

## **General Body Meeting of the PTA held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

The Parent Teacher Association of St. Xavier's College, Mapusa, held the first General Body meeting in the Academic Year 2023-24 on Tuesday, 12th September 2023, from 08.30 a.m. onwards at St. Xavier's College Ark in offline mode.

The Agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. Prayer
2. Welcome
3. Reading and approval of minutes of previous meeting
4. Address of the Chairperson
5. Election of new members to the PTA Executive Body
6. Update of Infrastructure Projects in College
7. Presentation of Audited Statement of Accounts
8. Talk on 'Ragging: A Concern'
9. AOB

The proceedings were initiated with a short prayer session by Ms. Eweny Fernandes and her team.

### **Welcome**

The Principal welcomed all the parents and faculty for the meeting. Specially thanking the parents for their presence, she emphasised on the importance of parental presence in the education of youngsters in College. She highlighted the value of the executive body of the PTA, which is like the 12 disciples chosen to lead. She listed out the expectations desired of every student as follows: need students to reach class on time, and would appreciate if parents take responsibility for the same; need students to possess the expected dress sense, because with over 2000 students on Campus, we should not be offensive with regard to our dressing; need students to perform to the best of their ability and secure good results, which would be a possibility with assistance from the parents.

She expressed her gratitude for all the contributions and sacrifices made by the parents due to which many additional facilities have been made available in the College classrooms. She addressed issues faced by parents when there are instances that require certification, application, etc. and explained that patience is a key virtue as due procedure needs to be followed, which sometimes may take time.

She expressed her gratitude towards all the outgoing members of the PTA, both parents and teachers, for all the contributions in terms of time and efforts offered. She thanked the newly inducted executive committee members for accepting the task of working for the betterment of the College community.

### **Reading and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were read by the Secretary, Dr. Maria Claudette Gomes. The translation of the minutes in Konkani was read by Ms. Siddhi Gawas. The passing of the minutes was proposed by Ms. Benizy D'Sa and seconded by Mr. Vidyadhar Bhagat. The minutes were, thus, adopted by the House.

### **Matters Arising Therefrom**

The Principal explained the procedure of membership of the PTA to the gathering, and wished for the continuous support of the parents, as earlier.

The Principal stressed on the importance of the counsellor's address for the programme, which was on 'Anti-Ragging'. She assured parents that the staff and counsellors are always willing to assist the students.

The Principal informed the gathering of the procedure to submit a justification for absence from class. The student would require to submit a fitness certificate on resuming class.

### **Address of the Chairperson**

Ms. Yvette Pais welcomed all the gathering, especially the parents of the FY students of the College. She commended the parents on the interest shown for the betterment of their wards. She informed the gathering of the various projects completed by the PTA during her tenure as the Chairperson. The projects were as follows: Installation of lifts and ramps to make the College disabled friendly; 10 75inch smartboards installed in classrooms in the academic year 2021-22; and, 14 more smartboards installed in the academic year 2022-23.

Ms. Yvette Pais thanks and appreciated all the contributors who made the projects undertaken by the PTA successful. As the PTA Chairperson, she appreciated the great sense of community among the parents and staff of the College. She commended her team, the Executive Body of the PTA during her tenure, for always answering to the requests, especially during the time of College admissions. She thanked all who were a part of her journey as the Chairperson of the PTA.

### **Election of new members to the PTA Executive Body**

The Principal asked for nominations from parent members to the PTA executive body. The following parents responded: FYBA- Ms. Eudociana Fernandes; FYBCom- Mr. Domnic Braganza; FYBSC- Ms. Maxilia Goves; TYBSc- Ms. Melba Joshila Gomes; BCA- Mr. Kenneth D'Silva. There were no parent members from the BBA and BBA(T&T) who expressed interest. All the above-mentioned parents were therefore inducted into the PTA Executive Body.

The faculty members on the PTA Executive Body were as follows: Ms. Arina Frank- Secretary; Mr. Mahesh Nair- Joint Secretary; and, Prof. Oscar Braganza e Melo- Treasurer.

### **Update of Infrastructure Projects in College**

Rev. Fr. Antonio Salema began his address quoting the synod document explaining what synodality means. Synodality means all coming together, walking together and working together, which is a very important aspect of our lives today. On behalf of the Management, he thanked PTA for all the work done in the past few years. He had words of deep gratitude for the parents who sat for the entire day for collection of the PTA fees during College admissions.

He updated the gathering about the lifts installed in the College buildings. He informed the gathering that 50% of the classrooms in College had smartboards installed which were a great assistance to teachers and students. He also expressed his intentions of having a new block for the College, and, toilets for the physically challenged. He ended his address with a request to the parents to conscientize their children to look after the property of the College.

### **Presentation of Audited Statement of Accounts**

Ms. Maria Difa Fernandes, the treasurer, read out the audited statement of accounts for the academic year 2022-23. The audited statement of accounts was approved and accepted after being proposed by Ms. Maria D'Souza and seconded by Ms. Patricia D'Souza.

### **Talk on 'Ragging: A Concern'**

A talk on 'Ragging: A Concern' was presented by the counsellors at the College, Ms. Zanetta D'Mello and Mr. Cipriano Fernandes. They enlightened the audience on what constitutes ragging.

They informed the gathering of the constitution of a committee with the Principal, for redressal of grievances with regard to ragging. On receiving a complaint, a police complaint is to be made within 24 hours. The said committee then meets and reviews the seriousness of the situation. The counsellors requested the parents to engage with their wards and enlighten them on acceptable behaviour.

### **AOB**

1. The Principal wished to know the opinion of the gathering with regard to implementation of uniforms for students.

Parents believed that students need to be responsible and aware of their dress sense and the effect it has on the surrounding people. A dress code was in force in College. Parents believed that penalties like fines or other modes could be imposed to get the desired result. The Principal requested the parents to take keen interest in ensuring their wards follow the College dress code.

Mr. Vijay Bhike said that it was unfair to penalize all the students because of the questionable dress sense of a few. He suggested that the PTA executive committee could take a decision on behalf of the College PTA. Ms. Yvette Pais stated that this issue had been taken up for discussion during a PTA Executive Committee meeting and it was decided not to fine the student. An alternative suggested was to make the child wait in the waiting room, call the parent and make the parent respond. The Principal stated that this procedure would be difficult as the College has over 2000 students, and sometimes parents too find it tough to come. Mr. Brian Mascarenhas, a parent, stated that the parent is bound to take responsibility for their children and so they have to come, when summoned. Ms. Melicia Fernandes, a parent suggestion outlining a concrete dress code for students. Another parent suggested wearing lab coats over dress considered inappropriate. The Principal concluded the discussion with the decision to decide upon the same at the PTA Executive Body meeting, as suggested.

2. The Administrator, Rev. Fr. Salema expressed his concern over students' preference of bikes and cars, to walking. He requested parents to visit College and check on the attendance and progress of their children.

### **Vote of Thanks**

The Principal thanked the outgoing Chairperson, Ms. Yvette Pais, and her team for all the assistance, time and effort they gave towards the betterment of the College. She thanked the outgoing PTA Executive faculty members for their contribution. In a very special way, she thanked and felicitated the outgoing PTA executive members, Ms. Yvette Pais, Mr. Alan D'Souza, Ms. Elaine D'Mello and Ms. Aruna Gomes with a memento.

The compere for the meeting was Mr. Lisvan Rodrigues. The meeting ended by 11.10 a.m.

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**Secretary**  
**(Dr. Maria Claudette Gomes)**

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**Chairperson**  
**(Ms. Yvette Pais)**

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**President**  
**(Prof. Dr. Blanche Mascarenhas)**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_