

# Leadership in Education Podcast

## Benefits and challenges of “School twinning”

Edward Makasane, Principal of Bovet Primary in Alexandra, and Wellington Shaw, Principal of Lyndhurst Primary in Kew, discuss some of their experiences and challenges with Adriaan Groenewald and Thantshi Masitara (19-10-2015)



Adriaan Groenewald, Edward Makasane of Bovet Primary, Wellington Shaw of Lyndhurst Primary and Thantshi Masitara of BRIDGE

This discussion follows on from an earlier show on 19-09-21. Click [here](#) for a summary and [here](#) for the podcast of this show.

### Benefits / Positive developments:

- Improved learner outcomes
- Positive comment from teachers and community: *“this is really working”*
- Children appreciate and are excited by activities and opportunities
- Linking of expertise, energy and resources – leading to success and excellence

“Twinning is much more than sharing of resources - it gives opportunity to both schools” Wellington Shaw

### Twinning highlights the importance of:

School leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• principals are the key drivers</li> <li>• they engage, consult, counsel together; convince by action, example, sincerity and honesty towards the process</li> </ul>
School governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a single governing body managing both schools effectively and efficiently</li> <li>• focus on functionality, resources, learner outcomes</li> </ul>

### Challenges:

- practical issues – bussing of learners to access facilities
- issues of race and class
- lack of a common language (teachers and learners)
- impact of poverty on potential and opportunity

### Finding solutions:

- effective planning and implementation by principals, SMTs and SGB
- assistance of a hands-on coach (assigned by GDE)
- focus on changing attitudes, overcoming bias

### Some ideas to think about ...

- What expertise and experience could my school contribute if we were to be twinned with another school?
- How would the community we serve respond to the idea of twinning? What factors are likely to influence their response?
- What challenges would my school be likely to experience in a twinning situation? How could we overcome them?



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