

# WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT



## DRAFT REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON ITS OVERSIGHT VISITS TO MAITLAND HIGH SCOOL IN MAITLAND AND VISTA HIGH SCHOOL IN BO-KAAP

**04 MARCH 2025**

## **DRAFT REPORT**

The 2024/25 Strategic Objectives of the WCPP linked to the Speakers' Priorities which impact committees are as follows:

Priority 1: Building a credible WCPP; and

Priority 3: Strengthening the core business.

The Standing Committee on Education (hereafter the Committee) having conducted an oversight visit to the Maitland High School and Vista High School on 04 March 2025, report as follows:

### **The delegation**

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

Van Wyk, LD (DA) (Chairperson of the Committee)

Booysen, M (DA)

Walters, TCR (DA)

Kaizer-Philander, WF (DA)

Sayed, MK (ANC)

Windvogel, R (ANC)

Stephens, DR (PA)

### **Apologies**

Christians, CF (ACDP)

### **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 2024 academic year.

### **2. Visit to the Maitland High School**

Mrs G Fourie, the Acting Principal, and Mr A Windvogel, the Circuit Manager, were present.

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

Mrs. G. Fourie provided an overview of the current state of the school's academic performance and identified areas that required improvement.

The presentation for Maitland High School outlines several key areas for the 2025 academic year.

2.1.1. Mrs. Fourie briefed on the planned maintenance for the 2025/26 financial year, which includes replacing perimeter fencing, upgrading the Consumer Studies and Computer Labs, converting a room into a proper kitchen for the feeding scheme, painting classrooms,

beautifying the school premises, maintaining bathroom facilities, installing safety gates, and replacing light fittings with energy-saving options.

- 2.1.2. The school's intervention programme includes the Back-on-Track programme for those learners identified as at risk, Saturday classes for Grade 12, after-school sessions, and ongoing intervention programmes to support learners with barriers to learning and social challenges. Also, there were interventions for Grade 12 learners who were experiencing social challenges and needed assistance with concessions.
- 2.1.3. The staff establishment for 2025 includes an Acting Principal, permanent Deputy Principals, one permanent Departmental Head, three vacant Departmental Head posts, and 27 Educators (20 permanent and seven contract).
- 2.1.4. The School Nutrition Programme provides meals twice a day to 302 targeted learners, with additional feeding after school and during holidays. Volunteers are trained, and operational procedures are in place to ensure food safety and stock monitoring.
- 2.1.5. The majority of the learners attending Maitland High School are foreigners. There are child-headed households among the learners.
- 2.1.6. The teacher-learner ratio is 1:34.5, with a total of 1037 learners.
- 2.1.7. Learner transport is predominantly by bus, taxi, train, and private transport, with 84% of learners using transport and 16% walking.
- 2.1.8. School safety measures include a safety committee, access control, video intercom systems, security gates, surveillance cameras, and collaboration with SAPS, neighbourhood watch, and security services. The school has a Safety and Security Policy, and emergency procedures are in place.
- 2.1.9. Challenges faced by the school include a 57.8% pass rate in 2024 NSC results, low socio-economic status of learners, financial constraints of parents, health challenges, language proficiency issues, lengthy commutes, and absenteeism. Many learners were unable to stay after school for extra classes or attend Saturday sessions, further limiting their opportunities for academic improvement.
- 2.1.10. Despite these challenges, there have been several successes in 2025, such as an improvement in learner attendance this year, 90% of parent meeting attendance, motivational talks and support from NGOs such as Community Keepers, Capitec Foundation, and Bloom Foundation, and successful intervention programmes for Grade 12 learners.
- 2.1.11. It was reported that the principal, together with the circuit manager, signed off on the School Improvement/Action Plan.

### **3. Visit to the Vista High School**

Mrs C Little, the Principal, and Mr D Cleophas, the Circuit manager, were present during the visit.

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

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

The presentation for Vista High School outlines several key areas for the 2025 academic year.

- 3.1.1. During the visit, she reported that there is planned maintenance for the 2025/26 financial year, which includes emergency repairs for broken windows and door frames, replacement of sections of the perimeter fence, and assistance from the Department of Public Works for tree felling and beautification.

- 3.1.2. Mrs. Little briefed the committee on the programme for Grades 8-12 that includes the Back-on-Track intervention programme for Grade 12, Saturday classes, holiday tutorials, and monthly counselling sessions for academic, emotional, and social support. The school will have one parent meeting per term and a mentoring programme to support at-risk learners.
- 3.1.3. The staff establishment for 2025 consists of one Principal, one Deputy Principal, three Heads of Department, 14 Educators, and six contract posts. Support staff includes one Admin Clerk, one Foreman, and two General Assistants.
- 3.1.4. The teacher-learner ratio varies by grade, with larger classes split into smaller groups for electives. The overall ratio is 1:32.
- 3.1.5. Learner transport is predominantly by bus, taxi, train, and private transport, with 97% of learners using transport and 3% walking. Learners commute from Khayelitsha, Hout Bay, Phillipi, Nyanga, Somerset West, Strand, Gugulethu, Langa, Hanover Park, Mfuleni, Delft, Eerste River, Fish Hoek, and Tokai-Pollsmaar Res.
- 3.1.6. The school safety measures include a safety committee, access control, security gates, CCTV, an intercom system, armed response, and neighbourhood watch support.
- 3.1.7. It was reported that all learners have been placed, although any unplaced learners face challenges such as late registrations, language barriers, private school closures, and family issues.
- 3.1.8. The school faces several challenges, including a 51.3% pass rate in 2024, late coming, absenteeism, over-aged learners, non-payment of fees, bullying, substance abuse, and transport fare increases.
- 3.1.9. The old and broken raised school furniture, which is stored under the school building, needs to be removed, as it can bring unwanted pests.
- 3.1.10. Despite these challenges, there have been several successes, such as tiling the school hall, painting classrooms, erecting a new classroom and toilets, removing asbestos, and holding well-attended parent meetings. The school also had a successful athletics meeting, participated in a choir competition, and had students audition for a local movie.

#### **4. Conclusion**

In conclusion, the report highlights the challenges faced by the school across various subjects and presents comprehensive strategies to enhance the learning and teaching culture. By addressing these specific issues, 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 schools visited.

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**LD VAN WYK, MPP**  
**CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**  
**WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT**