

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT



REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON ITS OVERSIGHT VISIT TO STELLENZICHT SECONDARY SCHOOL IN STELLENBOSCH

23 MAY 2023

REPORT

The Standing Committee on Education (hereafter the Committee) having conducted an oversight visit to the Stellenzicht Secondary School in Stellenbosch on 23 May 2023, report as follows:

The delegation

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

Baartman, DM (DA) (Chairperson of the Committee)
Brinkhuis, MK (Al- Jamaah)
Christians, FC (ACDP)
Fry, C (DA)
Plato, D (DA)
Sayed, MK (ANC)

The following parliamentary official accompanied the committee:

Ms. W Hassen-Moosa, Procedural Officer

1. Overview

The Standing Committee on Education resolved to conduct oversight visits to schools that achieved less than 60% on their National Senior Certificate (NSC) results during the 2022 academic year.

2. Visit to the Stellenzicht Secondary School

Ms C Abrahams, the Principal, and Mr W Maliwa, the Circuit manager, were present at the visit.

2.1. Key aspects discussed at the school

Ms. Abrahams provided an overview of the current state of the school's academic performance and identified areas that required improvement.

During the visit, the school reported that it had 715 learners enrolled. In 2021, the pass rate was 73%, however, there were challenges in specific subjects due to factors such as teacher availability and curriculum changes.

Ms. Abrahams gave an overview of each subject that was an area of concern. The change by the school from CAT Lab to a Life Science curriculum that had been reestablished influenced learners' performance. Life Science was last offered at the school in 2019. They have put in place initiatives to assist learners, including ongoing interventions, teacher assistance, and attention focused on the afflicted learners.

She reported that Maths literacy was another area that needed extra focus; the school experienced issues with the new teacher and with fundamental Maths understanding, but those issues have been resolved. Through examination questions and quick activities, the school has emphasised the importance of quantitative and critical thinking abilities. After-school and weekend classes, the use of previous work, and routine supervision were introduced as part of the intervention initiatives.

It was reported that regarding the subject of business studies, learners experienced difficulties with terminology, reading comprehension, and question interpretation. The school's approach was to provide assistance with reading comprehension, question interpretation using exercises and examples from previous tests.

Learners in Grades 10 and 11 experienced problems such as technical barriers, and inadequate resources in subjects such as CAT, Agricultural Management Practice, and Business Studies. The school's interventions included Saturday classes, focused activities, and learner-centred approaches.

The school introduced a Meadow Hub, in which learners can utilise computers to assist with research for assignments.

Many of their parents are from the surrounding farms and are seasonal workers, thus creating little to no parent involvement. The school addressed this by engaging parents on a one-on-one basis with the learner.

The school is part of the National Transport Scheme (NTS) which assists with transporting learners from various areas to the school.

3. Recommendation

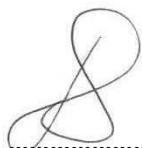
The Committee RECOMMENDED that the WCED assist in engaging the local industries surrounding the school so that the curriculum can be aligned to reflect local needs and opportunities for future employment.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the report outlines the challenges faced by the school in various subjects and presents comprehensive strategies to enhance learning and teaching culture. By addressing specific subject issues and engaging with local industry, the school aims to improve academic outcomes and better prepare learners for their future.

5. Acknowledgments

The Committee thanked the WCED, the principal, and the teachers at the school visited.



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