

S. THOMAS' COLLEGE GURUTALAWA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 8 OF 2007/2008 (296th)
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Date : October 4, 2007 at 2.30 pm
Place : S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa
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. S. Kaviharan (SK)
Mr. A.D Sandakalum (AS)

Excuses

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

Invitees

Mr. Bandu Wanigasekera
Mr. Milindha Hettiarachchi
Mr. J. J. Rajakaruna
Mr. Lasantha Perera
Mr. Lakshman Jayathilake

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

4. Obituaries

There were no obituaries recorded since the last meeting.

5. Correspondence

Various correspondence related to clearing of computers had been received via e mail.

The Headmaster had sent his report, including the estimates for infrastructure development, for inclusion in the next Newsletter.

6. Headmaster's Report

The Headmaster reported that the student count stood at 525. 18 students had been sent for the Grade 5 Scholarship Examination. The cut off mark was 142 and one student had taken 162. There was a serious problem with the quality of water. Tech Water Ltd had tested the water and found e coli bacteria. The Board had approved Rs. 1 million to attend to the problem as a matter of urgency. Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe had a brief discussion with Mr. Jacques Huyghebaert before the Meeting regarding urgent plans in this connection and had offered to visit again soon, for further advice.

Mrs. Fairweather, who owned the Mickelfield farm had decided to sell the farm and the Board was considering it's purchase.

The swimming coach, a Government employee, had been transferred to Amparai and the College was looking for a new coach. The requirements for infrastructure development had been forwarded to various Old Boy Associations abroad and quotations for some work were being received. Arrangements were in hand for providing matching mattresses for the bunk beds and covers in House colours were being considered. Samples of single desk and chair with metal frame, for class rooms had been made and estimates were being prepared. The Headmaster wished to have separate chairs for the dining hall.

The arrears from students stood at Rs.346,000 with almost Rs. 150,000 from one bright student, whose parents had difficulty in raising the money. The students admitted after February this year had not defaulted.

7. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Headmaster required the following amendment.

Item 10 – Master Plan – Amend the conditions as follows:

1. Management of the College Farm and Co-op Shop shall be under the Headmaster and the School, with the Committee in place to advise.
2. The proposals of the Master Plan shall be executed with the compliance of and in consultation of the Headmaster
3. All funds required shall be raised by the OBA

The Minutes of Meeting No. 7 of 2007/2008, held on September 1, 2007, was accepted as a true record, proposed by Brig. Bandu Munasinghe and seconded by Mr. Hermon Fernando, subject to the above.

8. Matters Arising

- a. There had been no action regarding proposing separate Representatives in the Board of Governors, for STC Gurutalawa, Bandarawela and Colpetty.
- b. The computers were still to be cleared, with the Customs making it difficult with various requests. It was expected to be cleared within a week, with huge demurrage charges.

9. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer gave the status of accounts as follows:

Current Account at Commercial bank Rs.512,594.54, as of October 2, 2007

It was resolved that a Fixed Deposit, renewable monthly for Rs.300,000 should be opened at Commercial Bank, with the funds in the current account at Commercial Bank, proposed by Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi and seconded by Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe

10. Master Plan

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe confirmed that the Sub Committee on Farm Development had met and decided to shelve the Master Plan for the following reasons.

- a. Farm development was not feasible without the 9 acre block (being considered to be leased out for a strawberry farm), as that was the heart of the farm with cattle, goats, flowers and vegetables and the Co-operative Stores was part and parcel of the same Project.
- b. Headmaster's appeal for funds would be sent to the same Membership and the Ex-Co did not wish to create a competition for collecting funds.

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe advised that with the farm development shelved, the Ex-Co was considering complete rebuilding of the Junior Dormitory toilets, during the December holidays and designs and estimates would be prepared to check the feasibility, immediately. The Headmaster assured that any repairs/replacement of fittings etc damaged by students would be charged to them.

The Headmaster also advised that some funds were expected from the OBA-UK for projects.

11. Reports from Sub Committees

Farm Development

To be shelved as described above

Membership and Directory

10 copies of the Directory had been handed over to the Headmaster for sale to any visitors.

Fellowship Dinner

The accounts were being finalized

Family Outing

The date had been changed to Saturday, November 18, 2007, as requested at the last Meeting.

Newsletter and Advertising

The Newsletter would be issued soon.

12. Membership

Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi advised that he had obtained Membership of 5 Old Boys.

13. Any Other Business

The Headmaster wished to relieve Mr. Razik from the duties as Farm Manager, for him to be fully involved in teaching and was looking for a new recruit. He also suggested that the staff should be felicitated by the Old Boys, as in STC, Mt Lavinia

He thanked the Old Boys for attending the prize giving.

He proposed that Mr. Jacques Huyghebaert be made an Honorary Member of the OBA, in recognition of his contribution to College.

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe had handed over the sports goods to College today, as per the list, as urgently needed, by Mr. Jacques Huyghebaert, several months ago.

14. Next Meeting

The Meeting adjourned at 4.00 p.m. Next Meeting on Saturday, November 18, 2007 during the Family Outing at Wadduwa Holiday Resort

Confirmed as correct.

Chairman