

The NASCEE Notebook

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM NON-PROFITS IN EDUCATION



Mr Sylvester Moepya introducing the first plenary discussion on Collaborative Partnerships in Education (from left: Dr. James Keevy - JET, Dr. Whitfield Green – DHET, Ms. Gail Campbell – Zenex Foundation, Mr. Dhianaraj Chetty - NECT on screen, joining via Skype, Mr. Godwin Khosa – NECT)

Welcome to The NASCEE Notebook.

So much has happened since our last newsletter. We have launched our website, we hosted the first of what we hope to be an annual conference for non-profits in education, the NASCEE constitution was finalised and adopted, and the inaugural NASCEE Board was elected.

This newsletter focuses on the NASCEE 2019 Conference, **NPOs Working in Education: from Promise to Practice**,

The NASCEE Board and team have been energised through the engagement seen at the conference and look forward to building NASCEE as *the voice of non-profit organisations in education* defining standards of practice and delivery in the education space. We are proud to announce that the overall reviews of the conference indicate that the conference was an excellent one with great camaraderie and very necessary networking opportunities.

2019 NASCEE CONFERENCE

On 28-29 May 2019, the first of annual conference for non-profits working in education was held.

Read more on page 2 & 3.

THE NASCEE BOARD

The Inaugural NASCEE Board was elected on 28 May 2019.

Read more on page 4 - 6.

WHAT'S NEXT

We share more about upcoming initiatives on page 9.



2019
NASCEE CONFERENCE
NPOs WORKING IN
EDUCATION:
FROM PROMISE TO
PRACTICE

Professors Pityana and Volmink answer questions at the conference

The conference started with thought provoking contributions from two

legendary leaders, Professor John Volmink and Professor Reverend Barney Pityana. While Professor Volmink challenged us to *“restore professionalism in the NGO world”* and to strive towards “being significant”, Professor Pityana asked us to think of education as a pathway to *“radical freedom - the promotion of rational autonomy, the concern for truth and reasoning.”*

Prof Barney Pityana wished NASCEE well with its inauguration footprint in the making of the new South Africa.



Dr Kumi Naidoo addressing the conference, via Skype, from London

Dr Kumi Naidoo joining us live from London, suggested we redefine success to pursue a values-based education in the light of convergence of current poverty & unemployment, corruption, financial crisis, climate crisis. It was observed that one of the problems with the way in which the NGO sector operates is that the system forces players to compete for resources and recognition. He appealed the non-profit sector to build on its successes by infusing its work with a maximum level of unity to ensure meaningful collaboration. For this reason, the formation of NASCEE is seen as a wonderful expression of commitment by civil society to working cooperatively, and best wishes were expressed for the effort

All speakers echoed Dr Rooksana Rajab’s sentiment that *“NASCEE was created as an opportunity to build long-lasting partnerships that will help grow NPOs in the education sector and achieve goals together for greater impact in education”* and that we can do so much more through collaboration.



Dr Rajab thanking Professor Volmink



From the very first moment the conference seemed to be a place to connect, to share ideas and gain new perspectives.

The topics for the plenaries and panel discussions on Day 1 and Day 2 allowed delegates to engage with the following

issues:

- Promoting collaboration and networking between NPOs - and other stakeholders – to help them expand their reach and influence and take projects to scale

- Exploring different funding mechanisms and approaches that can help NPO initiatives become more sustainable, learning about various funding opportunities from sources such as government and CSI funding

- Building the credibility of the NPOs through organisational development and ensuring they make a vital impact

- Introducing NPOs to successful and innovative advancement and practitioner development, monitoring and evaluation processes and extensive research practices

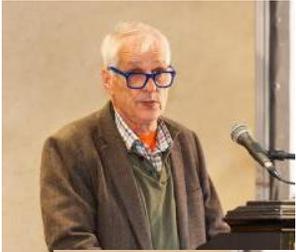


- Linking visions of the future of education (technology enabled, and supporting a diversified economy) with current practices which can prepare us for the 4th industrial revolution

We look forward to sharing more from the conference with you in the official conference report.



FOUNDING MEETING



The Founding Meeting was facilitated by Mr Duncan Hindle, who expertly got us to review and question what we should include in the NASCEE Constitution that was prepared and presented by attorney Ms Nicole Copely. Find it on our website www.nascee.org.za

Candidates for the NASCEE Board then got a chance to introduce themselves before the delegates got a chance to vote.

The NASCEE Team ensured the transparency of the process was maintained throughout the proceedings.

Each organization attending the conference nominated

one representative to sign the registration list, and submit the organisation's vote.

Nominations had been requested electronically from registered NPOs only, and it was subsequently decided to allow further nominations during the founding meeting. About 20 nominations had been received, some of whom were on the current Standing Committee. Each ballot paper allowed for eight votes.



THE INAUGURAL NASCEE BOARD

It gives us great pleasure to introduce the first NASCEE Board. We urge you to visit [our website](#) to learn more about them.



Dr James Keevy
(Chairperson)
from JET Education
Services



Ms Vuyiswa Ncontsa
(Deputy Chairperson)
from BRIDGE

Both Dr Keevy and Ms Ncontsa served on the NASCEE Steering Committee, joined by the following steering committee members:



Mr. Sylvester Moepya,
from Harambee



Dr. Veronique Genniker,
from Pearson Marang Education
Trust



Ms. Gail Campbell,
from the Zenex Foundation

These members have already played an active role in shaping NASCEE into the association it is today. They are committed to building an organisation that answers the call of delegates at the conference and that is to create *"not just another way to legitimise what's already been decided but rather to have an opportunity to create dialogue around issues we care about in the sector."*

"To help the sector organise itself rather than be passengers in the South African education system".

Elected Steering Committee members are joined by some significant influencers in the education sector.



Mr Giles Gillet
from the New Leaders
Foundation



Mr John Gilmore
from LEAP Science and Maths
Schools



Ms. Zakwe Lungile
from Ikamva Youth



Ms. Estelle Nel
from the IEB



Ms. Sibongile Khumalo
from The Learning Trust

The NASCEE Board will be meeting in July to define the priorities for the next year. The founding cohort agreed that NASCEE's purpose is *"to be the representative voice for all NPOs in education in South African"* through a stronger network of non-profit organisations in education collaborating together.

Day 1 ended with a celebratory cocktail evening which allowed delegates to relax and get to know each other after a long and successful day.

