

The Role of the School Principal in the South African School Governing Body: A Case Study of Various Members' Perceptions

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ABSTRACT The school principal plays an important role in the democratic management of South African schools. He or she occupies a leadership position in South African schools and is, therefore, a key role-player in the school management process. His/her leadership role in terms of school management structures contributes to democracy in South African schools and in the wider society. Despite all this, recent research has shown that persistent power struggles arise when principals overplay their management role, specifically with regard to their contributions to school governing bodies. This study, based on qualitative research, explores various perceptions of the responsibilities of school principals by school governing body members as part of the management structure in the democratic management of South African schools.