

**S. THOMAS' COLLEGE, GURUTALAWA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE 10TH (252ND) MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE(2002/2003) HELD AT S. THOMAS' PREPARATORY
SCHOOL ON 20TH JANUARY, 2003 AT 5.45 P.M**

1. **Present:** Mr. Sunil Watawala Vice President
Mr. S. Suraweera Vice President
Mr. Shervon Fernando (Hony Secretary)
Mr. Gamini Fernando (Hony Treasurer)
Mr. Suresh Thiyagarajah (Hony. Asst. Secretary)
Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera
Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe
Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi
Mr. K. Bandusena
Mr. Chandana De Silva
Mr. Rizvi Jalill
Mr. G.S.S. Perera
Mr. Lasantha Perera

By Invitation

Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka
Mr. T. Sundararajah

Excuses:

Mr. P. S. Duleepkumar
Mr. Don Gazara

In the absence of the President and the Senior Vice President Mr. P.S. Duleepkumar (who was held up due to some urgent work), Mr. Sunil Watawala, Vice President presided.

Mr. Sunil Watawala calling the Meeting to order indicated that he wished to make a special statement. He thanked all members of the Ex-Co and others who had given him unstinted support to make the Dinner Dance a resounding success. The target that had been set out had been achieved. Another special feature had been that about 25% of the dues on the souvenir advertisements had been collected long before the event and the publication of the Souvenir itself. He now appealed to all those who had secured advertisements to collect the balance monies due which was about Rs. 141,500 as at date. Mr. Watawala made a strong appeal that all should do their best to collect the balance dues without fail before the next AGM on February 23, 2003.

Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera undertook to prepare a list of the outstanding dues giving names and amounts and make it available by January 21, 2003.

- Mr.Bandula Wanigasekera brought to the notice of the Ex-Co that the Senior Vice President, Mr.Duleepkumar had invited all Ex-Co members to a Dinner at his Residence on January 28,2003, after the Ex-Co Meeting of that day.
2. Mr. Bandula Wanigasekera thereafter tabled a proposal dated January 20,2003 intending to clean up the accounts in the books. He mentioned that ticket sales, donations and advertisements had been shown separately in the ledger folios and it would be better to amalgamate all these ledger accounts under the folio "COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT FUND". He mentioned that a sum of Rs. 1,044,000/- had been realized under these heads as the net collection from the Dinner Dance. The proposal was accepted.
 3. Mr.Watawala then explained that this was an Emergency Meeting summoned to approve the ongoing Development Projects at Gurutalawa and to approve the funds to be apportioned in respect of same and also to approve funds for the additional project to be undertaken during the coming weeks. All members of the Ex-Co had been notified by the Secretary and / or Assistant Secretary by telephone.
 4. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe who was co-ordinating activities for all development work at Gurutalawa with the Headmaster thereafter explained in detail the eleven (11) Projects which had been completed out of the total of 43 Quotations, sought for the Projects. He tabled his 02 Reports based on his visits of January 11th and 18th ,2003. The work was being done by the College contractor Jamail who was introduced to the OBA by the Headmaster. The Headmaster recommended him as being very reasonable in his charges. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe mentioned that the workmanship was not excellent but the charges were very reasonable and the quality was satisfactory; according to the schedule already tabled the value of the work already completed by the contractor was Rs. 254, 245/- He had also turned out an additional set of railings to be installed opposite the De Saram Senior Dormitory for the same price (Rs.5600/-) as quoted for the 1st set of railings . The second set of railings had only to be buried in concrete. Thus the total value of the work completed including the second set of railings, on completed projects, amounted to Rs.259,845/- as at date. This represents **Phase One** of the Development Projects at Gurutalawa.
 5. Mr.Jamail had been paid a sum of Rs. 175,000/- as a part payment through the Headmaster on or about January 07,2003 and the necessary receipt obtained through the Headmaster.
 6. Mr. Ranasinghe then went on to describe the balance 32 Quotations for proposed projects. However, in view of the discussions that took place on January, 11 2003 at Gurutalawa during the Meeting of the Ex-Co and having particular regard to the Inspection Tour of Staff Quarters made by several members of the Ex-Co in the last few weeks, it was accepted that the Staff Quarters needed urgent attention

as most Members of the staff who were occupying married quarters were living under conditions not fit for human occupation.

7. Having examined these quarters the general view was that most of them could not be repaired or it would be a waste of money to try to repair them. In this situation, discussions were held with the Headmaster and it was agreed that certain buildings or sections thereof which were unoccupied and idle could be made into Staff Quarters by effecting certain partitioning, alterations, provision of toilets etc, etc.
8. Moving on to **Phase Two** of the Development Projects at Gurutalawa the front portion of the Club House was unoccupied and could be made into quarters suitable for one member of the staff. The necessary partitioning having been explained to the contractor, the Quotation for Rs. 118,790/- bearing No.27 (with sketch bearing No.27A) was tabled,
9. At the entrance to Keble there were some unoccupied rooms which could be partitioned and made into 2 separate quarters. The Quotations for Rs. 66,545/- and Rs. 26,405/- respectively bearing Nos.28 (with sketch bearing No. 28A) and 29 were tabled.
10. It was possible to partitioning a bedroom in the Club House, with access from Mrs. Jayarani's quarters to give her an additional bedroom. The quotation for Rs.18,745/- bearing No.24 was tabled. The Headmaster had agreed to such a provision when Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe advised him of Mrs. Jayarani's request on January 18,2003.
11. In the case of quarters occupied by Mrs. Karandagoda it was possible to effect some repairs to the toilet, kitchen and kitchen roof, which would cost Rs.16,480/- Vide Quotation No.25 which was tabled. The front portion of those quarters were fairly satisfactory.
12. The Chaplain's quarters too required minor repairs and was estimated at Rs. 1,500/- vide Quotation No.6 which was tabled.
13. The total of these six items amounted to Rs.248,465/-. Members were requested to consider and approve these projects so that work could commence.
14. At this stage Mr. Sunil Watawala made certain observations. Mr. P.S. Duleepkumar the Senior Vice President had already suggested that in the event this Ex-Co was to continue in office for a 2nd term the holding of a fair/carnival at S. Thomas' Preparatory School at Kollupitiya with the main idea of raising funds for building staff quarters and to have as the target at least Rs. 5,000,000/- should be seriously considered. In view of the above we should consider whether monies now collected from the Dinner Dance should also be applied towards making better quarters available to the staff. He also adverted to the fact that it would be

appropriate to make these quarters available to those members of the staff who made a fair contribution to the College and at least assisted the Headmaster with regard to the administration and extra curricular activities.

15. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka too mentioned that it would be difficult to identify members of the staff who continued to be a part of the College after the classes were over at 2.00 p.m. or see as to how many of them were involved in extra curricular activities or sports or took an active interest in enforcing discipline in the dorms and boarding life; that the OBA may not be able to and / or should not identify members of the staff who deserve to be provided with better quarters; that in the present circumstances both sides of the story need be known before a decision is taken. Furthermore, it appeared that some members of the staff who were wanting their children to be in College as they were preparing for public exams may move along; that with over 15 members of the staff resident, it was very unfortunate that the Headmaster did not appear to have the support, co-operation or assistance of all these valuable or available members of the staff to have better Discipline and Order. So many visitors to the College have noticed that students are not gainfully occupied after school hours and it appeared that sports and extra- curricular activities were not receiving necessary attention; that even the available facilities were not used and/ or misused, for example the Basketball Court where Cricket was being played. Most of these members of the staff retire to their quarters after classes were over and played no further part in the life of the school thus, the concept of the Boarding school was being observed in the Breach. The words of the founding fathers which yet resound and of the eminent persons who graced the Prize Givings as Chief Guests in the early days have no meaning today, conditions having deteriorated to such an extent.

Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe while accepting the above, considered that the members of staff living under such bad conditions should be given better accommodation on humanitarian grounds and this would improve the morale of the staff, at least to some extent. He added that nothing had been done in the recent past for the members of staff and even the work carried out so far, was all for dormitories and sports only.

16. After much discussion and when all shades of opinion and views had been expressed and considered in full, it was decided that the six projects outlined by Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe as above, namely Quotations 06,24,25,27,28,29 which were tabled be proceeded with.
17. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe thereafter mentioned the situation with regard to the Davidson Block and the Davidson Dorm in particular. The contractor had previously given a Quotation to repair only the Davidson Dorm for Rs.43,480/- Vide Quotation No.39. However, it appeared that the tiled roof itself was in a very bad state which necessitated the ceiling having to be replaced as all the rooms in the block were getting wet.

The contractor had therefore submitted fresh Quotations numbered 7 for the repair of the ceiling of the quarters occupied by Mr. Kumara, the Art Master at Rs. 13,190/-; for repairs to the Davidson Dorm at Rs. 41,805/- vide Quotation No.8; and the replacement of the existing tiled roof with galvanized sheets at Rs. 204,675/- vide Quotation No.9. Thus the total repair of the Davidson Block would amount to Rs.259,670/-. Quotations 7, 8 and 9 were tabled. Jamail had advised that the tiles on the roof were of various sizes and it would not be possible to stop any leaks by adjusting the tiles, unless the whole roof was fitted with galvanized sheets.

In any event this cost was considered excessive having regard to the funds now available and hence not feasible to be proceeded with at this stage.

Mr.Sunil Watawala suggested that tiles of one size in good condition be selected and laid on to one area and the missing area only be considered for galvanized sheets. Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe agreed to put this suggestion to the contractor and see whether the cost could be cut down.

18. Therefore the repairs to the Davidson block together with roof repairs to the old block of class rooms vide Quotation No.43 and roof repairs and gutter replacements in the Science Lab vide Quotations Nos. 36 & 37 were reluctantly shelved, for the moment. Mr. Ranasinghe wished to have the roof of Davidson block cleaned, by removing all the piled up leaves and check for any possible repair inspite of Jamail's advice regarding difficulty in sealing the leaks.
19. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilake also mentioned other projects which had been considered previously now having to be shelved due to non availability of necessary funds. He identified some of these projects as:
 - a. Individual chairs and tables for class rooms – one of the most urgent and longstanding requirements as requested by Senior Members of the Academic Staff.
 - b. Repairs and attention to the entire water supply system. Water delivered by the pipes was in most instances not fit for human use.
 - c. Beds and lockers (and study tables) for dorms. The present furniture were mostly broken bits and pieces, held together tennously.
 - d. Sports equipment (all masters in charge were clamouring)
 - e. Repairs to the Old Dining Hall to be used as Students Recreation Room and Dancing Room
 - f. Audio Visual Equipment.
 - g. Equipment for the Dancing Class as requested by Mr.Wijesiri, the Master in Charge.
20. After further discussions, it was agreed that a DVD player for approximately Rs.14,000- 15,000/- would be supplied to the Chaplain Fr. Nihal Fernando and that the Old Dining Hall be examined carefully to provide a dancing room as

- requested by Mr. Wijesiri the Master in charge. Rs.15,000/- was allowed for the purchase of the DVD player.
21. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilake mentioned that it had originally been the intention to credit some monies towards the Dr. R.L. Hayman and Fr. A.J. Foster Scholarship Funds and as it now appeared that this may not be possible, he was handing over 2 cheques to the value of Rs.10,000/- now each to be credited to the 2 funds. He requested that at the time the moneys of the funds now in deposit were being uplifted on January 30, 2002 they be reinvested in the National Savings Bank together with the contributions he was making today.
 22. Mr. K. Bandusena suggested that some money be credited to the Staff Welfare Fund and that this would benefit all members of the staff. This proposal was accepted and approved unanimously. It was agreed to send to the Headmaster a cheque for Rs. 15,000/- to be credited to the Staff Welfare Fund.
 23. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe confirmed that:
 - a. the Swimming Pool cleaning brush housing was still being repaired and would be ready soon. The cost of this work would be available then. Anyway Mr.Lakshman Jayatilaka was meeting all the costs connected with the repairs to the Pool Equipment etc.
 - b. Repairs to the Badminton court and Basket Ball court would be commenced as soon as necessary materials were delivered to site by Mr. Ruwan Munasinghe; Mr.S.Balaramesh had agreed to contribute a sum of Rs 17,000/- towards the labour and roller hire charges in connection with the repairs to these courts. It was pointed out that only the badly affected areas were being repaired and that necessary drains had been cut so that there would be less chance of roots from nearby trees damaging the surface of the courts henceforth.
 - c. The Squash Court was being repaired vide quotation No.26 for (Rs.84,960/-) which was tabled. Mr. Prabath Jayasundera had offered Rs. 100,000/-, towards the cost. The provision of protective hand railing (which the Master in charge had wanted in place) has been subsequently given in quotation No. 19 at Rs. 5,500/- which was also tabled.
 24. a. Thus the cost of repair to the Badminton and Basket ball courts would be Rs.76,400/- vide Quotation No.20.
 - b. The repairs around the retaining wall in Keble playground would be Rs. 15,420/- vide Quotation No.30.
 - c. The reconstruction of the steps in the Badminton Court would be Rs. 2,650/- vide Quotation No.31.

- d. Provision of railings for drying clothes in the Junior Dormitories would be Rs.11,200/-. This should be as per present estimates for same.
- e. Necessary repairs and painting to the shelter at the entrance of the Chapel, the road bridge, garages, farm office, exam office, library and other areas from the main entrance of the College and Foster Hall would aggregate to Rs. 31,180/- vide Quotation Nos.32,33,34,15,16,35 and 18 for Rs.9,300/-, Rs.4,680/-, Rs.2,700/-, Rs.2,450/-, Rs.3,200/-, Rs.2,400/- and Rs.6,450/- respectively.
- f. Repairs to the Water Tank supplying water to Junior Dorms – Rs.13,790/- vide Quotation No. 21.
- g. Provision of Chain Link fencing at Basketball Court – Rs.15,200/- vide Quotation No. 22.
- h. Construction of an Incinerator for Rs.15,000/- vide Quotation No. 23.

All the above Quotations i.e. Nos. 30,31,32,33,34,35,15,16,18,19,20,21,22 and 23 were tabled.

The additional amount required for repairs contributions etc. itemized in paras 20,22,24a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h would be Rs.210,840/-.

Accordingly the sum for remedial and development work would be Rs.259,845 + 248,465 + 210,840 aggregating to Rs.719,150/-

Members of the Ex-Co present agreed that the amount Rs.719,150/- should be expended on the various projects outlined above.

- 25. It was also approved to provide a new Notice Board which is to be hung at the entrance to College as proposed by Mr.Sarath Suraweera and a estimate for this work will be obtained & proceeded with.
- 26. Mr.Sarath Suraweera proposed that a Geological Survey should be carried out for the College premises as there appeared to be some structural movement in the Headmaster's bungalow.

It was agreed that Mr.Sujeewa Godage should be requested to inspect all areas and make improvements to drainage etc to prevent any such problems, earth slips, and erosion.

- 27. The situation regarding the appointment of Mr.Wimalaraj was brought up by Mr.Sarath Suraweera.

Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe explained that even though a salary of Rs.6000/- was discussed at the Ex-Co Meeting on 11.01.2003. Mr.Wimalaraj had confirmed after the Meeting that a minimum of Rs.8000/- per month plus food and accommodation would be required, as his present income is Rs.8000/- per month and he had to leave his family to come to College on bachelor basis. Accordingly a salary of Rs.9000/- would be his request, including Rs.1000/- for food.

As the Headmaster had agreed to pay a maximum of Rs.3000/- per month a further Rs.6000/- would be required from the OBA, making a total of Rs.36,000/- for the six month period.

The intention of the offer of employment for a period of 06 months was for Mr.Wimalaraj to make necessary adjustments in the existing farm, with the currently available funds in the school and turn the facilities to make profit. The other options of expanding the farm, contract to run the farm by the OBA, would be taken up during this period.

Messrs.Sarath Suraweera and Nihal Wanniarachchi undertook to discuss the details with Mr.Wimalaraj and obtain a feasibility report from him, as a matter of urgency, for further consideration and action.

There being no other business the meeting terminated.

Confirmed as correct.

Chairman

BADMINTON AND BASKETT BALL COURTS -
REPAIRS AND RE-SURFING

1. 14 Nos. tar barrels	14 X 4,700/-	Rs. 65,000/-
2. 02 Cubes sand	2 X 3,000/-	Rs. 6,000/-
3. 2" aggregated (1 cube)		Rs. 2,400/-
4. Transport charges		<u>Rs. 3,000/-</u>
		<u>Rs. 76,400/-</u>

Ruwan Munasinghe to deliver the above material (probably at a cost of Rs. 14,000/- less)

Susantha's charges	Rs. 13,000/-
Hire of vibrating roller including transport	<u>Rs. 4,000/-</u>
	<u>Rs. 17,000/-</u>

Rs. 17,000/- to be paid by Mr Balaramesh.

Contractor Susanta (Ref. Mr Alam)
Tele. 071-763511