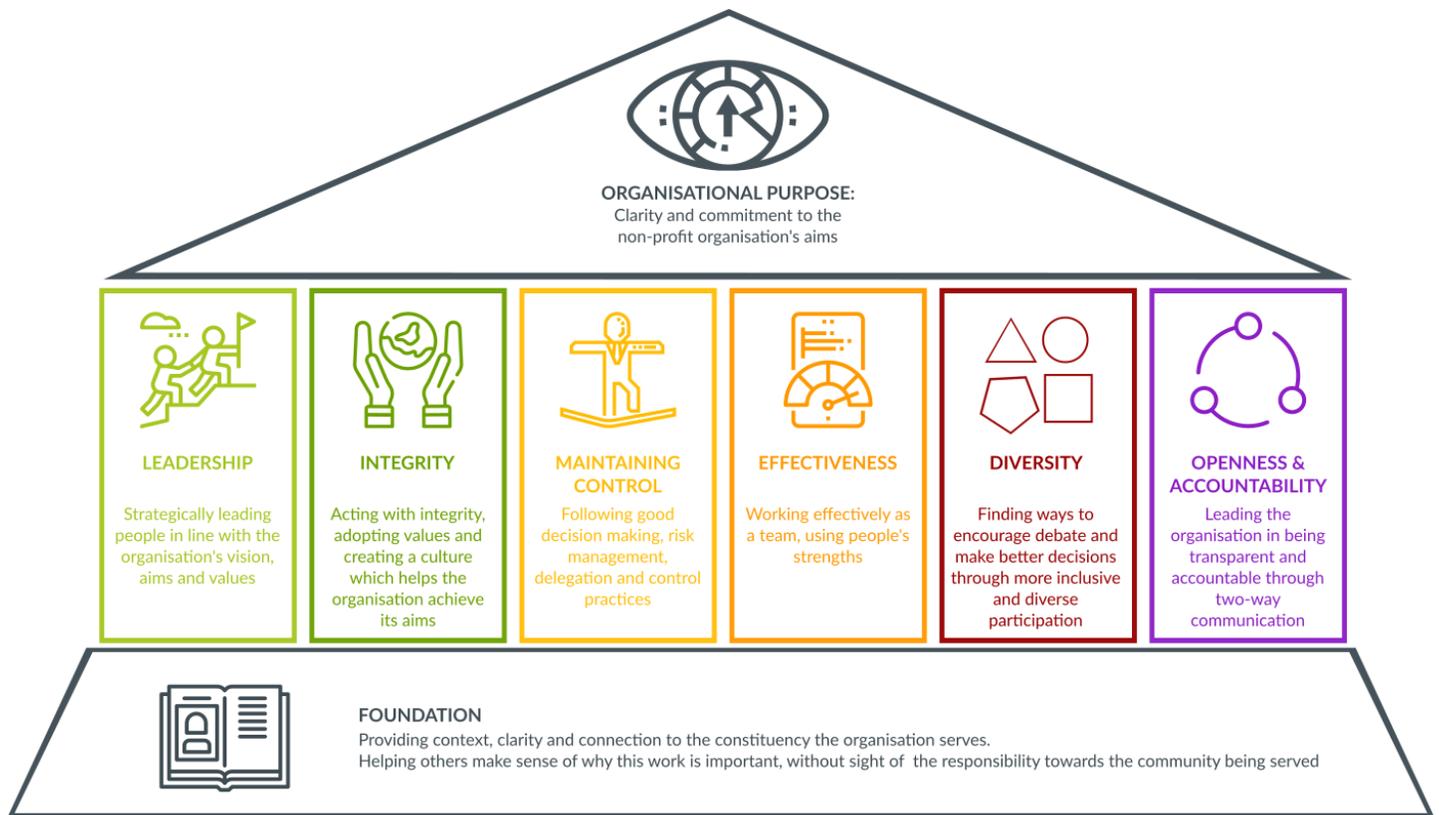


We share some thoughts from the panel discussion on *Organisational Development for Stronger Social Change Entities in Education*: there is no doubt that governance and a code of conduct for NPOs is imperative.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Inyathelo defines governance as “*how an organisation is led and guided by its governing body*” (Source: <http://askinyathelo.org.za/resources-and-tools/building-blocks-of-advancement/governance/>) for non-profit organisations there is a need to broaden the scope of governance, as compared to a commercial company.

But, where do we start? By definition, we understand that non-profits are not about generating financial gain for its shareholders, so what are they about? They are about pursuing a specific purpose. This requires a clear commitment to the aims of the organization, as presented by the Governance Framework for Charities. The figure presented below has been designed to summarize the Framework we shared with you in our last communique. We hope it provides a good synopsis for easy reference.



Governance Framework for Charities (adapted from <https://www.charitygovernancecode.org/en>) (Thanks to Dr. Louise van Rhyn from Symphonia SA for sharing this with us)

Beyond that it is important that an organisation reflect on how well it is meeting its purpose, evaluating its:

- Leadership - the people and processes that inspire and help others to commit and pursue the organisations vision, aims and values

- Integrity - the elements of organisational integrity are *consistency, honesty and truthfulness*. The consistency of its actions, values, methods, measures, principles, expectations, and outcome. The honesty with which the organisation interacts with its stakeholders, and *truthfulness or accuracy* of one's actions
- Ability to maintain control - or more accurately evaluating how the organisation gets the work done. In an uncertain and changing environment how does it make its decisions, manage the risks, delegate responsibilities and balance the demands on its resources
- Effectiveness - how good is the organisation at leveraging its resources by using the appropriate balance of skills, experience, backgrounds and knowledge to make informed decisions
- Responsiveness to its stakeholders by supporting diversity and variety of perspectives, experiences and skills
- Openness and accountability, which is really its commitment to building genuine, transparent communication that celebrates successes and demonstrates willingness to learn from mistakes. This helps to build trust and confidence and earn legitimacy

It would however be incomplete if we think of governance as the rules and regulations that an organisation follows. Most importantly, governance is about the organisation's ability to reflect and learn - making a commitment to continuous improvement.

WHAT IS NEXT?

The NASCEE team has taken note of your request for more collaboration workshops, seminars and conferences and the need to extend NASCEE's reach into all the provinces.

We look forward to sharing with you progress on:

- A funding model,
- The registration of NASCEE as a public benefit organisation (PBO), and
- The details of the envisaged capacity building programmes, as the Board engages and sets its own priorities for implementation.



Keep checking our website for updates.

www.nascee.org.za

