

UITZIG HIGH SCHOOL: DESTROYED BY FIRE, VANDALS

Doors now finally closed

BRENDEN RUITER
 [@ruitervaniewind](#)

The end of an era came swiftly last week when learners of Uitzig High School in Uitsig were moved to other schools in the area.

The school was officially closed last year after a protracted legal battle between the community and the Western Cape education department (WCED) to keep the doors open. Only 94 learners remained of the more than

400 learners. The final closure of the school came about after a fire broke out on 21 September. “The administration building was affected but the fire was later brought under control by the authorities. This came after a vandalism spree by members of the community,” says Bronagh Hammond, spokesperson for the WCED.

While the majority of equipment and furniture were removed from the school that week, members of the community came onto the premises to steal and vandalise what was

remaining. “Mobile toilets that were due to be removed that week and to be placed at other schools were destroyed and windows, piping, door frames and wiring were all removed leaving extensive damage to all areas of the school.

“The WCED had employed several security guards to assist with protecting the school, however, they had to take refuge due to the mass of people storming the buildings. Learners and educators from Uitsig are attending St Andrews Secondary and Raven-

smead High School. St Andrews has 22 Grade 8 learners and 24 Grade 9 learners. Ravensmead has 12 Grade 10 learners and 1 Grade 11 learner,” says Hammond.

According to Hammond after the vandalism experienced two weeks ago the WCED arranged for contractors to go in immediately to try to recover some of the infrastructure, such as the mobile ablution and classroom facilities.

The site will be handed back to provincial public works.