# Raisethorpe Secondary fundraises for smart boards

Chanel George

In order to raise money for the installation of smart boards in every classroom, Raisethorpe Secondary School (RSS) hosted a fundraising dinner last Friday at which Dr. Imtiaz Sooliman, founder of the Gift of the Givers, was the guest of honour.

The traditional blackboard is no longer a feasible teaching resource, and the advance of technology has necessitated that schools change their methods of teaching. However, the cost of installing smart boards is rather expensive and schools have to raise their own funds to do so.

Sooliman thanked the principal, Pragalathan Gounden, for the work he is doing at the school.

"You are a microcosm of what this country needs. We need leadership, commitment, dedication, and we need to hold hands with the government," he said.

Sooliman praised Gounden and the management of the school for the smart board initiative.

"I won't go to a school where there is no proper management system and where there are no dedicated educators and parents. I will, however, go to a school where learners and educators want to do something positive for themselves," he said.

In his address, Gounden outlined the school's budget and explained the reasons why funds are needed for the envisaged projects.

"The government only pays for certain things such as our 37 educators. They also give the school a budget of R120 000 per annum which the school uses to buy textbooks, paper and other day- to-day expenses," he said.

Gounden added that the school has six admin staff and eight cleaners, whose salaries are not paid by the government.

"This year we made headlines for two major reasons. Number one was our electricity being cut for owing R2 million to Msunduzi Municipality (which the department of Public Works was responsible for) and number two, the kidnapping of a pupil from our school," he said.

Gounden explained how the parties involved in the recovery mission of the pupil came together to successfully rescue the pupil and compared that to how alumni of RSS need to stand together to improve their former school for the next generation by giving back.

He said times are changing and children are becoming more and more advanced in technology and the school needs keep up with the times.

"Yes, introducing technology will present difficulties, but we have to start somewhere," he said.

The first chairperson of the RSS School Governing Body (SGB), Dr. M M E Baig, had the honour of welcoming Dr. Sooliman who he regarded as a dear friend and colleague.

"His willingness to help has set an example to me and my family," said Baig.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening, Deez Daynand, said the school instilled manners in its pupils and parents play a vital role in discipline.

Daynand said smart boards seem to be the future.

"This is one of the reasons why we are here tonight. The second initiative is a 1000 square metre hall which has been in the plans for a while. Both will uplift the value of the school and community as well as benefit the pupils," he said.

Former RSS head boy, Dr. Gafoor, has given the fund a boost with a R35 000 contribution, along with other donors.

He encouraged alumni as ambassadors of RSS to engage with the school as the hall would also come in handy for those who would like to host events. It will also benefit the community to generate funds for the school.

*Raisthorpe Secondary School educators looking spectacular at the school's fundraiser.*