Governing Body (SGB) is functional at the school and assists in the management and governance of the school. According to the principal, the SGB's role is commendable.
- 3.7. The School spends most of its funds on night security and employs parents to assist in guarding the entrance of the school.
- 3.8. The School experiences a challenge in the form of transporting learners to and from school activities. As the area is situated in a "Red Zone" and due to the gang violence, at times it makes it difficult for learners to get to school.
- 3.9. The recently built library at the school requires books and has become a challenge to operate since it is not adequately equipped.
- 3.10. The School has experienced difficulties in attracting educators due to the negative image Manenberg has garnered.
- 3.11. The School experiences high late coming by learners and has implemented a strategy that will assist learners to arrive on time. The School has adjusted its starting time to accommodate for those learners who arrive late.
- 3.12. Academic performance of the school does not reflect the desired results but with the School Improvement Plan that has been set in place by the School, this intervention would assist in improving the academic results of the school.
- 3.13. Most learners experience learning barriers such as mild intellectual barriers and therefore the learner support staff official assists with this at the school.

4. Concern

- 4.1. The Committee raised a concern that the school has requested an office for their Learner Support official but has not received any response from WCED. This function has become an important part of the school, given that learners at the school struggle academically and are in need of this additional support.

5. Recommendations

The Committee recommended that the District office by 30 November 2017: -

- 5.1 Engages with the Department of Community Safety and requests that, as part of the funding provided to accredited neighbourhood watch members, this service/funding should be utilised by the school, to address the high cost of security services required by the school.
- 5.2. Follows up on the filling of the Deputy Principal post that had become vacant in 2016.
- 5.3. Engages with WCED with regards to the After-School Game-Changer that makes provision for funding to be utilised so that learners can be transported to various sporting activities. The funding can also assist to obtain security for those learners that participate in MOD Centre activities in order to provide a safe environment for learners.
- 5.4. Engages with WCED to obtain a mobile classroom to be utilised by the Learner Support official.

6. Resolution

The Committee Resolved to engage with the Department of Community Safety so that Silverstream Primary School form part of the Walking Bus initiative of the Department.

7. Conclusion

The Committee successfully concluded its oversight visit and took cognisance of the situation at the school.

8. Acknowledgements

The Chairperson thanked the school for its willingness to share valuable information with the Standing Committee.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B.D. Kivedo', written over a horizontal line.

MR BD KIVEDO, MPP
CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT
DATE: 01 August 2017