

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT



REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON ITS OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE WEST END PRIMARY SCHOOL IN MITCHELLS PLAIN

ON

21 JUNE 2022

REPORT

The Standing Committee on Education having conducted an oversight visit to the West End Primary School in Mitchells Plain on 21 June 2022, reports as follows:

The delegation

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

Baartman, DM (Chairperson of the Committee)
Christians, FC (ACDP)
Kama, M (ANC)

The following parliamentary official accompanied the delegation:

Ms. W Hassen-Moosa, Procedural Officer

1. Overview

The Standing Committee on Education resolved to conduct an oversight visit to the West End Primary in Mitchells Plain. This visit was scheduled because this primary school has been named in the Top 10 for World's Best School Prize for Overcoming Adversity.

The World's Best School Prizes identify, recognise, and celebrate schools' leading and innovative practices that had a real impact on the lives of their students and their community. The World's Best School Prizes seek to democratise school-based expertise by providing schools with an opportunity to share and celebrate their achievements and contributions to wider societal progress, whilst catalysing a global grassroots learning community of schools that share their stories so that they can inspire others.

The World's Best School Prizes are awarded to schools that have developed expertise in five key areas, which can prove and demonstrate outstanding systems, practices, and performance that impact the lives of the students and the whole community, including:

- Community Collaboration
- Environmental Action
- Innovation
- Overcoming Adversity
- Supporting Healthy Lives

The winning schools will share the \$250,000 total prize money. Thus, each winning school will be awarded \$50,000, to assist with improving their work and strengthening their school and community.

2. Visit to the West End Primary school

Mr. C Arries, the Principal of the school received and briefed the Committee.

2.1. Key aspects discussed at the school

- 2.1.1. As part of its strategic practice, the West End Primary School is overcoming adversity by:
- Having a Recruitment Strategy for its teachers;
 - Developing quality relationships and networking;
 - Nurturing, supporting, and developing its learners;
 - Developing the teaching and learning environment; and
 - Instilling “Enter to Learn and Leave to Serve” values in learners.
- 2.1.2. The infrastructure of the school consists of the following:
- Feeding scheme dining area and kitchen;
 - 3x outdoor classes;
 - Learner ablutions;
 - 3 x Gr R classrooms;
 - 1 x Double classroom (Intersen);
 - Library;
 - 2 x Open-air classrooms;
 - Playpark for Gr R learners;
 - 2 x Covered seating areas (waiting area);
 - Staffroom for teachers;
 - Carports;
 - Parking areas and road to school hall;
 - Waiting / Sanitising Areas;
 - Fenced 30m of fencing;
 - 2 x Gr R classrooms;
 - 6 x Mobile classrooms; and
 - School hall (Partnership).
- 2.1.3. To ensure the safety of learners and teachers, the school has safety gates that are monitored by staff employed by the school. The school also has CCTV cameras.
- 2.1.4. The school plans to upgrade its infrastructure during the 2022/23 financial year. The upgrades are linked to the School Improvement Plan (SIP). They envisage the following projects to be completed: waterproofing the roof of the administration building, tiling of classrooms and feeding scheme kitchen, additional CCTV cameras, an additional open-air classroom, and painting of five classrooms.
- 2.1.5. The learner-teacher ratio at the school is 1:39.
- 2.1.6. STEAMAC implementation strategies at the school include science, technology, art, mathematics, agriculture, and coding.
- 2.1.7. The pass rate of learners from 2019 to 2021 including the Systemic Results for 2021 is as follows:

2019					
Grade	NRP	PWS	RP	Total Learners	% Pass Rate
1	3	1	223	227	98
2	5	3	215	223	97,4
3	2	8	206	216	99,2
4	7	5	202	214	96,8
5	8	4	189	201	95,4
6	9	2	173	184	95,3
7	0	0	171	171	100
	34	23	1379	1436	

2020					
Grade	NRP	PWS	RP	Total Learners	% Pass Rate
1	1	1	207	209	99
2	0	7	236	243	100
3	0	5	218	223	100
4	0	14	211	225	100
5	0	18	211	229	100
6	0	23	191	214	100
7	0	0	171	171	100
	1	68	1445	1514	

2021					
Grade	NRP	PWS	RP	Total Learners	% Pass Rate
1	3	4	220	227	96
2	3	2	196	201	97,5
3	0	0	229	229	100
4	2	0	226	228	99
5	2	0	204	206	99
6	0	0	206	206	100
7	0	0	187	187	100
	10	6	1468	1484	

SYSTEMIC RESULTS 2021			
Grade	School	District	Province
	Mathematics		
3	41,4	34,3	44,3
6	32,2	28,5	37,3
	Language		
3	41	27	36,9
6	37,3	34,5	39,4

2.1.8. With regards to the National School Nutrition Programme, the school feeds an average of 350 – 500 learners every day. Food is delivered regularly and there is never a shortage. Metro South District officials monitor and conducts quality assurance in the schools. Also, schools report the total of learners being fed daily before 12h00 to the District office. As part of an additional feeding programme during the holidays, an average of 150 learners are fed, which includes an average of 100 learners from neighbouring schools and an average of 100 people from the community.

2.1.9. The School Governing Body (SGB) is functional and received a 100 % score for submitting the following documents:

- SGB Constitution
- School Mission Statement
- Admission Policy
- Language Policy
- Religious Observation Policy
- Code of Conduct
- SGB Constituted
- Office-Bearers
- SGB Meetings Minutes
- Finance Policy
- Finance Committee
- School Budget
- Learner's Support Material
- Audit Financial Statements
- School Property Records

2.1.10. Currently, the school has no unplaced learners. The school experienced growth in its Learner numbers from 1100 learners in 2010 to 1714 learners in 2022. Parents get assistance with the admission of learners at schools that have available space.

2.1.11. The Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure of the school consists of the following:

- 1 x computer room with 16 computers working;
- WIFI at the school;
- Cell phones – IT- classrooms;
- Laptops;
- Whiteboards data projectors;
- Interactive whiteboards
- Internet service provider;
- IT resource person;

- School has its own domain (@westendps.co.za);
 - School e-mail addresses for staff; and
 - School utilises WhatsApp to communicate with learners and teachers.
- 2.1.12. It was reported that the West End Primary School has not had an infrastructure upgrade in 41 years. The school’s building is dilapidated in some areas and requires an upgrade (crumbling staircases and walkways, crumbling floors of classrooms, and asbestos roof and gutters).
- 2.1.13. The Principal informed the Committee that as a way to save water, the school utilises the groundwater system via a borehole which has saved about R120 000 per year.

3. Recommendation

The committee RECOMMEND that:

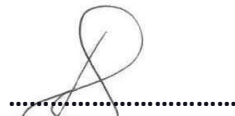
- 3.1. The West End Primary School should consider utilising their budget under the line item “text” to purchase computers or laptops, as this can be utilised without requesting permission but motivating that this allocation would be utilised for such purpose.
- 3.2. The WCED should consider placing the school on the User Asset Management Plan (U-AMP) as the school requires urgent infrastructure upgrades.

4. Conclusion

The Committee successfully concluded its oversight visit and took cognisance of the challenges and successes of the school.

5. Acknowledgments

The Committee thanks the WCED, the Principal, and West End Primary school teachers.



ADV DM BAARTMAN, MPP
CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT
DATE: 08 November 2022

