

**Partnerships between SGBs and Principals in Public Schools:  
Reasons for the Failure of the Partnerships.****Nathan Bagarette***University of the Free State, South Africa  
E-mail: bagaretten@ufs.ac.za***KEYWORDS** School Governing Bodies. Partnerships. Power Relationships. School Principals. SGB Roles and Functions

**ABSTRACT** The purpose of this article is to report on the reasons for the failure of the partnerships between SGBs and principals in public schools. A qualitative study using the convenience sampling strategy was used by engaging practising final year principals from the Advanced Certificate in Education (ACE) presented at a South African university. The principals were requested to write narratives on whether the partnership between the SGBs and the principals in public schools is successful or not. In analysing the narratives, the researcher applied the open coding method. From the investigation, the following points were extracted as reasons for the failure the SGBs: a lack of understanding of their roles and functions; trust relations; control of schools by SGBs; dominance of principals over SGBs; literacy levels of SGBs and poor financial knowledge by the SGB. To address these crucial issues, it is recommended that the SASA be translated into all eleven languages to make its contents more understandable for all stakeholders.