

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT



REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON ITS OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE PINELANDS NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL ON **22 JUNE 2022**

REPORT

The Standing Committee on Education having conducted an oversight visit to the Pinelands North Primary School in Pinelands on 22 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)

Bosman, G (DA)

Van der Westhuizen, A (DA)

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 Pinelands North Primary School in Pinelands. 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 Pinelands North Primary school in Pinelands

Ms. S Stadler, the Deputy Principal of the school received and briefed the Committee. Ms. A Morton, the Principal tendered her apology.

2.1. Key aspects discussed at the school

- 2.1.1 The school briefed the Committee on how they deal with overcoming adversity at the school and how it came about that they entered the World's Best School Prize for Overcoming Adversity.
- 2.1.2 The school has a creative and talented programme as a support programme for learners.
- 2.1.3. There are four different break areas for learners. This allows different spaces to relax during break time which caters for the emotional needs of the learners.
- 2.1.4. This school offers online learning and assists with the online links to various subjects.
- 2.1.5. Chromebook days (35 laptops) is a school activity, which is incorporated as part of a lesson period.
- 2.1.6. The school has gender-neutral toilets (they removed the walls of the gender-neutral toilets to supervise the learners better). Sanitary towels can be obtained from the Secretary of the school.
- 2.1.7. During COVID-19, a mobile classroom was built to accommodate social distancing, but it is now used for Grade 7 learners. There are 67 learners and are all taught together in one classroom since 2020.
- 2.1.8. The school is a full-service school and has recently installed wheelchair access at all its access points.
- 2.1.9. The school also has an aftercare programme on its premises.
- 2.1.10. The school continues to develop different spaces for learners to grow, such as a mud kitchen that teaches different textures to Grade R students.
- 2.1.11. The school has a Special Language Therapist for those learners who struggle to read.
- 2.1.12. Pinelands North Primary school has woodwork and needlework that all learners need to participate in.
- 2.1.13. The teachers of the school are trained to assist learners with special needs during lessons. There is ongoing training for teachers to better equip them.
- 2.1.14. The school has regular workshops with parents to inform them of any challenges their children experiences and how to assist them.
- 2.1.15. The school runs a programme to assist other schools with learners with different types of learning barriers. They train individuals to assist these learners in school.
- 2.1.16. The school has adopted a different curriculum to accommodate those learners who have special learning needs.
- 2.1.17. The school has taken it upon itself to educate its learners and staff on matters affecting transgender learners. Through this programme, learners and teachers were provided with a series of lectures and emotional support.
- 2.1.18. The infrastructure projects and maintenance at the school consist of:
- Expansion of the learning support department;
 - Improvement of the library;
 - Gender Neutral bathrooms; and
 - Operational Budget.
- 2.1.19. STEAMAC subjects and projects offered at the school are:
- Technology Integration (STEM Projects);
 - Celebrating the Arts;
 - Coding and Robotics Curriculum;
 - Online School; and
 - Purple ZA.
- 2.1.20. The pass percentage rate per grade for 2021 is as follows:

	Grade R	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7

Percentage	98,5%	98,5%	100%	98,4%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Not meeting requirements	1	1		1				

2.1.21. The school is not part of the National Nutritional Programme but does redistribution of food and encourages a Healthy Eating Policy.

2.1.22. The School Governing Body (SGB) is functional. The SGB adheres to the policies and legislation, has regular meetings, works with the financial management of the school, assists requirements, and assists with curriculum support.

2.1.23. There are no unplaced learners at the school.

3. Recommendation

The Committee RECOMMENDED that:


3.1. The Western Cape Education Department investigates the possibility of removing the asbestos from the school's roof.

4. Conclusion

The Committee successfully concluded its oversight visit. The Committee would also like to acknowledge the outstanding initiative taken by this school to become this inspiring school.

5. Acknowledgments

The Committee thanks the WCED, Principal, and Pinelands North Primary school teachers.



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ADV DM BAARTMAN, MPP
CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT
DATE: 8 November 2022