



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

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON AN OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE
MONDALE HIGH SCHOOL, CONDUCTED ON 30 JULY 2019.**

REPORT

The Standing Committee on Education, having conducted an oversight visit to the Mondale High School on 30 July 2019, reports as follows:

The Delegation

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

Botha LJ (DA) (Chairperson and leader of the delegation)

Allen, RI (DA)

Bosman, G (DA)

Christians, FC (ACDP)

Kama, M (ANC)

Philander, WF (DA)

Apology

An apology was rendered on behalf of Member MK Sayed (ANC).

The following parliamentary official accompanied the delegation:

Ms W Hassen-Moosa, Procedural Officer

1. Background

As part of its oversight mandate, the Committee requested to be kept updated regarding the progress with the maintenance of infrastructure, upgrades and the daily management of all schools in the Province.

This oversight visit formed part of the Committee's programme, the Committee wanted to visit a school that is within a "Red Zone Area" gang violence. The Committee envisaged the oversight visit would provide in-depth insight into the situation which learners, teachers, and other staff copes with daily regarding gang violence. This school has overcome the social-economic dynamics of the community and achieved success with their learners. This report discusses the Committee's findings gathered during the oversight visit.

2. Introduction

The Committee was welcomed by Mr. O Bridges, the principal of Mondale High School. He was accompanied by Ms. L van Breda, Mr. O Hendricks, Mr. J Niegaardt and Ms. LV Petersen, an educators at the school. Mr. A Flander, Circuit Manager, Ms. L Primo, Head of Management and Governance, represented the Western Cape Education Department's (WCED) Metro North District Office.

The Chairperson opened proceedings and allowed for brief introductions.

3. Key points emanating from the discussion

- 3.1. The school was built in 1997 (conversion of a laboratory, art class and a needlework room into classrooms). The number of learners currently enrolled at the school is 1 297, with 38

permanent staff and the teacher-learner ratio recorded on paper is 34:1, but actually in the classroom it is 40:1, according to the school.

- 3.2. The school prides itself with Professor J Jansen, during an article in the Cape Times, who indicated that Mondale High School was 4th on his list of the top 10 schools to attend in the Western Cape.
- 3.3. The academic excellence has been soaring upwards since 2015. The school achieved a matric pass rate of 100% in 2016, and in 2017 the pass rate was 98.6% and then again setting the bar for excellence at 100% Matric pass in 2018.
- 3.4. The school achieved the National Award for most improved school in the Western Cape, a Provincial Award for academic Excellence in Grade 9 achieving in English and Mathematics, with 24 Merit Awards and the highest pass rate in Mitchells Plain. The school further achieved the most Bachelor passes in 2014.
- 3.5. The school raised funds and won prizes enabling them to improve their infrastructure and maintenance, such as an Old Mutual Resource Centre, completion of the fore court and parking area, school fence and all other entrances at the school, the Vodacom computer lab and the completion of the school hall.
- 3.6. The school not only achieved well in academic excellence but also in sporting codes. In 2016 Mondalian nominated as Junior Cape Town Mayor. Also the school participated in the Science Olympiads. The Argus Quiz team has been in the top 16 for the past 16 years. The Soccer 2017 – u19 Motsepe Cup winners (WP) won R600 000 which the school utilised to upgrade the sports field.
- 3.7. The School Governing Body (SGB) is in place and active at the school. The SGB together with the school has raised R2.4 million to upgrade and build new sections of infrastructure at the school.
- 3.8. Discipline and respect is the cornerstone of the school, together with a policy which they endorsed.

4. Challenges raised by the school

- 4.1. Inadequate staff numbers.
- 4.2. Class sizes (Grade 8 learner teacher ratio is 46:1).
- 4.3. The school is currently a Quintile 5 status but is situated in a poor community and this needs to change. It should be a no-fee school.
- 4.4. The pace of the CAPS curriculum is a challenge.
- 4.5. The school has experienced Internet connectivity challenges.
- 4.6. The infrastructure of the school is in dire need of upgrading. The iron rods that are inserted into the concrete are starting to be exposed, which could make the infrastructure unstable and dangerous.
- 4.7. There is a shortage of Afrikaans and Maths teachers at the school.
- 4.8. All teachers have level 1 qualification and most teachers should have a B Degree.
- 4.9. There is a lack of support from WCED and other role players in general.
- 4.10. There is high staff turnover (opportunities abroad/early retirement due to burn-out).
- 4.11. The sporting equipment of the school needs to be upgraded.

5. Resolution

The Committee resolved that:

- 5.1. The school provides all documentation with regards to the request to have its quintile status changed to a no-fee school. The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Education to write

a letter to the Minister of Education, Ms. B Schäfer, requesting that the quintile status of the school be changed.

- 5.2. The National Department of Basic Education and the WCED briefs the Committee on the quintile system.

6. Conclusion

The Committee successfully concluded its oversight visit and took cognisance of the amazing achievement accomplished by the school.

8. Acknowledgements

The Chairperson thanked Mr Bridges and the WCED officials for the engaging discussion.



MS J BOTHA, MPP

**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT**