



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

WCPP11/4/6

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Tuesday, 27 May 2025 (13h00), Hybrid session in Committee Room 2, 6th Floor, 7 Wale Street, Cape Town

Briefing by the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) on its Maths and Reading Strategy, as well as the availability of schools in the Western Cape that offer instruction in learners' first languages or mother tongues, ensuring that the language needs of all learners are met

Present

Democratic Alliance

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

African Christians Democratic Party

Christians, FC

Patriotic Alliance

Stephens, DR

Apologies

Sayed, MK (ANC)

Officials in attendance:

(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 all present. The WCED officials were present at the meeting.

2. Briefing by the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) on its Maths and Reading Strategy, as well as the availability of schools in the Western Cape that

offer instruction in learners' first languages or mother tongues, ensuring that the language needs of all learners are met

Mr B Loriston, Deputy Director-General: Curriculum and Assessment Management in the WCED, led the presentation on Maths and Reading Strategy.

The WCED Curriculum and Assessment Management (CAM) branch's presentation outlined comprehensive strategies to enhance literacy and numeracy across the Western Cape. It emphasized developing and distributing learner and teacher support materials, extensive teacher training initiatives, and community engagement efforts. Notable programmes include Reading for Meaning, the Primary School Reading Improvement Programme, and various CTLI courses in Mathematics and Literacy. Training efforts target thousands of teachers across all phases, and include innovative methods such as online platforms, professional learning communities, and lesson study methodologies.

A central feature of the presentation was the “Back-on-Track” intervention programme, focused on addressing learning losses and improving outcomes in Reading and Mathematics. This initiative includes targeted support for learners from Foundation Phase to FET, substantial teacher development, and parent involvement. Between 2023 and 2025, the programme scales significantly, targeting tens of thousands of learners, teachers, and schools, with specific attention to underperforming areas and subjects. Research and advocacy components are also highlighted to ensure ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and evidence-based improvement.

The Committee deliberated on the presentation.

The Chairperson thanked the WCED officials for their contribution.

3. Resolutions

The Committee RESOLVED that:

- 3.1. The WCED should provide regular updates on outcomes, with a particular focus on how pilot programmes are evaluated and the criteria for scaling them into broader implementation. The Committee highlighted the importance of consistently tracking the effectiveness of interventions using evidence-based methods.
- 3.2. The WCED briefs on how external social issues—such as drug use and gang-related activity in schools (e.g., the Bridgetown incident)—are affecting learner performance and academic progress.
- 3.3. The WCED give a comprehensive overview briefing of the Safe Schools Prov Joints sub-committee, which includes representatives from the WCED, Social Development, and Community Safety. Members asked for clarity on sub committee’s mandate, scope of work, and its role in addressing school safety and broader socioeconomic challenges.
- 3.4. The Standing Committee investigates the possibility of convening a joint session—either informally or as a working group—with the Standing Committee on Social Development. This session should include input from professionals such as Social Workers and psychologists to gain deeper insights into systemic barriers affecting education and to develop informed responses. This session is to be implemented only once, recommendation 4.2. has been dealt with.

4. Request for Information

The Committee REQUESTED the WCED to provide clarification on the distribution strategy for the 14,000 teacher assistants appointed through the Presidential Youth Programme. Specifically, they requested details on how these assistants would be allocated to schools, with an emphasis on ensuring support reaches the most vulnerable learners

5. Consideration and adoption of Draft Minutes of 29 November 2024.

- 5.1. The Chairperson tabled the Draft programme of the Committee, which were considered, amended and adopted.

6. Consideration and adoption of Draft Minutes of 11 February 2025.

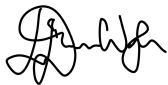
- 7.1 The Chairperson tabled the Draft programme of the Committee, which were considered, amended and adopted.

7. Consideration and adoption of Draft Minutes of 18 February 2025.

- 7.1. The Chairperson tabled the Draft programme of the Committee, which were considered, amended and adopted.

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

The Committee meeting adjourned at 14h58.



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