

S. THOMAS' COLLEGE GURUTALAWA - OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 05 OF 2008/2009 (305th)
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Date : July 11, 2008 at 7.00 pm

Place : 80 Club of Colombo - #25, Independence Av., Colombo 07.

Present :

Mr. Christo Gonawela	(CG)	Vice President
Mr. S. Rajmohan	(RM)	Vice President
Mr. Dinusha de Costa	(DC)	Hony. Secretary
Mr. P. Dayabaran	(PD)	Hony. Treasurer
Mr. Athula Kumaranayake	(AK)	Hony. Asst. Treasurer
Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi	(NW)	
Mr. M.P.D. Perera	(MPD)	
Mr. Krishantha Weerawardane	(KW)	
Mr. Thirumurugamoorthy Muthuvel	(MT)	
Mr. A.D. Sandakelum	(AS)	

Excuses

Rev. Marc Billimoria
Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe
Mr. S. Balaramesh
Mr. D. Mahinda Ranasinghe
Mr. Palitha Rajapakse
Mr. Sirilal Wickremaratne
Mr. Shervon Fernando
Mr. S. Prabaharan

Absent

Mr. Chandana De Silva
Mr. A.A.R. Mawahib
Mr. Y.L. Sarachchandra
Mr. Lasantha Perera
Mr. Tusitha Nanayakkara
Mr. S. Kaviharan
Mr. W.E.B. Abeyawardena

Invitees

Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka
Mr. Bandu Wanigasekera
Mr. N. Kuru Utumpala

1. Call Meeting to Order

Vice President Mr. Christo Gonawela chaired and called the meeting to order at 6.30 pm. He welcomed the invitees, Messrs. Lakshman Jayatilaka, Kuru Utumpala and Bandu Wanigasekera for their participation, with a view to supporting the fund raising events and the Fellowship Dinner Committee 2008 of the OBA.

2. Notice of Meeting

Notice of Meeting was taken as read.

3. Messages of Excuse

As above

4. Obituaries

- Mahen Daya Weerathunga (1950-1955)

- Committee observed two minutes silence to convey their condolences for the demise of the father of Rev. Marc Billimoria, Headmaster of STCG and Hony. President of the STCG OBA and whose cremation was held on 4th July 2008 at Nadimala Cemetery, Mt Lavinia.

5. Correspondence

- Vice President's visit to College
The Committee was briefed by Vice President (CG) based on a recent visit to College of the current situation and highlights of which are given below.
 - a) At the Thomian Day Celebration the students performed a range of playlets which were done with the co-operation of Teachers. The standard was good.
 - b) The need to ensure regular cleanliness of the new night toilets was indicated to the Authorities.
 - c) The successful cultivation of Vegetables under a partnership based on profit share was observed. Currently two plots have been cultivated. A formal agreement is being prepared by the HM.
 - d) Current student count is around 510 and admission from the nursery to Grade 1 was very minimal. Hence there is a possibility of the discontinuation of the nursery from 2009 onwards.
 - e) The lack of adequate numbers of Tamil students creates a concern. This has to be looked into soon.
 - f) Outstanding fees is in the range of RS 6 million and this may be a result of current economic conditions.
- Agreement with Apollo Hospitals.
The secretary informed the house of an agreement signed with Apollo Hospitals for the provision of various incentives for OBA Members and as this agreement did not cast any obligation on members of the OBA he sought ratification which the house agreed to without division. The secretary was requested to circulate the list of benefits to all members.
- Mr. Malik Candappa, the past President of STC OBA of Canada had donated Canadian \$2500 to the school. The donation was deposited at STCG-OBA account on 2nd July 2008 and the donor to be informed in relation to payments and purchase details of material covering the project in the process of implementation.

6. Headmaster's Report

Not available

7. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of Meeting No.4 held on May 27, 2008 was accepted as a true record, proposed by Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi and seconded by Mr. Krishantha Weerawardane, subject to the following amendments.

