



Wes-Kaapse Proviniale Parlement Western Cape Provincial Parliament IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

WCPP11/1/10

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Tuesday, 03 September 2024 (13h00), Virtual Meeting via MS Teams

(Briefing by the Western Cape Education Department on the following:

- (i) The National School Nutrition Programme.
- (ii) The Learner Transport Scheme in the Western Cape)

Democratic Alliance

Van Wyk, LD (Chairperson)
Kaizer-Philander, WF
Booyse, M
Walters, TCR

African National Congress

Sayed, MK

African Christians Democratic Party

Christians, FC

Patriotic Alliance

Stephens, DR

Alternate Members

Bryant, NP (Mr) (DA)
Cassiem, A (EFF)
Wessels, DJ (Mr) (DA)
Windvogel, R (ANC)

(See attached list of departmental officials and members of the public who were in attendance.)

1. Opening and welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed the Members of the Committee and the WCED's officials and the members of the public.

2. Briefing by the Western Cape Education Department on the following:

- (i) The National School Nutrition Programme.
- (ii) The Learner Transport Scheme in the Western Cape.

The Mr A Meyer provide opening remarks on the budget of the WCED.

Ms L Dlulemnyango-Sopotela, the Director: National School Nutrition Programme for the WCED, led the presentation on the National School's Nutrition Programme.

The National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) has a budget of R602 905 000.00 for 2024/25, with a national allocation of R531 615 000.00 and a provincial allocation of R71 290 000.00. The programme provides nutritious meals to learners in primary and secondary schools, and identified special schools, and also educates the community about good nutrition. It also promotes sustainable food production through the establishment of food gardens and other projects. The program has achievements such as transferring R12 070 000.00 to all beneficiary schools to replenish old kitchen equipment. Challenges include not all learners being fed in quintile 4-5 schools, burglaries and food theft, and inadequate facilities. However, the NSNP has improved learner attendance, punctuality, reduced morning hunger, and high retention rates. The introduction of chicken livers into the menu has also increased the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) to meet nutrient requirements.

Mr P Swart, the Director: Institutional Resource Support in the WCED, led the presentation on the Learner Transport Scheme

The Learner Transport Scheme (LTS) is a policy in the Western Cape that applies to learners in public ordinary schools in rural areas where no public transport is available. The scheme is authorized by the Head of Department under exceptional circumstances. The LTS has a total of 499 schools and 67 992 learners, with a budget for 2024/25 of R598 542 000.00. The LTS Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) outlines the requirements of the WCED LTS Policy and ensures all stakeholders are aware of their responsibilities. The Bus Committee, composed of members from various directorates, considers all LTS applications and ensures alignment with the policy and strategic objectives. The application process involves schools identifying the need for transport, district managers reviewing and supporting applications, and the Head of Department considering and approving the application.

The Committee deliberated on the presentations.

The Chairperson thanked the WCED officials for their contribution.

3. Information requested

The Committee REQUESTED the WCED to provide the following information:

- 3.1. A formal written response addressing the transportation of boarding school learners from Buisplaas in Eden District (Mossel Bay) to Herbertsdale boarding house. This will ensure that all the Committee Members receive the necessary information in writing.
- 3.2. The data on the cost of feeding all learners in Quintile 4 and 5 schools to understand the financial implications.
- 3.3. The report on the Little Sparrows investigation which was highlighted during the Committee meeting of 27 August 2024.
- 3.4. The figures and statistics on instances of school infrastructure damages during the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years due to break-ins at school nutritional centres in the Western Cape.
- 3.5. A report on the transport issues affecting Vredebes/Morrisdale Primary School in Ceres for the Members of the Committee to consider the information provided and determine the way forward.

3.6. A report on the importance of using empirical data to quantify the impact of interventions, such as food gardens and learner transport, to better understand the needs and measure the effectiveness of the programmes.

4. Resolution

The Committee RESOLVED to conduct an oversight visit to the Morrisdale Primary School in Ceres/Witzenberg to assess the learner transport issues. The visit was initially planned for November 2024 but will be reconsidered for an earlier date due to the urgency of the matter.

Having concluded the business of the day, the Chairperson thanked Members of the Committee.

The Committee adjourned at 15h07.



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

