

From the desk of the SGB Chairman

1. Introduction of the School Governing Body Chairman.

Greetings, my name is Leonard Viljoen, and I am the chairman of the school governing body, and I am thrilled to be part of this vibrant and dynamic school community as I have been for the past few years. As the chairman, I am committed to upholding the school's mission of providing a supportive and inclusive learning environment where students can reach their full potential.

I believe that effective collaboration and partnerships with all stakeholders are essential to achieving this mission, and I am eager to work closely with parents, teachers, students, and community members to ensure that we are all working towards the same goals.

I am passionate about education and firmly believe that every child deserves access to high-quality education. I am honoured and feel privileged to serve as the chairman of the governing body Hoërskool Richardsbaai and look forward to working together to make a meaningful impact on the lives of our children.

2. Purpose of the School Governing Body

The purpose of a school governing body is to provide strategic leadership and accountability in the schools. The governing body is responsible for setting the school's strategic direction, ensuring that the school meets its statutory obligations, monitoring and evaluating the school's performance, and ensuring that the school's resources are used effectively to provide high-quality education to all students.

The governing body also plays a crucial role in the recruitment and selection of the school's educators & leaders, including the principal. It also ensures that the school's policies and procedures are up-to-date and effective, and that they are implemented consistently throughout the school.

In addition, the governing body serves as a link between the school and the local community, representing the interests of parents, students, staff, and other stakeholders. The governing body also provides support and challenge to the school's leaders, ensuring that they are held accountable for the school's performance and that they are supported in their efforts to improve the quality of education provided to students

3. What the School Governing Body vision and action plan is.

The vision and action plan of a school governing body is focused on creating an environment that supports the educational and personal development of students while ensuring that the school operates effectively and efficiently. Here are some key elements that we as school governing body use in our vision and action plan:

Student-centred approach: The school governing body prioritize the needs and interests of students in all decision-making processes. This means ensuring that policies and initiatives align with the best interests of students and their learning outcomes.

Collaboration and Communication: The school governing body to the best of our ability establish effective channels of communication with all stakeholders, including students, parents, teachers, and the wider community. This helps to ensure transparency and allows for effective collaboration in decision-making.

Resource Management: The school governing body ensures that resources, including financial and human resources, are allocated effectively to support student learning and development. This may involve identifying areas where additional resources are needed and prioritizing the allocation of funding accordingly.

Safety and Wellbeing: The school governing body ensures that the school is a safe and supportive environment for all students and staff. This may involve implementing policies and procedures to promote positive behaviour, prevent bullying, and support mental health and wellbeing.

Continuous Improvement: The school governing body should prioritize ongoing improvement and strive for excellence in all aspects of school operation. This may involve seeking feedback from stakeholders, identifying areas for improvement, and implementing changes based on evidence-based practices.

Overall, the vision and action plan of a school governing body should prioritize the needs and interests of students while ensuring that the school operates effectively and efficiently. By focusing on collaboration, resource management, quality assurance, safety and wellbeing, and continuous improvement, the school governing body can support the success of students and the wider school community.

4. Introducing you to the Hoërskool Richardsbaai School Governing Body.

- Chairperson - Leonard Viljoen
- Vice Chairperson - Francois Hofmeyr
- Financial Chairperson - Denis Soldat
- Marketing - Stef Sep
- Disciplinaries - Leoni Botha
- Policies - Sharon Dreyer
- Maintenance - Johanna Louw
- Portfolio not allocated - Erica Bates
- Portfolio not allocated - Rachelle Breed
- Secretary - Diedre van Wyngaardt
- Ex-Officio - Herman Muller

5. Line of communication to the SGB

The School Governing Body is not responsible for the daily running of the school and can and will not get involved with said practices. The School Governing Body (SGB) is responsible for overseeing the management and development of a school. As a result, it's important for parents to have a line of communication through the School Management to the School Governing Body (SGB) to ensure that their concerns and suggestions are heard. The line off communication is as follow

Contact the department head: If a parent has a concern or suggestion that they would like to bring to the attention of the SGB, the first step is to contact the department head.

The department head is responsible for overseeing the academic programs within the school and can provide guidance on how to proceed.

Contact the school's principal: If the concern or suggestion cannot be resolved by the department head, the next step is to contact the school's principal. The principal is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the school and can provide additional guidance on how to proceed.

Request a meeting with the SGB Chairman or send the SGB a letter/E-mail through the school's SGB secretary (Listed above): The school secretary has a direct link to the School Governing Body Chairperson and will inform him of any concerns or suggestions raised by parents, educators, or students. This communication will be treated as confidential is so required.

Form a parent association: Parents may also choose to form a parent association to work together to bring their concerns and suggestions to the attention of the SGB. The parent association can then elect a representative to attend SGB meetings on their behalf.

6. Recent SGB Election:

On the 23rd of February a School Governing Body election was held to fill 2 open positions that was vacated due to term completion. With very little parents attending, and not having a quorum we still managed to successfully appoint 2 new parents to the SGB. We are very grateful to all parents that made themselves available for this election and appreciate your participation greatly.

We would like to welcome Rachelle Breed and Erica Bates to the School Governing Body. With your credentials as explained during the election we are certain that you would be able to contribute to the school immensely in your areas of knowledge.

7. Parent participation

Parent participation is extremely valuable to a school because it fosters a sense of community and partnership between the school and the families it serves. When parents are involved in their child's education, they are more likely to be invested in the success of the school and its programs. This, in turn, can lead to increased student achievement and improved school performance.

Parents can contribute to the school in a variety of ways, such as volunteering in maintenance projects, serving on parent-teacher associations or school governing bodies, participating in school events, and supporting school fundraising efforts. By making themselves a part of the school community, parents can also stay informed about what's happening at the school and provide feedback on how to improve the educational experience for their child and others.

Furthermore, when parents are actively involved in the school, they can help to create a positive and supportive learning environment. This can lead to better communication and understanding between parents, teachers, and administrators, and ultimately result in a more successful educational experience for everyone involved.

Overall, parent participation is essential for a thriving school community. Parents who make themselves part of the school not only benefit their own child's education but also contribute to the overall success of the school and its students.

8. Parent survey feedback:

On the 28th of February a parent's survey was launched to establish what the opinions and concerns are with the current management of the school. The participation was disappointing as very few parents took part in this survey.

The general result was positive, as good feedback and information was shared. Below is the list of questions that formed part of the survey. The points raised as a concern will be critically investigated, and possible changes might stem from these.

Survey questions and results.

- How satisfied are you with the level of communication and engagement between the school and parents/guardians?

Very Satisfied	- 12.8%
Satisfied	- 41%
Neutral	- 20.5%
Dissatisfied	- 21.8%
Very dissatisfied	- 3.9%

- How satisfied are you with the school communicating information about your child's progress and achievements?

Very Satisfied	- 9%
Satisfied	- 26.9%
Neutral	- 42.3%
Dissatisfied	- 19.2%
Very dissatisfied	- 3.8%

- How satisfied are you in how the school address concerns or issues raised by parents/guardians?

Very Satisfied	- 3.8%
Satisfied	- 25.6%
Neutral	- 51.3%
Dissatisfied	- 11.5%
Very dissatisfied	- 7.7%

- How satisfied are you with the level of parental involvement encouraged by the school?

Very Satisfied	- 5.1%
Satisfied	- 46.2%
Neutral	- 33.3%
Dissatisfied	- 11.5%
Very dissatisfied	- 3.8%

- Do you believe that the school governing body should have more power than what the education department subscribes?

Yes	- 83%
No	- 17%

- Do you believe that the school in conjunction with the School Governing Body should have the sole authority to expel a child in contravention of the Schools Code of Conduct after afforded a fair tribunal?

Yes - 88%

No - 12%

- How satisfied are you with the leadership and management of the school?

Very Satisfied - 19.2%

Satisfied - 42.3%

Neutral - 29.5%

Dissatisfied - 9%

Very dissatisfied - 1.3%

- Do you believe that you have adequate access to the School Governing Body?

Yes - 74.5%

No - 25.3%

Do you know who the Chairman of the School Governing Body is?

Yes - 69%

No - 31%

- How satisfied are you with the overall quality of education provided by the school?

Very Satisfied - 14.1%

Satisfied - 28.2%

Neutral - 34.6%

Dissatisfied - 19.2%

Very dissatisfied - 3.8%

- How effectively does the school prepare students for future educational and career opportunities?

Very effective - 12.8%

Effective - 33.3%

Neutral - 33.3%

Not effective enough- 19.2%

- How satisfied are you with the level of support provided by the school for students with special educational needs or disabilities?

Very Satisfied - 14.1%

Satisfied - 16.7%

Neutral - 56.4%

Dissatisfied - 9%

Very dissatisfied - 3.8%

- How satisfied are you with the school's approach to homework and workload management?

Very Satisfied - 11.5%

Satisfied - 32.1%

Neutral - 33.3%

Dissatisfied - 17.9%

Very dissatisfied - 5.1%

- How well does the school prepare students for important exams and assessments?

Very well	- 12.8%
Well	- 28.2%
Neutral	- 21.8%
Could improve	- 32.1%
Not well at all	- 6.4%

- How satisfied are you with the school's approach to discipline and behaviour management?

Very Satisfied	- 9%
Satisfied	- 43.6%
Neutral	- 29.5%
Dissatisfied	- 14.1%
Very dissatisfied	- 3.8%

- How satisfied are you with the school's approach to safety and security?

Very Satisfied	- 20.5%
Satisfied	- 42.3%
Neutral	- 29.5%
Dissatisfied	- 5.1%
Very dissatisfied	- 2.6%

- How well does the school cater to the individual needs of your child?

Very well	- 23.1%
Could improve	- 37.2%
Neutral	- 29.5%
Not well at all	- 10.3%

- How effectively does the school address concerns related to bullying or harassment?

Very effective	- 9%
Effective	- 25.6%
Neutral	- 42.3%
Not so effective	- 20.5%
Very badly	- 5.1%

- Have you talked to your child about cyberbullying and its potential consequences?

Yes	- 94.9%
No	- 5.1%

- Have you discussed with your child what to do if they experience or witness cyberbullying?

Yes	- 91%
No	- 9%

- How often does your child use social media or other online platforms?

Often	- 69.2%
Not so often	- 29.5%
Never	- 1.3%

- Do you monitor your child's online activity?

Yes - 70.1%
No - 29.9%

- Do you have access to their social media accounts?

Yes - 72.7%
No - 20.8%
Not applicable - 6.5%

- Have you noticed any changes in your child's behaviour or mood that could be related to cyberbullying?

Yes - 10.3%
No - 82.1%
Do not know what to look for - 7.7%

- Have you ever had to address a cyberbullying incident involving your child or their peers?

Yes - 73.1%
No - 26.9%

- How confident do you feel in your ability to support your child if they experience cyberbullying?

Very confident - 52.6%
Confident - 38.5%
Neutral - ?%
Not so confident - ?%
Not confident at all - 0%

- Do you think the school will take appropriate action if a child is bullied?

Yes - 80.3%
No - 19.7%

- Do you think schools should have a greater role in preventing and addressing cyberbullying?

Yes - 70.5%
No - 3.9%
Maybe - 25.6%

- How satisfied are you with the facilities and resources available at the school?

Very Satisfied - 12.8%
Satisfied - 41%
Neutral - 32.1%
Dissatisfied - 12.8%
Very dissatisfied - 1.3%

- How well does the school foster a positive and inclusive environment for students?

Very Satisfied - 16.7%
Satisfied - 44.9%
Neutral - 28.2%
Dissatisfied - 10.3%
Very dissatisfied - 2.6%

- How satisfied are you with the school's approach to promoting health and wellbeing among students?

Very Satisfied	- 11.5%
Satisfied	- 43.6%
Neutral	- 33.3%
Dissatisfied	- 10.3%
Very dissatisfied	- 1.3%

- How effectively does the school promote diversity and respect for different cultures and backgrounds?

Very effective	- 18.2%
Effective	- 42.9%
Neutral	- 36.4%
Not effective	- 2.6%

- Where you active in the election of the current School Governing Body?

Yeas	- 27.3%
No	- 72.7%

- Have you noticed recent school upgrades?

Yes	- 85.7%
No	- 14.3%

- Are you aware of the school's maintenance plan?

Yes	- 22.4%
No	- 77.6%

- Would you like to be more involved with the upkeep of the school?

Yes	- 23.4%
No	- 24.7%
Maybe	- 51.9%

Survey Summary.

Looking at the averages of the survey 46.2% of parents are happy with how the school is managed. There where 34.8% that elected to stay neutral, and only 19.4% of the points raised scored negatively.

The comments added to some of the questions asked will be shared with school management to analyse and investigate as this information is valuable in improving in areas that the school scored negatively.

In conclusion, it has been an honour serving as the Chairman of the School Governing Body this past year. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such a dedicated group of individuals who share a common goal of ensuring the best possible education for our students.

I am proud of the progress we have made in improving our school and the positive impact we have had on our students' lives. None of this would have been possible without the tireless efforts of our staff, parents, and students.

As we move forward, let us continue to build on our successes and work together to address any challenges that come our way. I have no doubt that with our collective commitment and hard work, we will continue to make our school a place where every student can thrive.

Thank you for your support and dedication to our school community.

Yours Faithfully

Leonard Viljoen
School Governing Body – Hoërskool Richardsbaai