- Matters arising:
'Transfer funds into short term.....' sentence should be as below;
Renewed Fixed Deposit at NSB at 17.5%. - Proposed by BW & Seconded by NW
- 'Sports fund account.....' sentence should be as below;
Open a Savings Account for Sports Fund - Corrected by BW
- Treasurer's Report:
Payment details of Mr. Athula Karunanayakes' expenses of Rs.6,000/= should add and corrected as a Dictaphone tape **and flower wreath.**
- Projects:
'Mr. Srilal Wickemaratne' sentence should be as below;
Mr. Srilal Wickemaratne was appointed to coordinate and supervise and check durability factors of sanitary utilities & urinal items related to the project - *Proposed by LJ & Seconded by BW*
- Corrections
 1. Mr.Linken Fernando should change as **Mr. Lincoln Fernando** - *Corrected by RM*
 2. **Removed the whole last sentence** with regard to the OBA funds - *Proposed by BW & Seconded by NW*

8. Matters Arising

Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka on a recent visit to College had made various observations which was presented to the house and was discussed, opinions given and it was agreed that these matters should be taken up with the College. Out of a long list of observations some of the key issues as follows.

1. It was queried on whether the Horses were gifts to the school or if the school had paid for same. VP C.G. responding stated that according to his knowledge that the Horses were gifts and that they should obtain verification form HM in this regard.
2. If it was a gift the need to have documentary proof. A verification in sought from HM.
3. Expenses on feeding the Horses-
Quantification on expenditure of feeding the Horses and as to whether such costs are been recovered through revenue generated from the Horses Riding Club. A clarification to be obtained from the HM.
4. It was also noted that since that the increase in remuneration to College security staff that the school was considering outsourcing a security from a private firm.
5. The issue of getting better quality Teachers to fill the vacancies of the basis of offering enhance salary packages, to which the VP answered that based on the current financial position and the number of children in school may not permit this. Further more the difficulty of attracting staff to Guruthalawa based on location was also highlighted.
6. The need to identify buildings not occupied and to list them and put them in to good use - VP C.G. informed the house that this process was already in progress in College and this was done in a step by step manner considering finance availability.
7. It was also agreed that HM should be requested for a list of his prioritised requirements upon which the OBA will selectively support the projects they choose from the list.
8. VP CG informed the house that we should have a closer interaction with the Manager of the school Mr. Lincoln Fernando and use him also as a conduit in addressing various issues related to College.

9. Treasurer's Report

- It was stated that donations by Australian Old Boys for the Sports Fund canvassed by Mr. Peter Weerakoon, had topped Rs.60,000 and it was decided that a separate Savings Account be opened. The following resolution proposed by Mr. Bandu Wanigasekara and seconded by Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi was adopted without division.

“A separate saving account to be opened at the Commercial Bank for the Funds for Sports from donations from Australia and the usual office bearers as the Current Account to be authorized to operate this account.”

- It was reported that the donation of Canadian \$2500 from STC OBA Canada was received.
- The Treasurer confirmed the following Bank balances as of below;

Commercial Bank (Saving Acc.)	- Rs.463,326.46 (as per 30 th June 2008)
FD (HNB)	- Rs.472,121.83
FD (NSB)	- Rs.325,571.53
FD (COM)	- Rs.332,290.13
Amount received from Australia	- Rs.374,517.50

Expense Details

Advanced paid (Mt.Lavenia Hotel) - Rs.50,000.00

- The Treasurer and Mr. Bandu Wanigasekara informed the house of unac countable credits lying in the Bank account with no supporting documents submitted by the depositor. It was agreed that a special request should be sent out to members to ensure supporting documents are forwarded to the OBA of any deposit directly made to the bank by any old boy. In the interim un accountable credit to be shown in a suspense account.

10. Fellowship Dinner

Meeting to be held soon after the Ex-Co Meeting.

11. Fund Raising

To be discussed along with the Fellowship Dinner Committee Meeting.

12. Newsletters

Since the date was finalised, it is must to send news letters with immediate effect. The Fellowship Dinner Committee to follow up.

13. Membership

Chairman of the Sub Committee for Membership, Mr. T. Muthuvel had confirmed 12 members during the month of June and 8 are pending among those who received membership applications.

14. Projects – Junior Dormitory Toilets

Headmaster is looking for few changes to the original plan of the project. They plan to extend the Reed House roof right down and also to have Laundry Machines in the washing area which amends the original project plan.

15. Any Other Business

1. Based on a petition the officers of the Education Ministry had called for details of Rev. Marc Billimoria's qualifications to hold office as HM despite a earlier meeting by the Chairman Board of Governors, Manger and the HM with the Minister of Education and getting an assurance from the Minister that this issue would not be a concern for the future
2. Update of Membership Directory
It was proposed that Mr. Christo Gonawela VP do an audit of the membership directory with the support of members of the Ex-Co.

16. Next Meeting

The meeting to be held on the 22nd of August 2008 at.....

Confirmed as correct.

Hony. Vice President