**Responding to some comments and questions from section D**

Please note that all comments made in section D are taken into serious consideration in a SWOT analysis. We simply address a select few here for public clarity.

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| Parent comments | **School response** |
| There were several comments about the fake lawn idea. Some parents were vehemently opposed due to health reasons. A few suggested real lawn. | Unfortunately, we have tried to grow real lawn several times at our school. It would appear that little feet and extensive shade make this an impossible task. Not to worry, we will look at several alternatives and weigh all their pro’s and con’s before making any decisions. |
| Some parents requested more homework (for real) and some requested less! | We are trying to create a balance between planning a productive life and playing. All the teachers have been made aware of our overall preference for less homework as a school. Balance-balance-balance! We are also constantly reminding all the staff to upload homework requirements daily on the D6. |
| A request for IPADS at school | This has been extensively explored in previous surveys. Our 2018 survey results indicated that parents were far more opposed to the idea than positive. Reasons given:   1. Security for the pupils (theft, cyber bullying, social media dangers etc.) 2. Cost implications for the parents (all pupils would be prescribed a certain make of IPAD/ Chrome Book and all families would have to comply) 3. Difficulty in studying from e-books 4. Unnecessary at primary school level if they are getting computer skill lessons in computer science classes 5. Extensive time and support required for IT maintenance and pupil assistance |
| Requests for Solid Foundations to start a high school | Unfortunately, we are seriously space restricted. Not only for classroom sizes, but also for sports fields and playgrounds. Sorry- not unless we change location completely. |
| Request for embroidering children’s names on the outside of clothing | If done professionally, we will not object to this idea. We will not enforce it as a rule, however, as some families hand down clothing from one child to the next. Some families also regard this as a security risk when taking their children into public areas e.g. malls and having their names easily read. We therefore leave this idea up to the parent. |
| Request for Cambridge system (British syllabus) | The Cambridge system is expensive (purchased in pounds), so this would bump up school fees considerably.  Pupils leaving our school and attending Cambridge high-schools are doing exceptionally well and handle the transition with ease. There is therefore little to gain by introducing Cambridge at our school. |
| Request for clarity on the Woolworths “My School” Drive | Woolworths does have a card swipe system called “my school”. You can select Solid Foundations as your school of choice when you apply for your “My School” card. Every time you swipe, we get a small stipend paid into our school account at the end of the month. The average amount we currently get monthly is about R50. Naturally, the more parents who swipe, the more we will get paid, so please do make the effort of applying for a card and swiping. |
| Request for Home Economics as a subject | Home-economics was indeed popular in the TED syllabus many years ago. With CAPS being a very full and fast syllabus, we simply do not have the time during our school day to introduce a non-CAPS required subject at this time. We are trying to create opportunities for developing well-rounded pupils through our extensive extra-mural programme. |
| Request for more frequent reports | Our school works on a three term reporting cycle (Grade 1-7. Our Grade RR and R’s work on a general April report, July school-readiness report and general December report).  According to our assessment policy, teachers must have a minimum number of marks collected for accurate reporting (normally 6 or more, depending on the subject). Our assessment policy also states that these marks must be collected in a variety of ways. This gives the most accurate and stable reflection of a child’s abilities. If we were to increase the number of reports during the school year, it would translate into one of two possibilities:   1. More projects, speeches, tests and posters (teachers need more assessment marks and will plan more assessment activities as a result). 2. Less accurate reporting (teachers use less assessment marks to calculate your child’s report mark. This has the downside that if your child battles in one assessment, it will heavily impact their term mark).   Neither of these are pleasant alternatives for us. We therefore suggest that parents who are concerned about more regular reporting come in and see the teachers. This is an accurate and fair way of gauging your child’s progress in-between reporting cycles. Our door is always open. |
| A question about our bathroom facilities (ratio of toilets to pupils) | Our school currently has 413 pupils and 37 toilets (excluding urinals). This falls well within the health and safety requirements of South African schools. |
| A request to include extra-murals in school fees | With the large variety of extra-murals offered, we can only do so at an incredible increase in our current fees. Most of our families simply cannot afford this. Selecting only one or two extra-murals to sponsor would also create a conflict of interest, as individuals place different value on different extra-murals e.g. we have a similar number of pupils “coding” as what we have playing cricket. Sponsoring cricket would be an unfair discrimination towards our “coders” etc. |
| A complaint regarding children getting wet when changing classes in the rain | The design and spread of our school building makes this problem really difficult to tackle. Thanks for your observations and we will brainstorm ideas to lessen the damp! Corridors is a possibility, but not without some serious engineering challenges. |
| A complaint regarding playground areas not being conducive to parent traffic | We have moved large playground equipment this week to try and remedy this situation. Please report-back regarding the changes! |
| A complaint regarding the discipline policy being too strict, and a second complaint regarding the use of punishment rather than praise as a reinforcement tool | Fortunately, we definitely have more compliments than complaints regarding our school discipline policy. The policy allows us to administer discipline fairly and not based on an emotional or discriminatory decision. What you may not be aware of is our “merit” system (praise system), whereby children get rewarded for positive behaviour. We are averaging on donating about R100 per week on tuck vouchers, given as rewards to those who have collected merits. |
| A complaint about Zulu being selected as a third language instead of alternative African languages | When we had to choose a third language, we considered the demographics of our school to determine which language is most commonly spoken. Unfortunately, there was no dominant one and most households speak a blend of languages. Our next step was to approach our feeder high-schools to determine what language they have selected. Most of the high-schools have selected isiZulu. We therefore believe that by selecting Zulu, our children will have less of a transition problem when attending their high schools. |
| A complaint about pupil suitcases being too heavy | Our children do not carry their bags at all during the school day. They take their bags to their designated bag areas and only collect books between period from their bags. If you are concerned about the carrying to and from the car, please consider a wheelie bag. |
| A complaint about children not being allowed to play on the playgrounds while waiting for transports to arrive after school | With sincere regret, many of the transport companies collect pupils very late. If we allow playing on the playgrounds, this is grossly unfair towards our families who do pay After Care fees. Please push your drivers to be punctual or change transport companies. Alternatively, consider paying the R800 monthly After Care fee, and allow your child to play at school in the afternoons. |
| Request for CCTV cameras | We currently have 10 CCTV cameras in our school, but will explore increasing this number due to the high public demand. |
| Request for musical instruments at school | We currently have 20 violins, 6 cellos and 26 recorders. We will definitely explore your request, as our musical programme is beginning to gain momentum (much to our excitement!). |

**Thank you for taking the time to write your thoughts and ideas down. We will be looking into every suggestion and concern (including the ones not addressed in this table), and we truly value your input!**