

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT



REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON ITS OVERSIGHT VISITS TO PHOENIX HIGH SCHOOL AND HELDEVELD HIGH SCHOOL IN MANENBERG

14 APRIL 2023

REPORT

The Standing Committee on Education (hereafter the Committee) having conducted oversight visits to Phoenix High School and Heldeveld High School in Manenberg on 14 April 2023, reports as follows:

The delegation

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

Bosman, G (DA)
Christians, FC (ACDP)
Fry, C (DA) (Acting Chairperson of the Committee)
Kama, M (ANC)
Plato, D (DA)
Sayed, MK (ANC)

Apologies

Baartman, DM

The following parliamentary official accompanied the committee:

Ms. W Hassen-Moosa, Procedural Officer

1. Overview

According to the WCED, one aspect of their increased support will be pop-up admission locations for parents to register their children for the 2024 academic year. The purpose of the pop-up admission is to ensure that parents wishing to enroll their children for the 2024 academic school year receive increased help from the Western Cape Education Department (WCED). An in-depth overview of the oversight visits to the two pop-up venues is provided in this report.

2. Visit to the Phoenix Secondary School and Manenberg High School in Manenberg

Mr S Fredericks, the Principal of Phoenix Secondary School, Mr Z Jacobs, the Circuit Manager for the school welcomed and briefed the standing committee.

Mr B Oesman, the Principal of Manenberg High school, Mr Z Jacobs, the Circuit Manager for the school welcomed and briefed the standing committee.

2.1. Key aspects discussed at both schools.

The WCED has launched an advocacy drive to spread awareness about the admissions process and its requirements among high school learners and primary schools alike. The programme is divided into several phases, beginning in February 2023, with the distribution of posters and pamphlets in schools. In March 2023, advocacy efforts extended to the media, where the schools aimed to improve its visibility through various means, including advertisements and press releases. The admissions process started on 13 March 2023 and remained open until 14 April 2023, with the site remaining open for late applications.

As part of the programme, the WCED has found a way to make the application accessible to all parents. It has set up 114 pop-up admissions offices in all eight education districts, located in shopping centres and schools, to increase accessibility for applicants who do not have access to the Internet.

These sites are designed to assist parents who are struggling to apply online. They provide access to the internet and assist with the online application process. The initiative is designed to help simplify the process and ensure that all children are enrolled for the upcoming school year.

The principals of both schools informed the Committee, that prior to 14 April 2023, they underwent test runs to ensure they were ready for the parents and learners wishing to register for grades R, 1, and 8.

The WCED officials before starting the process screened parents and learners to ensure that all crucial documentation were with them, and to guarantee a smooth and successful application process with no delays or issues.

Ms. B. Robertson, the District Director for Metro Central, was available at both schools during the day to assist parents with document certification.

From 9h00 until 15h00 each school had 12 WCED officials from the Metro Central Education District. Mr Jacobs informed the Committee that since the beginning of the application process to 14 April 2023, they have received almost 2000 applications at the pop-up admissions sites.

He confirmed that there has been an increased interest on the part of parents in registering their children.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, oversight visits to the two pop-up admissions sites (at two schools) gave the Committee a first-hand account of how the WCED is adding additional measures to ensure that all learners can register for the 2024 academic year. The Committee successfully concluded its oversight visits and took cognizance of the amazing work done by both Schools.

6. Acknowledgments

The Committee thanked the WCED, principals, and teachers of all the schools visited.

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MR C FRY, MPP
ACTING CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT
DATE: