

**S. THOMAS' COLLEGE GURUTALAWA - OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 04 OF 2009/2010 (314<sup>th</sup>)**  
**OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

<b>Date :</b>	September 26, 2009 at 10.40am		
<b>Place :</b>	No.3, Swarna Place, Nawala.		
<b>Present :</b>	Rev. Marc Billimoria	(MB)	President
	Mr. Prabhath Jayasundara	(PJ)	Vice President
	Mr. Christo Gonawela	(CG)	Vice President
	Mr. M. Thirumurugamoorthi	(MT)	Vice President
	Mr. Dinusha de Costa	(DC)	Hony. Secretary
	Mr. Wansapriya Gunaseela	(WG)	Asst. Treasurer
	Mr. Nihal Wanniarachchi	(NW)	
	Mr. S. Balaramesh	(SB)	
	Mr. S. Prabaharan	(SP)	
	Mr. S. Rajmohan	(SR)	
	Mr. Ziard Sinnen	(ZS)	
	Mr. Chandana De Silva	(CS)	

**Excuses**

Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe  
Mr. P. Dhayabaran  
Mr. Athula Kumaranayake  
Mr. Thanura Fernando  
Mr. Palitha Rajapaksa  
Mr. Shervon Fernando  
Mr. M. Vinodth

**Absent**

Mr. Omal Jayasinghe  
Mr. A.C.M.Rashid  
Mr. Krishantha Weerawardane  
Mr. E.S. Weerasinghe  
Mr. Sherveen Pietersz  
Mr. M.P.D. Perera

**Invitees**

Mr.L.S.P. Jayatilaka  
Mr. Panini Edirisinghe  
Mr. Bandu Wanigasekara

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

President (MB) 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. Obituaries**

Committee observed with 2 minutes silence for the demise of Capt.D.A. Wickremasinghe (1947-52)

**5. Correspondence**

Headmaster informed the following;

- The postponed (7<sup>th</sup> August 2009) Guru Inter-House Swimming meet was held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at 8.30am at the College. The Chief Guest was Dr.Harsha Perera who captained the Guru Swimming Team in 1985.
- Email from Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe resigning from the post of SVP. The matter to be discussed under any other business.
- Mr. Buddhika Kurukularatnes book titled "Boarding Iskola" is now published. Members are encouraged to purchase same as it is a good read and Rs.120/= of the proceeds go to STC Bandarawela.
- A discussion took place regarding the issue raised by Mr. Panini Edirisinghe on the appointment of the Headmaster. At the request of Mr.Edirisinghe an opportunity was provided to talk to the Exco. It was apparent that the matter under discussion was now with the Ministry and the Board of Governors, and as such the Exco requested Mr.Edirisinghe to pursue the matter with the Ministry and the Board if he desired so. The Exco informed Mr.Edirisinghe that the father Mark Billimoria is accepted as the Headmaster by the Exco.

**6. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of Meeting No.03 of 2008/2009 (313<sup>th</sup>), held on June 26, 2009 were accepted as a true record subjected to below amendments made by Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe;

**Item 10. Sub Committees**

- d) Mount Lavinia Hotel booked by Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe for October 24, 2008. Confirmation needed with payment.

Proposed by ZS and seconded by WG.

**7. Matters Arising**

- www.stcguru.com, college website is now up and running. LJ's contribution to maintain the College website was appreciated. A Broadband connection is also present at the College and require proper expansion layout. Proposed to advertise new building projects on the College website.
- The dire need of a sports officer was discussed again. Headmaster will transfer Mr.Kamalakannan to the sports dept but he will concentrate on cricket. The sports officer ideally would be a young old boy with at least moderately good English. BR was requested to prepare a job description. PJ informed that 83/84 O/L Batches will fund Rs.10,000/= per month for the position to add to the Rs.7,500/= allocated by the school.
- The Headmaster informed that Mr. Ananda Gallearachchi is a tremendous asset who is introducing proper accounting and control systems. The farm is now self financing and Dr.Harsha Perera has agreed to introduce Turkey to the farm.

**8. Headmaster's Report**

Headmaster pointed out that GURU is in good heart however many improvements are needed as discussed below.

