

**S. THOMAS' COLLEGE GURUTALAWA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 7 OF 2007/2008 (295th)**  
**OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Date	: September 1, 2007 at 9.30 pm		
Place	: 155/35, Dolalanda Gardens, Thalawathugoda		
Present	: Rev. Marc Billimoria	(HM)	President/Headmaster
	Mr Mahen Ranasinghe	(MR)	Senior Vice President
	Mr. Kuru Uthumpala	(KU)	Vice President
	Mr. S. Rajmohan	(RM)	Vice President
	Mr. Shervon Fernando	(SF)	Hony. Secretary
	Mr. P. Dayabaran	(PD)	Hony Treasurer
	Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi	(NW)	Hony. Asst Treasurer
	Brig. B Munasinghe	(BM)	
	Mr. Buddhika Kurukularatne	(BK)	
	Mr. Hermon Fernando	(HF)	
	Mr. Panini Edirisinhe	(PE)	
	Mr. G S S Perera	(SP)	
	Mr. Kenneth Gurusinghe	(KG)	
	Mr. S. Kaviharana	(SK)	

**Excuses**

Mr. Chandana De Silva  
Mr. Athula Kumaranayake  
Mr. A C M Rashid  
Mr. Suresh Kumar  
Lt. Col Hareen Walgama  
Mr. Wansapriya Gunaseela  
Mr. Sachitra Perera

**Invitees**

Mr. Bandu Wanigasekera  
Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka  
Mr. Ajith Jayathilaka  
Mr. A.D. Sandakelum  
Mr. R. Baskaran  
Mr. B. Jaikanthan

**1. Call Meeting to Orders**

The President Rev. Marc Billimoria chaired and called the Meeting to order.

**2. Notice of Meeting**

Notice convening the Meeting had been distributed and taken as read.

**3. Messages of Excuse**

As given above

Messrs. Anil Wickremaratne, Pubudu Gunasekera and K. Kumaravel had sent in their resignation, for personal reasons. Messrs. Ajith Jayathilaka and A.D Sandakalum were appointed to fill two of the vacancies, proposed by Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe and seconded by Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi.

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe introduced Messrs. Sandakalum, Baskaran and Jaikanthan, Old Boys of the College, who had just completed the 'A' Level examination at STC Mt.Linvinia, as they had some proposals to make. Mr. Sandakalum was the Head Prefect at College in 2004 and Mr.Baskaran had brought great honour to College by being the runner-up at 800 m and winning the 1500 m half an hour later, at the Quadrangular Sports Event, held at STC Mt. Lavinia in 2004, competing with well fed and strong competitors of the other three Thomian schools.

#### **4. Obituaries**

There were no obituaries recorded since the last meeting.

#### **5. Correspondence**

Mr. Ed Rowlands had sent the final shipping list for the computers etc, to be shipped from Australia. Mr. Nanda Mathew had given the necessary letters to various Authorities to help obtain approval from Customs Dept to clear the computers free of duty.

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe had sent an e mail to Mr. Jacques Huyghebaert, congratulating him for achieving a reasonable water quality in the swimming pool (judging by the photographs sent) and had suggested changing the sand in the filter, as it was very likely that it would be very dirty, having noted the bad quality of the original water.

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe had sent the list of expenditure, amounting to approximately RS.50,000.00, as found out by him, on the refurbishment of the quarters occupied by the Administration Officer, to the Headmaster.

#### **6. Headmaster's Report**

The Headmaster reported that a group of trees had been cut and sold to pay the bonuses to staff. Applications from students for the next term were being received. The Board of Governors had approved the intake of up to 20 girls to College and they would be housed next to Keble House. The magazine would be published next term, with Mr. Panini Edirisinha as Master In-Charge.

The retirement age was 55 and would be extended up to 57, by mutual agreement. Mr. Ed Rowlands had visited the school and when they went to see the cows, where there were milking problems, they had found the person looking after the cattle was milking. It had come as a shock that the same person had earlier claimed that he did not know how to milk. The Headmaster considered that the root of the problems was within the school.

There had been an offer from Jagro (Pvt) Ltd. to take over the 9 acre block, on a lease for growing strawberries, with further financial benefit to College.

Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka queried whether the trees for cutting were selected age wise and reminded that there had been severe damage to water pipes and the main water well near the OBA quarters, when cutting and removing trees. The Headmaster replied that the trees cut had been selected before he took over and there was no damage to any property or services, as the trees cut were near the tennis court, where such problems did not exist.

Mr. Jayatilaka pointed out that only the female children of staff of College were admitted previously and the statute of the Board of Governors called it a Boys School. Mr. Kuru Uthumpala felt that the College was taking more problems and Mr. Bandu Wanigasekera added that it would become a problem if someone raised the issue. The Headmaster accepted it as a valid point.

Brig. Bandu Munasinghe suggested replanting of trees. The Headmaster wished to make an orchard near the classrooms, as in the past, but the removal of all roots of the present trees was considered to be a big problem. Mr. Rajmohan reminded that Mr. B.R.L. Fernando, Chairman CIC had suggested the development of a fruit farm.

Mr. Rajmohan was concerned that children of minor staff of STC Mt. Lavinia were admitted to Mount, without giving preference to those of Old Boys of Gurutalawa.

With the term of the current Representative in the Board for STC Gurutalawa, Bandarawela and Colpetty coming to an end soon, it was agreed that the proposal made by Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka several years ago that the three schools should have separate Representatives should be taken up again.

#### **7. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The Minutes of Meeting No. 6 of 2007/2008, held on August 4, 2007, was accepted as a true record, proposed by Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi and seconded by Mr. Rajmohan, subject to inclusion of Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka's name under Invitees.

## **8. Matters Arising**

- a. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe advised that arrangements were in hand to obtain necessary documents for duty free clearance, from the Dept of Imports and Exports with the help of Mr. Nanda Matthew, The Governor of Uva Province.
- b. The Headmaster advised that the expenditure on the Administration Officer's quarters would be checked after the College reopened and the proposed trust fund was still in preliminary stages, with objectives being written.
- c. In reply to Mr. Bandu Wanigasekera, the Headmaster advised that several Clubs and Societies existed and they were within the curriculum now, compared to being outside the curriculum in the distant past, with the last two periods of Friday allocated, one Friday for one Club or Society, due to staff not willing to stay after school,

The Headmaster confirmed that when recruiting new staff for subjects, preference was given to single men for residence in campus and free meals were given to Dorm Masters. Arrangements were being made to send supervisors to STC Mt. Lavinia for training.

In reply to Mr. Rajmohan the Headmaster advised that unwanted staff could not be transferred to other S. Thomas's. Mr. Buddhika Kurukularatne proposed that such transfer should be included in the Employment Contract, subject to approval by the Board.

The Headmaster added that under a new Rule, any Member of Staff could be dismissed immediately, if one touched a student on a punishment.

- d. The Headmaster tabled the list of prizes to be given at the Prize Giving, in the sum of Rs.61,200.00 and the Ex-Co approved it for payment. The Headmaster agreed to give the exact details of the prizes to Ex-Co for record purposes.

## **9. Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Nihal Wanniarachi reported that a current account was opened at Commercial Bank, Mt. Lavinia Branch and the balance as of August 31, 2007 was Rs. 570,564.19.

Mr. Bandu Wangasekera advised there were standing orders to Standard Chartered Bank, from various donors and offered to write to them requesting for a change to Commercial Bank, Mt. Lavinia Branch. Several monthly statements from Standard Chartered Bank were still missing and Ex-Co agreed to obtain them for him to finalise the account there.

It was resolved that the current account at Standard Chartered Bank be closed on September 30, 2007 and all funds in the account be transferred to the current account at Commercial Bank, Mt. Lavinia Branch.

## **10. Master Plan**

The Headmaster advised that he had given his observations on the Master Plan to the Board of Governors at the Meeting held the day before and approval had been given for the proposal for the cooperative stores and the farm, subject to the following conditions.

1. All work should be under consultation with the Headmaster
2. It should come under the Headmaster, not separately under a Committee
3. All funds required should be borne by the OBA

The Ex-Co agreed to discuss the matter under the Sub-Committee on the subject.

## **11. Reports from Sub Committees**

### Farm Development

Conditions of approval for the Master Plan to be taken up at Sub-Committee level

### Membership and Directory

The Membership Directory made available at the Fellowship Dinner had received congratulatory remarks. It was agreed that the Directory would be sold at Rs. 300.

#### Fellowship Dinner

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe thanked all those who worked hard in organizing the Dinner and made special mention of the Chairman, Mr. Rajmohan, who had gone from door to door collecting the highest number of advertisements, well assisted by Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi, by making all the necessary arrangements, to make it a success.

Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi confirmed that a total of 219 had attended the Dinner. There had been 80 advertisements for the Directory and 4 banners at the Dinner. He stressed that the Ex-Co Members should be more committed and greater effort and support would be required from all of them, when organizing such events in future.

Mr. Rajmohan made special mention of Messrs. Kuru Uthumpala, Rashid and Atula Kumaranayake, for collecting a good number of advertisements and thanked Mr. Atula Kumaranayake for running the bar most efficiently, on the day.

#### Family Outing

Saturday, November 17, 2007 had been booked for the family outing and at the request of the majority, it was agreed to change it to Sunday, November 18, 2007, subject to availability.

#### Finance & Constitution

No further action.

#### Newsletter and Advertising

The Headmaster agreed to send a report for inclusion in the newsletter soon. Mr. Hermon Fernando suggested that a slip be introduced in the newsletter, for purchasing the Membership Directory.

#### Turf wicket

The Headmaster advised that the Board had decided to put on hold the development of the turf wicket.

### **13. Membership**

The following new Members (total of 18) had been enrolled since the AGM this year .

Mr. D. Kamal Perera, Mr. Sbasinghe S A Neel, Mr. Gunasekera W A D P R, Mr. Senanayake Anura, Mr. Sheriff Mohamed Riyaz, Mr. Sheriff Mohamed Riyaz, Mr. Ranatunga Chamila Hemal, Mr. Liyanage D Wickrama, Mr. Rameshkumar Kasinathan, Mr. Nazeer Mohamed Irshaff, Mr. Rodrigo Jude Leonard, Mr. Maddage Amila Eranga, Mr. Ilanko Arunachalam, Mr. Abdul R. Mhohamed Ali, Mr. Samsudeen Fashry, Mr. S A Ahamed Hananudeen, Mr. M T Mohamed Kamil, Mr. A H M Nistar.

### **14. Any Other Business**

Mr. Sandakalum explained that at the end of 2003, rivalry between Year 10 & 11 student had started and it was as a result of the divisions among staff, when some of them influenced the students. Later it became known as 2004 mania and the students including him got the blame. After leaving school the students of the two years had realized the mistake and the folly and wished to make amends. He proposed to organize a sports festival between STC Guru and STC Mount at Gurutalawa, at the end of September 2007 and had got the blessings of the Warden.

The Headmaster advised that there were too many activities at Gurutalawa at that time, but could send some teams for matches at Mt. Lavinia. Mr. Sandakalum agreed to check with the Warden and arrive at a suitable weekend.

Mr. Bandu Wanigasekera said that the Headmaster had been very open and gave credit to him and the Ex-Co for the present development of mutual understanding.

### **15. Next Meeting**

The Meeting adjourned at 12.30 pm. Next Meeting on Thursday, October 4, 2007 at 2.30 p.m., **at S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa**

Confirmed as correct.

Chairman.