



THE ORCHID SCHOOL

Minutes of PTA Executive Council Meeting

Date: 23rd May 2021

Time: 5:30 PM

Venue: Online Platform – MS Teams

Members Present:

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Ms. Lakshmi Kumar | Director, Board Representative |
| 2. Ms. Sangeeta Kapoor | Principal, Ex- Office Secretary |
| 3. Ms. Atreyi Saha | Vice Principal |
| 4. Mr. Bhairavnath Godase | Accounts Head |

Parent Representatives:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Ms. Suvarna Mahashabde | Lead Parent Representative |
| 2. Mr. Rajeev Mankar | Class II Representative |
| 3. Ms. Shailja Arram | Class IV Representative |
| 4. Ms. Manasi Pinge | Class V Representative |
| 5. Ms. Leena Somvanshi | Class VI Representative |
| 6. Dr. Sandhya Deore | Class VII Representative |
| 7. Mr. Sandeep Kurliye | Class VIII Representative |
| 8. Mr. Uday Dixit | Class IX Representative |

Agenda

- Announcement of Reduction of fee hike for Academic Year 2021-21

Points of Discussion

- Director Lakshmi Kumar began the meeting by welcoming the members.
- She updated about the communication from few parents requesting for revision in fees for the Academic Year 2021-22.
- EC members too shared their communication and messages from parents regarding this year's fees and their expectation about the roll back.

The points of discussion that took place are mentioned below-

Year 2020-21:

- In AY 2020-21 the fee hike of 8% was entirely rolled back.
- The school had extended payment deadlines and had also introduced monthly fee instalment to support parents.

- Cancelled IS2 students' security and surveillance and school sports program and adjusted the total fees as reimbursement.

Context of fee hike- 21-22

- In AY 2020-21 the 8% hike was ratified in November 2020 for AY 21-22, the assumption was that schools will function in physical classrooms sometime in 2021.
- With pandemic second wave, the chances of physical school may not be possible for atleast for first term.

EC members' views on Fee hike:

- EC members shared their concerns regarding fee hike, specially in pandemic times. Few parents shared that parents struggling with financial hardships due to lockdown, loss of job and impact on income.
- They proposed a complete roll back of 8 % hike as done previous year.
- Few proposals like parents having option to pay more / 8 % or 4 % or no hike depending on their financial situation was also shared. It was suggested that parents could choose and inform the school. With the idea, overall cashflow will not be impacted if few parents choose no hike and few choose full hike.
- One member wondered if minutes of PTA EC should be shared via WhatsApp as few parents had not read the circular. PTA EC minutes are official documents, and they are uploaded on school website to maintain transparency and access for all. Hence sharing via WhatsApp is not advisable.

Other points of discussion:

Parents have been approached for various options of instalments and extension of timelines. This has been personally supervised by VP and Principal.

- The government has decided to pay only Rs 8000 for each RTE students further reducing the income.
- Overview of RTE, its admission process, fees reimbursement so far, outstanding and what it means for overall inflow was shared.
- The criteria for an RTE student were also on the caste certificate and thus there could be students who could afford the school fees but would still be eligible under the RTE category.

Reduction in Fee Hike

- Considering all the factors and not to compromise on learning, the school Board had decided to roll back the fee hike announced in Nov 2020 for AY 2021-22 by 4%.
- The fees for Grade XII will not be revised as it was announced, it will remain same for Class XI and XII. Hence there was no hike in Grade XII fees, so no roll back in the fees will take place.

- The fee for Grade XI for AY 2021-22 was introduced as uniform fee for all three streams i.e. 95,000/ and same fee will be maintained in Grade XII.

Facing the challenges and doing our best for our students:

- The AY 2021-22 has begun as a second year of Online learning, there are challenges to make the learning once again exciting and engaging.
- To minimize the learning gaps, more strategies will be adopted and for few students, if required we will provide one on one teaching.
- To keep the morale of the teachers high, the school will be regular with the salary for staff as well as equip them with adequate training, time and again.
- The school had introduced learning kits for primary domain. These kits helped in reducing the screen time while increasing opportunities to learn by doing hands-on activities.
- Now the learning kits would be introduced in Grade V and VI in this AY 2021-22.
- Modular courses will also be offered to all interested students from Grade IV to XII.
- The school has plans for some more programme and manipulatives for other levels so that the learning is not compromised.
- The school will continue to address the physical fitness/ sports requirement in the best online format as possible. The school has hired services of experts who could offer meaningful fitness classes to the students.

Support for Students Who have Lost the Parent in Pandemic Year

- The School Board has decided to support the students who have lost either of the parent during the pandemic year.
- As a support the fee of one year will be sponsored by the Board till the family figures out and comes out of grief. This way the student' life will be somewhat uninterrupted on school front.
- The school would reach out to families and complete documentation formalities.