

3 February 2023

MEC: Department of Education
Province of the Eastern Cape
teve Tshwete Education Building
Zwelitsha Zone 6
ZWELITSHA

ATTENTION: HON. FUNDILE DAVID GADE

Dear MEC Gade,

RE: JANSENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

As you are aware, Jansenville High School was the only school in the Dr Beyers Naude Local Municipality that achieved a 100% matric pass rate. This is, in itself, an excellent result. However, given the ongoing constraints experience by the school with respect to staff shortages, this is an exceptional result.

This morning, following a meeting of the SGB, it was decided to close the school indefinitely until the needs of the school with respect to the staff establishment are met by the Department. At this stage, the SGB have indicated that they are not in a financial position to appoint SGB educators and are wholly reliant on the Department to meet their staffing needs. These include (and are in no particular order of urgency as all are urgent):

- Grade 4 – there is no teacher and these learners are receiving no teaching as a result. There is an individual available for appointment but they cannot be approached as there is no approval from the Department;
- Grades 8 and 9 do not have a Mathematics teacher;
- Grades 10 to 12 – No Tourism teacher and no Mathematical Literacy teacher;
- The principal of the school is currently teaching 52 periods out of 55, which is completely unacceptable given the other requirements of his post;
- Two matric teachers will be going on maternity leave this year for 4 months each and given that the Department is unwilling to appoint substitutes, this leaves the school in an extremely tenuous position.

The lack of teachers not only limits the learning taking place, but also has a direct effect on the discipline within the school. Because there are classes that are sitting without any supervision, discipline is starting to become an issue for the school.

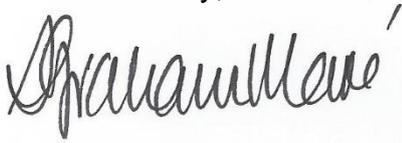
It should not be that the parents of learners are forced to close their school to get the attention of the Department, despite the fact that they have approached the Department on several occasions to address these concerns and have been ignored.

I am asking that you avail officials of your Department to meet urgently with the SGB and to undertake to do whatever is necessary to ensure that the needs of this school are met. This school continues to be a beacon of excellence in this whole region and the fact that the Department is failing to provide them with the barest minimum of staffing resources is absolutely unacceptable.

We are further submitting a petition signed by the parents of the Jansenville High School requesting that their teaching requirements be addressed on an urgent basis.

I trust that this matter will receive your immediate attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samantha Maré', written in a cursive style.

SAMANTHA GRAHAM-MARÉ, MP
CONSTITUENCY LEADER: DR BEYERS NAUDE