



11/4/1/2/10

Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement
Western Cape Provincial Parliament
IPalamente yePhondo IeNtshona Koloni

COMMITTEE REPORT

**Report of the Standing Committee on Education on its oversight visit to the Crestway High School
in Retreat on 08 June 2021**

The Standing Committee on Education having conducted an oversight visit to the Crestway High School in Retreat on 8 June 2021, reports as follows:

The delegation

The delegation of the Standing Committee on Education included the following Members:

Democratic Alliance

Bosman, G (Acting Chairperson)
Allen, RI
Mackenzie, RD

Apology

Botha, LJ (DA)
Christians, FC (ACDP)
Kama, M (ANC)
Sayed, MK (ANC)

Persons in attendance

Ms. Human, J – Circuit Manager
Mr. Safers, V – Principal
Ms. Jacobs, M- Deputy Principal

WCPP official

Ms. Nomonde Jamce: Procedural Officer

1. Background

The Standing Committee on Education conducted an oversight visit to the Crestway High School in Retreat on Tuesday 8 June 2021 as part of its oversight function.

The purpose of the visit was to inspect the challenges that were experienced by the school regarding the quality of the new building after it was reported that the school had structural challenges although the facilities were new and were handed to the Department of Education at the beginning of 2020.

Upon arrival at the Crestway High School, the Committee was welcomed by Mr. Safers, the School Principal, Ms. Jacobs, Deputy School Principal and Ms. Human, the Circuit Manager.

2. Salient points that emanated from the visit to the Crestway High School in Retreat

Mr. Safers proceeded to brief the Committee on the activities of the school. He reported that the Crestway High School was a dual medium school, with 28 Teachers which consist of 17 permanent Teachers, six Contract Teachers, four School Governing Body Teachers and one Substitute Teacher. The School was established in 1976 in Retreat, currently, it had 1000 learners. The school fee was R1000, per annum and more than 60% of the learners are SASSA recipients. The school was part of the Peninsula Feeding Scheme. The School offers Accounting, Business Studies, Life Science, Geography, Consumer Studies, History, and Computer Applications Technology (CAT) in the Further Education and Training (FET) phase. The extracurricular programme of the school includes a variety of sporting and cultural codes. Due to time constraints, the Committee did not get the presentation on the overall activities of the school, instead, it conducted a walkabout of the facility.

Mr. Safers mentioned that they were grateful for the new school, however, what was presented to them on the building plans was not what was handed to them at the end of the project. The Committee was informed that the initial budget for the building of the new school was R63 Million, however, the total cost of the project was R80 Million. Mr. Safers reported that as soon as the contractor advised them to move to the new building, the community looted everything in the old building and nothing was left. The new school was built with no cupboards, storage space or any other utility space in the classrooms. The school was prohibited from taking any furniture from the old building. He mentioned that he called the contractor back to the school to fix some of the defects, however, poor quality was starting to show. The repair work that was conducted as part of the snag list was also of poor quality. The school roof leaks during rainy days, the cisterns in the toilets were broken and constantly running and there were defects on the brick and cement work.

3. Challenges reported during the visit to the Crestway High School in Retreat

- 3.1. The Committee noticed structural defects and cracks on the walls of the new facilities. Mr. Safers mentioned that from the rooftop of the school hall there was no adequate space to accommodate the water that came from the rooftop, this caused flooding during heavy rains.
- 3.2. Due to the structural issues, the school hall was leaking before the school was signed off.
- 3.3. Due to inadequate space, the multimedia room doubles up as a library.
- 3.4. There was no space for the CAT learners. The school had to convert part of the multimedia room to accommodate the CAT learners.
- 3.5. There was an urgent need for blinds and air-conditioner in the school library.
- 3.6. There was no water system in the two Laboratory Science classrooms and in the Consumer Studies classrooms. The school reported this to the contractor and the school was still waiting for a response.
- 3.7. The cabinet storage space inside the classrooms was reported as a challenge.
- 3.8. The school had poor ablution facilities. The Committee was informed that the ablution facilities blocked all the time and the school had to fix it from its own budget.
- 3.9. The sports facilities were substandard, proper sports facilities were needed. The previous plots of land owned by the school has been taken away.
- 3.10. Mr. Safers pointed out an empty ground that was next to the school and reported that they were told that the ground will form part of the school for a sports facility, however, the Department of Transport and Public Works changed the plans later.
- 3.11. Due to the shortage of space, the Committee observed that many desks were outside the classrooms and were getting damaged by the harsh weather conditions especially by the rain.
- 3.12. Steel gates in the school passage were rusty due to poor quality.
- 3.13. Inadequate space in the biology laboratory.
- 3.14. All the lights and plugs in the laboratories were not working. It was reported that the lights were intermittently.
- 3.15. All the lights outside the school and the plugs were not working.
- 3.16. In the rooms for consumer studies, the geyser was not connected, learners did not have access to warm water.
- 3.17. The electrical wiring and plugs appeared not to be working in some places.

4. Resolution

The Committee RESOLVED that:

- 4.1. To conduct a joint oversight visit with the Standing Committee on Transport and Public Works to the Crestway High School to inspect the quality of work done by the contractor. The invitation for the visit will also be extended to the Heads of the Departments of Education, Transport and Public Works, the Sub-councillor Chairperson and Councillor for the area.

- 4.2. The Standing Committee on Education to provide a list of previous oversight visits to schools that had experience similar issues. Whereby the contractors' had failed to complete the agreed maintenances at schools. This to form part of the briefing at Cresway High School's oversight visit.

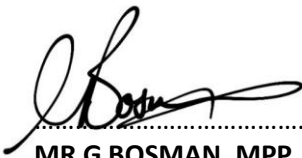
5. Request for Information

The Committee requested the following:

- 5.1 Cresway High School to provide a detailed breakdown of the expenditure incurred by the school in fixing the contactors' incomplete work.
- 5.2 Cresway High School to provide a detailed information on the operational budget of the school for the 2020/2021 financial year.
- 5.3 The Western Cape Education Department and the Department of Public Works to provide a copy of the tender value for the Cresway High School project, what was paid and whether the contractor had been paid in full.

6. Conclusion

The Committee successfully concluded its visit to the Crestway High School in Retreat.



.....
MR G BOSMAN, MPP
ACTING CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT