

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT



REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON ITS OVERSIGHT VISIT TO PAULUS JOUBERT SECONDARY SCHOOL IN PAARL

13 MAY 2025

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 Paulus Joubert Secondary School on 13 May 2025, reports as follows:

The delegation

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

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

Booyesen, M (DA)

Bosman, G (DA)

Christians, FC (ACDP)

Ngqentsu, B (ANC)

Sayed, MK (ANC)

Stephens, DR (PA)

Walters, TCR (DA)

Windvogel, R (ANC)

The following parliamentary official accompanied the committee:

Ms. W Hassen-Moosa, Procedural Officer

1. Overview

The Standing Committee on Education visited Paulus Joubert Secondary School to gain insight into the school's operations, infrastructure, and educational framework. The visit provided an opportunity to engage with the school's leadership and better understand both the achievements and challenges faced by the school.

2. Visit to the Paulus Joubert Secondary School

Mr TSM Adonis, the Principal, and Mr N Petersen, Director: Cape Winelands Education District, were present during the visit.

2.1. Key aspects discussed at the school

Mr TSM Adonis provided an overview of the school.

- 2.1.1.** The maintenance of the school is coordinated by Mr. A. Ontong and supported by a team that includes Mr. R. Felaar (Chief Caretaker), Mr. A. Moses, Mr. B. Williams, Mr. K. Ross, Mrs. G. Heyns, Mr. A. Swartz, and CWP workers. Their responsibilities span a wide range of tasks, including installing lights, inspecting gutters and downpipes, repairing safety wires and classroom doors, moving furniture, cleaning graffiti, repainting walls, replacing locks, and

installing glass panes. All emergency repairs must be reported immediately to ensure swift action.

- 2.1.2.** A key infrastructure project for 2025 is the development of a shared rugby field for both Paulus Joubert Secondary and Primary Schools. A planning meeting was held on 23 April 2025 to initiate the process. The school is collaborating with a service provider to develop cost estimates and maintenance plans for the new field, which will include a clubhouse and associated facilities. A committee comprising school principals and governing body representatives has been proposed to oversee the project.
- 2.1.3.** The school's overall matric pass rate improved from 61.1% to 68.8%, with Bachelor passes increasing from 9.5% to 17.2%.
- 2.1.4.** To further support academic achievement, the school has implemented a comprehensive academic support programme. This includes identifying high-risk learners, offering Autumn, Winter, and Spring Schools, as well as after-school classes, Saturday sessions through the Back on Track programme, and telematics-based learning. Educator training and mentorship programmes for Grade 12 learners are also in place. Motivational sessions are held once per term, and learners benefit from exposure to effective teaching practices through collaboration with other schools, such as Klein Nederburg.
- 2.1.5.** The National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) is a vital initiative at Paulus Joubert, feeding between 500 and 600 learners daily. In the mornings, porridge is served to about 120 learners, followed by full meals during breaks. Four volunteers—three women and one man, appointed by the School Governing Body (SGB)—assist with the programme. Despite its success, the school faces challenges due to a shortage of dining space, often having to use teaching venues for meal distribution.
- 2.1.6.** Safety remains a high priority at the school. Security is managed by three staff members who control access from 07:00 to 16:00. During school holidays, safety is arranged through the cluster system and funded by Safe Schools. However, security challenges persist due to frequent damage to the school's fencing, particularly over weekends. This has allowed unauthorized access by community members and gang members, posing serious risks. Burglaries, especially in the first quarter and on weekends, have become common. Incidents include cable theft, which has disabled the school's alarm system and increased vulnerability to further intrusion.
- 2.1.7.** The school serves 1,451 learners with 44 educators, maintaining a learner-to-teacher ratio of 33:1. This ratio supports focused instruction and provides learners with appropriate academic support.
- 2.1.8.** The school has a proud history of sporting and cultural achievements, having produced many successful athletes, including Springbok rugby player Kurt-Lee Arendse, 7s player and SA Women's Coach Renfred Dazel, and the late Thinus Linee. In cricket, Angelo Carolissen and Salieg Nackerdien have made significant contributions. The alumni network includes respected professionals such as Professor Jerome Peter Fredericks, Dr. Jan Daniels, Dr. Gillian Arendse, and Senior Advocate Donald Jacobs, among others.
- 2.1.9.** The school celebrates its heritage through traditional events such as the Miss Paulus Beauty Contest, Alumni Black Tie Dinner, High Tea Gala, seasonal Derby Days, Golf Day, and athletics competitions. Teachers are also recognised for their involvement in regional and national sports leadership.
- 2.1.10.** The school benefits greatly from strong community and alumni involvement. Alumni organise development sessions, contribute to mentorship programmes, and promote a culture of learning and success. Additionally, coaches from the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport play an important role in delivering sports and cultural education to learners.

