

# WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT



## REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON ITS OVERSIGHT VISITS TO SPRINGDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND SUMMERDALE HIGH SCHOOL IN MITCHELLS PLAIN

**18 APRIL 2023**

## REPORT

The Standing Committee on Education (hereafter the Committee) having conducted oversight visits to the Springdale Primary School and Summerdale High School in Mitchells Plain on 18 April 2023, reports as follows:

### **The delegation**

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

Baartman, DM (Chairperson of the Committee)  
Fry, C (DA)  
Plato, D (DA)  
Sayed, MK (ANC)

### **Apologies**

Christians, FC (ACDP)

### **The following parliamentary official accompanied the committee:**

Ms. W Hassen-Moosa, Procedural Officer

## **1. Overview**

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Committee's oversight visit to two Rapid Build sites in Mitchell's Plain. The visit was aimed to review the Rapid Build projects and the classroom expansion projects at the schools.

In November 2023, the Western Cape Education Department's (WCED) MEC, Mr Maynier, announced that the WCED would be investing over R830 million in the construction of 842 new classrooms.

The construction of those new schools is the first time that the department has undertaken such a massive project, with 654 new classrooms built in various districts of the province. The projects that were carried out during the Rapid School Build program included the construction of 101 new classrooms at Atlantis, Delft, Lwandle, Hout Bay, and Century City. In November 2022, Mr Maynier revealed that the WCED had finish 164 classrooms for next year. He also said that a further 510 classrooms would be completed by January 2023.

The number of classrooms that the WCED had completed during the 2023 academic year reached 662 by January 31. Out of the total, 180 classrooms are currently in the process of being completed.

## **2. Visit to the Springdale Primary School in Mitchells Plain**

The officials who attended the inspection were Ms J Brown, the school's Principal,

Ms. W Horn, the Director for the Education District's Metro North, Mr. R Andrews, the school's Circuit Manager, and Mr. G Coetzee, the Director: Physical Resource Planning and Property Management accompanied the group.

## **2.1. Key aspects discussed at the school**

During a recent visit, Ms. Brown provided the Committee with a comprehensive update on the recent classroom expansion project at Springdale Primary School. This report outlines the key details and achievements of the project, highlighting the collaborative efforts that made it possible.

Springdale Primary School currently boasts an enrolment of 1234 learners. To address the need for additional classroom space, the school embarked on a classroom expansion project. This initiative involved the creation of seven new classrooms and an ablution block, utilizing the sustainable Moladi method of construction. The successful completion of these projects within the planned timelines demonstrates the school's commitment to providing enhanced facilities for its students. The site construction concluded on 29 September 2022, and the handover was completed on 6 May 2022. The cost of the build was R9.7 million.

The new classrooms are not only a testament to the commitment of the school but also represent a high standard of quality. These classrooms have been designed to provide adequate and comfortable spaces, capable of accommodating a significant number of learners. This development reflects the school's dedication to creating a conducive and effective learning environment.

Ms. Brown emphasized that the success of the additional classrooms was made possible through the combined efforts of various stakeholders. The School Governing Body (SGB), contractors, community members, and officials of the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) all played crucial roles in bringing this expansion to fruition. This collaborative spirit demonstrates a shared commitment to the well-being and education of the learners.

The new classrooms are primarily an extension of Springdale Primary School's facilities to accommodate Grade 7 learners. This strategic decision aims to create more available space for learners across the school. The cooperation between Springdale Primary School and Summerdale High School further exemplifies the community's dedication to providing quality education. As a result of this initiative, a total of 153 additional learners are now able to access education within the expanded facilities.

Out of the seven newly constructed classrooms, four are currently being used to accommodate Grade 7 learners. The remaining three classrooms have been assigned for specific purposes:

- Word Works Classroom: A dedicated space for enhancing language and literacy skills among students.
- Learners with Special Education Needs (LSEN) Classroom: A specialized classroom for learners with special educational needs, promoting inclusive education.
- LAY Councillors Classroom (This is psychosocial support provided by staff or volunteers who do not have a mental health background): A designated area for counseling and support services, emphasizing the holistic development of learners.

## **2. Visit to the Summerdale High Primary School in Mitchells Plain**

The officials who attended the inspection were Mr R Rooi, the school's Deputy Principal,

Ms. W Horn, the Director for the Education District's Metro North, Mr. R Andrews, the school's Circuit Manager, and Mr. G Coetzee, the Director: Physical Resource Planning and Property Management accompanied the group.

## **2.1. Key aspects discussed at the school**

During a recent inspection, Mr. Rooi provided the Committee with an overview of the ongoing developments and improvements at Summerdale High School. This report outlines the progress made in expanding the school's infrastructure, including classroom additions and other related activities.

Summerdale High School currently has an enrolment of 1171 learners. To address the growing learner population, a classroom expansion project was undertaken. This project encompassed the construction of five new classrooms and an ablution block, using the Moladi construction method. The additional classrooms were officially handed over on 6 May 2022, and the project was completed on 14 September 2022. Each of these new classrooms has the capacity to accommodate up to 50 learners, thereby contributing to the school's enhanced capacity.

In addition to the new classrooms, the school also received the necessary furniture to equip the expanded facilities. This step ensures that the learning environment is conducive and adequately equipped to support effective teaching and learning.

Despite the expansion efforts, the school faced challenges in accommodating a growing number of learners, particularly external learners. With more than 200 learners placed this academic year, the school plans to accommodate Grade 12 learners next year. However, limited available space raises concerns about the feasibility of this plan, given that Grade 11 classes are already at full capacity.

The construction of the new facilities commenced on 3 October 2022, and concluded on January 16, 2023. The entire construction process took 65 working days to complete. The total project cost amounted to R7.2 million, a budget that was successfully adhered to without exceeding its limits, as reported by Mr. Coetzee.

Considering the restructuring, the school has generously donated its Grade 7 textbooks to Springdale Primary School. Summerdale High School no longer offers Grade 7 classes and has transitioned to accommodating learners from Grade 8 to Grade 11.

### **Concerns raised**

During the inspection, several concerns were raised regarding the new facilities. Blockages in drainage systems were noted, requiring immediate attention. Settling cracks were observed above classroom entrances and within the classrooms themselves, indicating the need for these issues to be addressed and included in a snag list for the contractor to rectify. Furthermore, there were reports of some textbooks that were not received for Grade 11 learners. In the established facilities, the committee found a non-functional disabled toilet, loose taps in the boy's ablution block, and a need for regular cleaning and upkeep of the ablution blocks. The additional gate behind the new classrooms, the consumer lab and CAT lab are still urgent needed by the school and has been escalated to the Department by the committee.

## **2. Conclusion**

The expansion of Springdale Primary School and Summerdale High School's infrastructure through the addition of new classrooms and facilities demonstrates both schools' commitment to meeting the needs of their growing learners' populations. The school's efforts signify its dedication to providing a conducive learning environment for its learners. Ongoing support will be vital to ensuring that the new facilities continue to serve their intended purpose effectively. The Committee successfully concluded its oversight visits.

### **3. Acknowledgments**

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



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**ADV DM BAARTMAN, MPP**  
**CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**  
**WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT**  
**DATE: 15 August 2023**