

MEETING WITH WCED: 19TH MAY 2011

PRESENT: Penny Vinjevold, John Lyners, Linda Rose, Brain Schreuder, D deKorte
Clive Barham, Mark Williams, Alta van Heerden, Marius Ehrenrich,
Charmaine Murray

1. Leave (capped)
WCED has a new policy with respect to tightening up on the documentation around leave. We should see some changes shortly. We were also informed that the WCED will grant 'leave without pay' instead of delving into educators' capped leave if it was requested by teachers concerned.
2. The Appeal Process
LR – there is a 'best practice' document that was sent out to all schools. There are clear time constraints by 'when' the appeal should be lodged.
At primary school there are clear requirements that need to be met in terms of telling the parents timeously about children who may need more time. Also the school needs to keep good records 'evidence' and communicate clearly to parents w.r.t. problems. The great decision is taken during the December holidays, and the school finds out when the term starts.
Note that a lack of information and poor school records can cause the decision to go in the direction of the child
BS reminded the meeting that the school was the ultimate promotion authority - all the WCED is doing is providing a check. District officials are encouraged to deal carefully with the appeals and have an integrated approach in terms of the focus on the child and what is educationally sound.
We need to encourage the school promotion committees to keep records of their discussions.
3. ANA and SYSTEMIC EVALUATIONS
The ANA are a grade specific assessment. (Annual National Assessment). The WCED systemic evaluation is designed to test the system in the areas of maths and language. The tests' content are not made public because we do not want teachers to teach to the test. The test design also allows us for example to assess a pupil and determine at what level they are reading at. So it will test a grade 6-learner and be able to say, this child is reading at a grade 3 level.
The systemic evaluation was not intended to give individual reports. However, they are considering this as it would guide the intervention programme for specific learners.
We do give schools incentives when they are performing well. We want them to move to greater excellence. Presently we have to find ways to motivate schools.
The ANA would be best as part of the internal assessment at the end of the year. However, this will not happen now due to the timing of these tests.
4. MATRIC MARKERS
Last year markers were appointed for 2 years. However, these teachers were all re-assessed and if they still met the criteria, then they will be retained. There are still a few vacancies for markers. These will be filled via the 'head-hunting' method. Reminder to principals that in 2011 at least 50% of the matric invigilators must be teachers.
5. GIFTED CHILDREN
Managing programmes for these children must be the responsibility of the school principals. Schools are encouraged to work together. However, good work in this area was noted at Monument Park and may be worth investigating.
6. QLTC Report (A report will be e-mailed to SAPA)
7. School Maintenance
There are 166 schools on the scheduled maintenance list for next year. This will cost R200 000 000, but we only have R100 million. WCED will need to go into a partnership with governing bodies on some rand for rand deals. This is in the pipeline.

ACTION LIST

Planning Calendar for 2012

This will be communicated with SAPA for comment by the beginning of the 3rd term (for action L Rose)

Performance agreements for principals and deputy principals (OSD)

A consultation process with all stakeholders will be initiated by the WCED in the third term.