

Decision-making within Rural Secondary School Governing Bodies in Mpumalanga Province

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ABSTRACT The paper explores how rural secondary school governing bodies (SGBs) in the Nkangala education district in Mpumalanga province take decisions to determine if the process is in line with the South African Schools Act (SASA). The respondents were from three rural SGBs. Each SGB in the three schools had eleven members (33n). The respondents responded to an open-ended questionnaire. Subsequent to the open-ended questionnaire, the researcher attended SGBs meetings as a non-participant observer. Data was gathered by means of socio-grams and an analysis of the decision-making process. The findings in the study are that the majority of decisions taken by the sample schools are not in line with SASA. Only one meeting in which all the members participated resulted in a democratic decision. Although a majority decision was taken in one of the schools, the parents did not participate in the debate; they only nodded their heads in support of the proposals of the principal who was the chairperson of the meeting. The findings of this study revealed that the rural secondary SGBs in the three schools did not operate in accordance with SASA which endowed them with powers to participate in the decision-making process during meetings.