- HM does a screening for admission. Most admissions are for the middle school. English medium attracts new admissions from the international schools. Critical number has been identified as 500 students. BW proposed to charge four months fee in advance and keep one month fee as a refundable deposit, the merits of such a mechanism to be considered
- College now insists on original documents prior to admission to avoid defaulters leaving without payment of arrears.
- Headmaster informed that there are many new young graduate teachers who need training. Headmaster informed the importance of having the promised training program as some staff have a very cynical attitude towards the OBA. Headmaster wanted one of the panellists to be an old boy to clearly define the expectations the school has of a teacher coming to teach at GURU.
- The infrastructure program is in place with work having been done in the primary and middle schools with monies received from Dr.Haymans's alma mater. Headmaster will post on the internet identified projects to be picked up by interested individuals or groups. The old dining hall and the Chapman dorm are the critical ones at present apart from the re-roofing of the upper school.
- The entrance upgrading work has fallen through as the parent who undertook that work is unable to fund same.
- BR of the sports committee was handed over the plans developed for the Keeble children's park and the sports centre.
- Requirement of having a resident Boarding Administrator/Hostel Superintendent who will run the dorm is a necessity. He will be paid a salary of Rs.15,000/= to Rs.20,000/=. Exco to propose a suitable candidate if available.
- College still in need of more number of students. HM to recheck with STCB of their boarding fees, and RM stated that it should not compare with Colombo boarding fees due to higher living expenses.

**9. Treasurer's Report**

BW informed that the final shortfall is Rs.18,475/= of which Rs.17,475/= needs to be recovered from MR and the balance from Shervon Fernando. The account can be closed subject to the recovery of the above amounts. Pricing of AGM tickets to be based on the costs in 2009.

BW wanted the treasurer to provide a monthly Income/Expenditure record at the Exco meetings. Headmaster requested NW and BW to prepare a set of procedures and guidelines on payments and accounts and the treasurer to submit a report as done previously and to regularize the accounts.

The two sub committee's for Thora Cricket Sixes and Membership Directory were requested to finalize the accounts prior to the next meeting

**10. Sub Committees**

- a) Membership Directory
  - The first Directory was handed over to Mr. Bardmon Weerakoon on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2009, who was the chief guest at the Thora Cricket Sixes '09.
  - MT said that we can expect Rs.500,000/= of income from the Directory.
  - SR proposed that all the new members should buy this Directory.
  - MT has ordered 400 copies of the Directory, each sells at Rs.500/=.
- b) Thora Cricket Sixes Carnival '09
  - Total 20 teams participated event. Champion team is Mt.Lavinia A/L 2001, Runner up team is Mt.Lavinia A/L 1989.
  - MB requested ZS to write a thanking letter to the Chief Guest
  - Final account to be tabled at the next meeting, due to few pending payments.
- c) Infrastructure Development
  - Main plan regarding the faculty & educational development was distributed to each member for comments and follow up action.
  - PJ will follow-up with Tech waters to get things moving forward for the swimming pool pump house repairs.
- d) Fellowship Dinner
  - Postponed to November and PJ to come up with a feasibility of having the Annual Fellowship Dinner
- e) Education & Faculty – SP's report submitted and need to move forward
- f) Sports Development – SB's detailed report

**11. Any Other Business**

- Resignation of the existing Senior Vice President, Mr. Mahen Ranasinghe was taken up and ExCo offered their gratitude to the great service rendered by MR. Prabhath Jayasundara was unanimously appointed as the new Senior Vice President. Proposed by CG and seconded by SZ.
- Present Head prefect/Cricket Captain of the College Master. Wilfred who is good in education & sports. He is expected to well at the OL's. The student has past school fees arrears amounting to Rs.165,000/= to the College. Upon success at OL's. He is assured a full school at Mount. Headmaster requested that donor/s to help settle the outstanding capitol amount so that the student can start with a clean slate at mount.
- Headmaster will rationalize the criteria for selection for scholarships and share same with the exco at the next meeting. Headmaster intends to award the RL HAYMAN GOLD Medal as the pinnacle prize to the head prefect in the future.
- MB pointed that the next AGM (February 2010) should be properly planned and minimise unnecessary troubles.
- It was proposed to have a Sub Committee for the next AGM as follows;  
S.Rajmohan, Dinusha de Costa, N.Wanniarachchi, M.Thirumurugamoorthi, Chandana de Silva.
- Formulate membership code of conduct and circulate before the next AGM. All related matters will be consulted by LJ & BW. Eligibility criteria for membership to be revisited and changes if any to be proposed.

**12. Next Meeting**

The Meeting was adjourned at 12.30 pm. Next meeting was decided by MB to have on 10th October 2009 at 6pm.

Confirmed as correct.

**Chairman**