Challenges Identified

- 2.1.11.** Several discipline and socio-economic issues affect the school. Learners have been cutting fences to gain unauthorised access to the premises, and graffiti on school walls reflects deeper discipline challenges. These problems are exacerbated by broader socio-economic realities in the community, highlighting the need to foster a more positive behavioural culture among learners.
- 2.1.12.** The school currently lacks a clear infrastructure plan to guide development and improvements. The parking facilities are inadequate, and the school hall was constructed without a stage, which limits its functionality. The school is implementing a R461 000.00 accessibility project, although only a few learners with disabilities will benefit. Sports infrastructure is limited, and agricultural sciences are not offered due to a shortage of qualified staff.
- 2.1.13.** Security and safety remain persistent concerns. Ongoing issues require the involvement of local police and anti-gang units to protect staff and learners. There is also a lack of clarity regarding the funding and support received from the Safer Schools programme. Incidents compromising the safety of staff and learners need to be addressed urgently.
- 2.1.14.** Staffing shortages are a significant challenge. Teacher shortages have led to larger class sizes, and cuts to teaching posts have negatively impacted the curriculum. The school relies on funding from the governing body to pay additional teachers and sustain educational programmes.
- 2.1.15.** Financial sustainability is uncertain due to the short-term nature of the current five-year lease agreement, which hampers long-term planning. There is also limited clarity about revenue generated from alumni contributions and school fundraising events.
- 2.1.16.** The school faces legal and governance constraints related to land use. The *Municipal Property Rates Act 6 of 2004* (MPRA) and public finance legislation impose strict rules that limit how the school's land can be used or developed. This creates tension between the school's operational needs and compliance requirements.

3. Recommendations

The Committee RECOMMENDED that:

- 3.1.** The school should investigate the most feasible way of allowing limited and controlled access to the school grounds.
- 3.2.** The school should engage the School's Alumni to explore ways for them to contribute to the upkeep of the school and provide additional resources.
- 3.3.** The school should consider offering agricultural studies as an additional subject.
- 3.4.** To address discipline, the Winelands Education District should continue its efforts to foster a positive behaviour culture within the school.
- 3.5.** With regard to land use and compliance, it is necessary to provide clarity about the legal constraints imposed by the *Municipal Property Rates Act 6 of 2004* (MPRA) and public finance regulations. All land-use plans should be formalised to prevent conflicts and ensure adherence to legal requirements.
- 3.6.** The 2025 infrastructure project to develop a shared rugby field for Paulus Joubert Secondary and Primary Schools should be supported and monitored.

4. Information requested

The Committee REQUESTED the WCED to provide:

- 4.1.** Detailed information on the five-year lease agreement, including an explanation of why a 99-year lease was not considered as an option.
- 4.2.** Reasons why the school has not been identified as a departmental infrastructure priority.

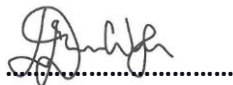
- 4.3. Clarity on the ownership and specifications of school infrastructure projects, such as the hall that was built without a stage, ablution facilities and many other construction issues.
- 4.4. A report on the accessibility project. It is important to assess the necessity and cost-effectiveness of the R461 000.00 investment, especially considering the small number of learners who require these facilities.
- 4.5. The details on any safety incidents at the school, as well as any funding or support received through the Safer Schools programme.
- 4.6. The strategies to address teacher shortages and manage the impact of large class sizes.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, Paulus Joubert Secondary School is a vibrant educational institution that has made great strides in academic performance, learner support, and community engagement. While the school faces ongoing challenges related to safety and infrastructure, its dedicated staff, committed learners, and strong community partnerships provide a solid foundation for continued success. Ongoing investment in security measures, facilities, and learner development programmes will further strengthen the school's mission to provide inclusive, high-quality education in a safe and empowering environment.

6. Acknowledgments

The Committee thanked the WCED, the principal, and the teachers who were present during the visit to the Paulus Joubert Secondary School.



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