

S. THOMAS' COLLEGE GURUTALAWA - OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 1 OF 2009/2010 (311th)
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Date : March 27, 2009 at 06.30pm

Place : 267, Pannipitiya Road, Pelawatte, Battaramulla

Present :

Rev. Marc Billimoria	(HM)	President
Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe	(MR)	Senior Vice President
Mr. Prabhath Jayasundera	(PJ)	Vice President
Mr. M. Thirumurugamoorthi	(MT)	Vice President
Mr. Dinusha de Costa	(DC)	Hony. Secretary
Mr. P. Dhayabaran	(PD)	Hony. Treasurer
Mr. Wansapriya Gunaseela	(WG)	Hony. Asst. Treasurer
Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi	(NW)	
Mr. Chandana De Silva	(CS)	
Mr. Shervon Fernando	(SF)	
Mr. Sherveen Pietersz	(SZ)	
Mr. S. Prabakaran	(SP)	
Mr. S. Balaramesh	(SB)	

Excuses

Mr. Christo Gonawela	(CG)
Mr. A.C.M.Rashid	(AR)
Mr. Krishantha Weerawardane	(KW)
Mr. Athula Kumaranayake	(AK)
Mr. Palitha Rajapaksa	(PR)
Mr. M.P.D. Perera	(MP)
Mr. Lincoln Fernando	

Absent

Mr. E.S. Weerasinghe	(EW)
Mr. Omal Jayasinghe	(OJ)
Mr. M. Vinodh	(MV)

Invitees

Mr. S. Rajmohan	(SR)
Mr. Ziard Sinnen	(ZS)
Mr. Bandu Wanigasekara	(BW)
Mr. Thanura Fernando	(TF)

1. Call Meeting to Order

President/ Headmaster, Rev. Marc Billimoria chaired and called the Meeting to order.

2. Notice of Meeting

Notice of Meeting was taken as read.

3. Messages of Excuse

As above

4. Co-opting of five Members to the Ex- Co under Rule 9 (2) b

The following were appointed as Committee Members proposed by MR and seconded by MM.
Messrs. S. Rajmohan, Palitha Rajapaksa, M.P.D. Perera, Ziard Sinnen and Thanura Fernando.

5. Appointment of Representatives to the STC Mt. Lavinia OBA

Messrs. Nihal Wanniarachchi and Dinusha de Costa were appointed as Representatives of the OBA in the Ex-Co and for the AGM of STC OBA Mt. Lavinia respectively proposed by MR and seconded by PJ.

6. Obituaries

The demise of Mr. Clifford Ratwatte, Senior Vice President from 1987-2001 was announced and the committee observed with 2 minutes silence.

7. Correspondence

1. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka had sent a letter on observations he made on Item 9 of the agenda of the 50th AGM and it was tabled - to be discussed later
2. SJMS Associates had written to ad
3. Mrs. Ellepola, a former Teacher at College had sent a poem to be read at the AGM. As it was received late HM proposed to include it in the College magazine, expected to be printed in the near future.
4. OBA STC Bandarawela had written confirming the Uva Thomian Cricket Encounter on May, 23, 2009.

8. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

NW requested for the minutes of meeting to be sent at least 2 weeks before the next meeting. DC agreed to do his best to meet this request.

PJ requested all Ex Co Members to use the E mail facility and to bring a copy of the agenda and the minutes to the Meeting,

The Minutes of Meeting No.10 of 2008/2009 (310th), held on February 6, 2009 were accepted as a true record proposed by Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi and seconded by Mr. S. Rajmohan.

9. Matters Arising

Item 8 - HM advised that the new Auditors, Messrs. B.R. De Silva were checking the accounts of 2007 and there were several queries to be answered by the Accountant. It was expected to be completed by early April and checking of accounts of 2008 would follow. He agreed to keep the Ex Co updated.

HM confirmed that the leasing of the farm to CIC was at discussion stage. MR reminded that the Master Plan proposal to manage the Farm by a Committee of Old Boys, HM and the Board, while providing 100% funds and donating 100% profits for development of the College was rejected in 2007 and he was puzzled that the Board was now considering handing over the farm to total outsiders for a small return. HM felt that the Ex Co could submit fresh proposals and MR advised that we lost the opportunity and it would not be possible now, with the poor economic situation worldwide.

Item 10 - The outstanding amount of. Rs. 5000.00 for one banner - to be checked with Mr. Cristo Gonawela .

Item 13 – The six new Members were Messrs. Shirley Dissanayaka, W.P.D.K. Fernando, Kanil Hattotuwa, Chinthaka Amarapathi, R.M.N.T.Rathnayaka and Sanka Wijesinghe. It was agreed that there would be no Membership drive. Any Old Boys wishing to become Members would however be welcome.

Item 15 – The new toilet building was officially handed over to the Headmaster on February 28, 2009.

A press release on the Re Union Celebrations/ AGM written by HM had appeared in the Sunday Times of April 26, 2009. Photographs and a report on the AGM and the Re-Union Celebrations had been included in the website stcg62group.org

PD confirmed that the collection at the AGM weekend was Rs. 281,600/= and he was awaiting the bill from College, to finalize the accounts. HM agreed to send it soon.

Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka's comments at the AGM and confirmed in writing were discussed as follows:

The first Matter

It was agreed that in future, the Secretary's Report should give separately a breakdown of the new Members joining during the Calendar/Accounting year and the year during which the Ex Co was in office, so that the subscriptions received matched the number of new Members.

The Second Matter

With regard to the minutes where it was indicated that the vouchers were available, and Auditors did not ask for further details, BW stated that the Auditors only indicated the shortcomings and in this case, the vouchers were internal documents and they should be attached to bills/receipts and details of quantities and rates. It was the lack of these that were pointed out by the Auditors.

However, MR explained that the full documents were not available in December '08 for the Audit, as the first priority at that time, was the work that needed to be done by the target date. Under these circumstances and as requested by Mr. Jayatilaka, MR said that the final account of the project was being prepared with all work nearing completion and he would give them for a special audit and submit the report at the next Ex-Co Meeting.

The Third Matter

BW stated that the Rs.65,000/- was given to the Headmaster for the Hayman Trust and later when it was realized that the purpose was for Scholarships in Dr. Hayman's name, it was agreed by Mr. Weerakoon and the Headmaster, to give this to the OBA for the Dr.R.L.Hayman Scholarship Fund.

From a strictly legal point where even a handshake was considered a Contract, it may be that the OBA owned the money, but from an accounting point, it remained a form of pledge and was mentioned in the Secretary's Report merely to indicate our gratitude to Mr. Weerakoon. No money/cheque or written communication was in the records of the OBA to pick up the record of such a transaction in the books of accounts. However it was expected to be recorded when the money was received by the OBA.

The Fourth Matter

Regarding the payment of Rs.10,000/= to a third party for accounting services rendered in the previous year, MR explained that the accounts of the early part of that year had not been properly entered in a cash book, with the Hony. Treasurer falling ill and for presentation of accounts to auditors, Ex Co had to employ a firm of accountants, Mr. Ariyaratnam to put the accounts in order. The fee of Rs. 10,000/= was a nominal fee, because of the Firm's, close connection with BW and no way covered the actual cost of work done.

Item 17 – The compressor system for pumping tube well water to the header tank at the grounds had been successfully completed and commissioned, and the pavilion refurbished, in time for the Re-Union celebrations.

10. Headmaster's Report

HM reported that the admission drive was on and the aim was to increase the numbers to 500 from the present 425 or so, as the operational costs were higher than the income. He considered that the new junior dormitory toilets made a big impression. He requested for the OBA's support for admissions. WG suggested distributing handouts to promote.

He was not happy with the performance of the Dorm Masters and intended replacing them with a Hostel Warden.

The annual cricket big match between STCs Gurutalawa and Bandarawela, called the Uva Thomian encounter, had been fixed for May 23, 2009 and it had been decided that it would be organized by a joint committee of the two OBAs. As STC Guru had only an Under 17 side, it had been agreed that only the Captain of STC Bandarawela would be included in a team to match. Ex-Co considered that it would be difficult for our OBA to provide any funds at this stage, with all funds exhausted for the toilet project and that the Ex-Co had not been involved in any formal discussions with OBA Bandarawela to discuss the matters.

He proposed that the Ex-Co appointed Sub Committees for sports, education faculty development, maintenance and staff development, to advise College.

MR tabled the Notes on Discussions he held on March 7, 2009, immediately after the 50th Anniversary Chapel Service at STC Mt. Lavinia, in the presence of the Manager, Mr Lincoln Fernando and Messrs. S. Rajmohan, Krishantha Weerawardena, Palitha Rajapaksa and Shervon Fernando and the amendments to it sent by the Headmaster.

He summarized the contents, decisions reached and actions already taken as follows:

- The main reason he wished to step down from the Ex-Co at the last AGM was the extension of the services of the Administration Officer/Accountant, Mr. Selvaratnam, when he was proved to be guilty of negligence and malpractices in the past. He had requested for his immediate removal and the Headmaster had advised that it could lead to actions through the labour tribunal and had agreed to remove him if solid evidence could be provided regarding his malpractices. MR and others had agreed to make every effort to find such evidence. SR reminded that there was adequate proof of AO's malpractices and negligence at the enquiry held regarding the fire in March 2007.
- The cost of food items purchased in January 2009, when the chief cook, Mr. Sarath was purchasing, had shown a reduction of approximately Rs.425,000/= compared to that last year, averaged per month, raising serious doubts of malpractices and commissions taken by those responsible, the main person being Mr. Selvaratnam.
- Firewood was being purchased from outside at Rs.1,200/cu.yd, when there was ample firewood available within the College premises, from trees cut and logs lying around. Earlier it had been cut by one of the support staff for Rs.200/= a cu.yd.
- HM had agreed to make the Farm Manager, Food Warden and the Maintenance Supervisor, reporting direct to him and to take all purchasing under him. MR had obtained a quotation from George Enterprises of Bandarawela, for the chicken farm and HM had already made the change from the supplier at Welimada.

MR had also arranged Thushara Traders of Welimada to quote for the kitchen supplies and purchasing from there had already commenced.

MR requested for payment for the purchases be made on time, as per any credit periods given and build up a relationship with the suppliers. Previously, when similar arrangements were made by him, payments were delayed purposely, to make the suppliers stop deliveries enabling those responsible to revert to the suppliers, where they had commissions and benefits. HM assured that payments would be made, as necessary.

- Judging by the failures and the deficiencies in maintenance, the Administration Officer had proved his lack of knowledge and experience in maintenance and MR had offered to provide procedures, charts etc. for routine and preventative maintenance to the Maintenance Supervisor Mr. Mahir, through HM and visit College during the next weekend to brief him.

11. Resolutions for Authorization of Signatories to Banks

It was resolved that the signatories for the current account at Commercial Bank, and the fixed deposits at Hatton National Bank and National Savings Bank, in accordance with the OBA constitution would be as follows:

EITHER 1.Mr. P.Dhayabaran (Hony. Treasurer) **OR** 2. Mr.Wansapriya Gunaseela (Hony. Asst.Treasurer)
AND ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Mr .M.P.Ranasinghe | (Hony. Senior Vice President) |
| 2. Mr. Cristo Gonawela | (Hony. Vice President) |
| 3. Mr. Prabhath Jayasudera | (Hony. Vice President) |
| 4. Mr. M.Thirumurugamoorthi | (Hony. Vice President) |

12. Treasurer's Report

PD reported that the balance in the current account was Rs.304,739.00 as of March 27,2009. Mr. Hubert Jayakody from Japan had donated Rs. 300,000/= towards the Reconstruction of the Read Junior Roof.

It was agreed that a fixed deposit should be opened with approximately, Rs.170,000/= belonging to the Sports Fund, presently in the current account.

13. Plans for Implementation in 2009

MR's proposals for implementation in 2009, presented to HM on March 7 were discussed as follows:

- Kitchen - The extractor fan in the kitchen to be repaired immediately, the heat and the smoke in the kitchen being unbearable. HM was waiting for a mechanic to remove it for rewiring the motor.
- Swimming pool - As the present equipment was very old and not efficient new equipment would be required to bring it up to a high standard, if it was to be promoted to outsiders. Under the present condition, there was the danger of spreading diseases brought from outside and vice versa, leading to unnecessary problems. MR considered that improving the standard with new equipment would be a source of income while attracting new students and offered to get quotations.
- Classrooms – The roofs of classrooms were leaking badly, requiring urgent reconstruction.
- A minimum of 250 desks and chairs were needed in classrooms and Foster Hall and HM expected a donation from overseas to purchase part of it.
- Staff Quarters – Mr. Dikkumbura's quarters needed urgent refurbishing and HM advised that some funds were expected from overseas. MR agreed to check the extent of repairs required along with Mr. Dikkumbura and Jamil,, to obtain a quotation from Jamil, during his visit, next weekend.
- Keble Classrooms – Required replacing of tiles with asbestos or Zn/Al sheets, as all attempts to stop the leaks had failed.
- Workshops – There was a need for workshops to held to train the staff to maintain Thomian standards, including dress code, manners at meals. HM accepted the need, but considered it difficult to achieve.
- The quarters refurbished by the OBA in 2003 was badly in need of ceiling and roof repairs. Consideration for repairs to be given, if the Old Boys were given preference over the others, for occupation, during visits.

14. Appointment of Sub Committees

The following Sub Committees were formed.

Members Directory	- MT (Chairman), CG, NW, PD, SF, DC, TF, OJ, EW
Family Outing	- SZ (Chairman), SR, DC, KW, PR
Fellowship Dinner	- To be appointed
Infrastructure Development	- MR (Chairman), KW, PJ
Education & Faculty	- WG (Chairman), SP, SB
Sports Development	- PJ (Chairman), SB, SZ

The Chairmen may add any others to the Committees as they wish

15. Any Other Business

None raised

16. Next Meeting

Next meeting tentatively fixed on Friday, 24th April 2009.

Confirmed as correct.

Chairman