Introducing the new Bryneven School Governing Body (SGB) members

A new Bryneven School Governing Body (SGB) was elected on 7 March 2018. At the elections, the nominees gave a short introduction of who they are and of how each would serve the Bryneven school community. Roughly 400 parents attended the elections and since our parent body is close to 1 500 parents, we would like to provide a short summary of the SGB members for those parents who couldn’t attend the elections.

Mr Naeem Nakooda is a father of two sons and Acting Principal of Bryneven Primary School. As Acting Principal, he is an ex-officio member of the SGB. He has worked and taught at Bryneven for over 17 years in many different capacities. Naeem is very involved in the Technology portfolio and believes Bryneven can be a leading example of technology use in education. He is a tireless worker and holds the well-being of the Bryneven community as paramount.

Mr Vusumuzi (Vusi) Mathebula is a father of four, with children in Gr 1 and 4. Vusi holds the position of Chairperson of the SGB and is the portfolio head for Legal and Discipline. He is a Director at Edward Nathan Sonnebergs (ENSAfrica), specialising in banking and finance. His work experience includes tax and investment banking. He is passionate about development of children through education, life and running, and has completed the Two Oceans and Comrades Marathons.

Mr Antony Mathews is a father of two children at Bryneven, Gr 5 and 7. Antony holds the position of Treasurer on the SGB and is a parent member. He currently works for Colgate Palmolive and is the General Manager for Africa. He has worked in a number of multi-national companies such as Unilever, Coca-Cola, AVI and Colgate Palmolive. He is an avid cyclist and a committed family man with a passion for bringing out the best in those around him.

Mrs Marianne Bam is a mother to three, with children in Gr 1 and 2. She holds the position of secretary and is co-chair of the portfolio Educational Development in the SGB. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (Intermediate and Senior Phases). She has taught in both public and private schools in Cape Town before moving to Johannesburg. She currently works for New Leaders Foundation, an NGO in education, as a consultant where her role involves support and development of training programmes aimed at professional development of education officials. She is passionate about education and the potential it has to uplift individuals and society. She is constantly aiming for effective use of time and managing a healthy work-life balance.
Mrs Joan Groeneveld is a mother of two children at Bryneven, Gr 2 and 5. She is head of Fundraising and Outreach on the SGB and is a parent member. She has been involved in Fundraising at Bryneven for many years and is hard at work creating events that raise valuable income for the school while creating opportunities for the Bryneven community to come together and have fun. Joan holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree, with Honours in Marketing. She has worked in the financial services industry, and now runs her own paper crafting business – Songbird Crafts. She loves being involved in the school and looks forward to working with other parents, building a strong community and to making a difference in the learners’ lives.

Mrs Izienne Harrison is a mother of two children, both future pupils of Bryneven. She is a teacher member of the SGB and co-chairs the Educational Development portfolio with Mrs Bam. Mrs Harrison teaches Grade 6, with her speciality being Afrikaans. She is passionate about her students and strives to assist them in reaching their full potential.

Mrs Philippa da Costa is a mother of three children, Gr R and 6 at Bryneven and another a past pupil. She is a parent member of the SGB and is the portfolio head for Human Resources with the added responsibilities of overseeing some external providers (Aftercare and Tuckshop). Philippa is the owner and manager of two successful businesses, Butterflowers Florist and You’re Invited, where her creative flare comes to the fore. Philippa has extensive experience in education through owning and managing a nursery school for 10 years. She is passionate about people and getting parents involved in their children’s education and future. Bringing people together towards a common goal is a guiding principle in all she does.

Mr Raoul Blignaut is a father of two children, one currently in Gr 6 at Bryneven and another a past pupil. He is Head of Technology at the school and a non-teaching staff member of the SGB. He was born in Port Elizabeth and moved up to Johannesburg after graduating with a Bachelor’s Degree in Information System, from UPE. Raoul has a string of qualifications in IT ranging from a Post Graduate Certificate in Business Administration from WITS Business School to a Masters in Commerce (Information Technology). Before being appointed as Head of Technology at Bryneven he served as Head of Technology for Citi Bank SA.

