School Governing RBody (SGB) **Chairman’s report** for the 2019 year.

In South Africa, the 2019 year has been a challenging one.  With so much hope at the beginning of the year, the positive sentiment instilled following the president’s election quickly became one of impatience and negativity.  Without any significant and overt positive action towards corruption, SOE management, state Education and Health Services, and general service delivery, many South Africans despondency was exacerbated.  Most South Africans want change, and quickly.

When I think of Summerwood, the children, the parents, the teachers and other related parties, I think of a school system that reflects our country as a whole.  There is a significant amount of positivity and good within the school, with significant strides towards constant improvement being undertaken.  The SGB acknowledges however that there is always more to address and attend to, and we hear the school community expressing desire and expectation for change and improvement.  As the SGB we are committed to continuing our work with the school management, our goal to facilitate the best possible school environment for our children, staff, and broader community

For a number of years, most noticeably in the past two years, the school has endeavored to work towards a key strategic initiative – to retain and attract favorable children and families, those who not only benefit from being active members of the school community, but also give back to the school in their own way.  A key implementation was to address the school facilities, to ensure that the school physical environment promotes optimal academic, sport, cultural, and social development of the learners. Significant effort through the course of the year has ensured that the school facilities are looking great, and without any doubt contributed to a sense of pride, as well as ensuring improved learning and development, both in the classroom and on the sports fields.

With the above on track, the SGB has shifted its focus to other key initiatives, all aimed at enabling all of our children to fulfill their potential.  As is so often the case, as a primarily self-funded school, all initiatives have an associated cost implication, hence the schools’ attempts to raise funds, most noticeably via the corporate / small business route.  Just as Rome wasn’t built in a day, it will take some time for this fund raising mechanism to gain traction, but I am confident that with time the Summerwood business community will realize the worth and utilize the initiative to help improve the school in so many ways, whilst benefiting from a business perspective at the same time.

I would like to thank Principal Foaden and his staff for their constant efforts throughout the year, your passion and dedication knows no boundaries.  I would like to thank all of the parents that contribute in so many different ways.  As always, I feel a huge sense of pride and joy whenever I observe the Summerwood children, whether in the classroom, on the playing field, or on the sports fields -  Summerwood would not be the school it is without all of you, so a big thank you, may you all continue to be just as you are!

A special thank you to Esthea De Villiers, Kerryn Moore, and the PIC for all that you do to assist the school, your efforts throughout the year are incredible.  Last but not least, I would like to express gratitude to the members of the SGB, your significant time and efforts are truly and sincerely appreciated, thank you.

Warmest Regards

Steven Buhr

Chairman, Summerwood SGB