Raoul is passionate about making a difference. He volunteers for charities such as the C.W.L. Adoption Society and more recently Rotary SA. Another passion is education with a strong focus on technology use in education. He enjoys presenting conferences on Education and Technology convergence. On a personal note he enjoys classic cars, studying military history and spending time at home with his family.

Mr Golden Chademanah is a father of three children, Gr R and 3. He is the portfolio head for Sport and Extra-Mural activities and for Marketing and Communication. Having played professional rugby, he puts his skills to good work by coaching rugby at Bryneven. (Last year his team was the U9 champions in the Gauteng district!) He is a managing partner at NedloG Communications where he specialises in strategy of marketing and branding. He is passionate about sport and working with young people to help them achieve their best.
Mr Ntsikelelo Maho is a teacher member of the SGB and head of the Maintenance portfolio. Mr Maho is the Grade Head for Grade 6 and specialises in Social Sciences and Drama. He is a committed and dedicated teacher and passionate about sport, drama and working with children.

Mr Previn Naicker is a father of a Gr 5 son at Bryneven. He is a teacher member of the SGB and teaches Grade 5. Mr Naicker is also head of Sport at Bryneven and closely supports Mr Chademanah in the Sport portfolio on the SGB. Mr Naicker is passionate about sport and works to maintain a balance between sporting excellence and providing sporting opportunities for all students.

We are all passionate about serving the Bryneven community and taking the school from good to GREAT. Should you have any input, concerns or suggestions that would affect the governance of the school, please send an email to sgb@bryneven.co.za. Queries going to this email address will be directed to the appropriate recipient.

It is important to know the difference between professional management and school governance.

Problems could arise if these two are confused. The table below shows the broad responsibilities of the two teams (SMT and SGB) as defined by the South African Schools Act, (1996). (Extracted from Understanding the SA Schools Act (1997) Dept of Education as quoted in Module 1, Sacred Heart College Research and Development Unit.) Although the list of responsibilities for the School Governing Body looks much ‘larger’ than the list for the principal and the SMT, actually they are equally important. They work together so that the school can provide high quality education. The list shows that the SGB (including the principal) is responsible for many important tasks, but actually the SGB cannot do its work effectively unless it co-operates closely with the SMT (which also includes the principal), educators and learners in the school.

Broadly speaking, the duties of the Principal and SMT compared with the duties of the SGB and Principal are as follows;

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<th>Responsibilities of the Principal and SMT</th>
<th>Responsibilities of the SGB and Principal</th>
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<tr>
<td>Perform professional functions.</td>
<td>Support the principal, educators and other staff in carrying out their professional functions.</td>
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<td>Organise all activities that support teaching and learning.</td>
<td>Ensure that high quality education is offered at the school.</td>
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<td>Day-to-day administration and organisation of teaching and learning at the school.</td>
<td>Decide on school times.</td>
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<td>Manage personnel matters.</td>
<td>Recommend the appointment of educators, administrative, and support staff at the school.</td>
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<td>Decide on textbooks, educational materials and equipment to be bought.</td>
<td>Decide on the extra-mural curriculum.</td>
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<td>Manage day-to-day financial matters.</td>
<td>Buy books, educational materials, and equipment for the school where required.</td>
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<td>Develop a code of conduct for learners, etc.</td>
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Raise additional funds (on top of the Government contribution).

Administer a school fund, including running a bank account.

Control the financial records of the school.

Prepare an annual budget and submit it to parents for approval (at the AGM in November).

Ensure that school fees are collected.

Promote the best interests of the school.

Encourage parents, learners, educators and other staff to work willingly for the school.

Adopt a constitution.

Develop a mission statement for the school.

Adopt a code of conduct for learners.

Control and maintain school property, buildings and grounds.

The big question is: Who is responsible for the school in the end? Ultimately, the principal is accountable for the school as the department of education’s representative in the school. However, the school itself is a ‘juristic person’. This means that the school is a legal body that exists independently of the members of the department of education, governing body, the principal, the buildings, learners and parents. The school has rights and duties in its own name just as a natural person has. Because the school is a juristic person, it may buy, sell, hire or own property, enter into contracts, make investments, and sue or be sued. All these actions of the school are, of course, taken by the SGB – just like a company acts through its directors.