



MARITZBURG COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee (“the Exec”) held at 17h30 on 17 August 2017 in the “Red Room” at the Maritzburg Bowling Club.

1. Opening and Welcome

The President welcomed all present.

1.1. Notice of meeting:

This was adequate.

1.2. Apologies & confirmation of attendance:

List was compiled by Mrs Laubscher – as well as Mr C MacKenzie

1.3. Obituaries:

These were read out – list by Mrs Laubscher. The Exec also remembered and honoured the father of Doug Mundell and the mother of Mrs Colleen Ford. Also Mr Bob Gawler (1952), as well as Mr Higgs (b1961) – possibly an Old Collegian.

1.4. Confirmation of the previous meeting of the Exec:

Amendment to 2.1.12 and 3.4 (“ISASSA” [sic]). Otherwise, the minutes were confirmed.

2. Matters arising

2.1. Update on the racism incident (social media):

A meeting had been called with the KZNED by the school many weeks ago – a meeting was thereafter called by the Dept with 24 hours. The Dept wanted an update from College on this matter. They had slipped up with the MEC for Education and had not communicated with his staff. They criticised College for not following procedure, as set out in a rather mysterious and elusive Provincial Gazette of 2015. The school agreed to follow the new procedures set out in the gazette, to update its Code of Conduct, to appoint qualified individuals to sit on disciplinary tribunals etc.

It was pointed out that there seemed to be a slight discrepancy between (a) what was told to the MCOBA at the meeting and what it had been led to believe was the chronology of the matter and (b) the contents of the statement released thereafter by the governing body. It was suggested and agreed that in future a message from the MCOBA would dovetail an earlier message from the governing body.

Mr Soden raised the argument that the MCOBA does need to represent its members in such a matter in a robust manner – rather than “spinning the school’s argument”. The MCOBA is the watchdog for its members! Some discussion ensued. The use of the MCOBA badge by Old Boys was also referred to and its “abuse” on Facebook. We need to protect it and take steps to do so.

2.2. Kevin Rhodes – request for financial help:

Such requests posed thorny questions for the MCOBA. We need a policy with criteria. This was supported wholeheartedly. Regarding young Rhodes’ remission of fees – apparently he will not qualify, according to Mrs Meera Rughoo, the school’s credit controller. Mr Marwick will speak to Meera and get more facts. Regarding the criteria, Messrs Westley, Banfield, Soden and Rogers will draft a document for us – or at least for the Foundation – to consider. What about a “soft loan” for deserving candidates, granted by the Foundation? Mr Soden has seen a 300% increase in requests.

Mr Reed suggested we “stay away from this space”. This was echoed by Mr Clayton and generally supported – including for the distribution of the weaner funds and the 150th Fund. The Foundation could consult the MCOBA about the merits of applicants. Mr Marwick will speak immediately to Meera and Mr Lesur will thereafter follow up with a gentle letter directing Kevin Rhodes to the Foundation. The Foundation already has some criteria, which can be amended to suit the needs of the MCOBA. All boys at College who receive a scholarship or bursary must be told to “pay it forward” when they can.

Mr S Raw has also asked for further assistance for 2018 for his son currently in Form 2. He wants to know what the “way forward” is for further assistance, especially from the Inglis Trust. S Ten Bokkel Huinink will be coming off as an Inglis bursar this year. Mr Lesur replied that we need to submit replacement names to the Trust. Perhaps Mr Raw could be given a “soft loan”? Further discussion was required.

2.3. Constitution and Honorary Life Members (HLMs):

Mr Lesur gave a commitment that Messrs Westley, Marwick, Rogers and himself would meet at the school to sort out the constitution and the HLMs. We need to meet with them first.

2.4. Functions for the remainder of the year:

Mrs Laubscher had distributed a list of upcoming events via email to all members of the Exec. Mr Banfield said that members were welcome to attend all and any event and to enjoy the fellowship of the Association!

2.5. Reunion 2018:

- 2.5.1. **Golf:** Mr Lesur has sent a message to Ant Williamson – he doesn’t want the job! Mr Mingay will twist his arm.
- 2.5.2. **Manager of the show:** Brad Glasspool is the person Mr C MacKenzie has in mind to manage the Friday night and the Saturday day in 2018. A set fee would be ideal? Or would it?! Further discussion was required.
- 2.5.3. We are still awaiting a **reconciliation** from Mr Mundell for 2017.
- 2.5.4. What is the **intention of Reunion**? Bonhomie and profit are both considerations.
- 2.5.5. **Convenors:** We need to get them working on their class-lists. Mr Mundell will arrange a get-together of the 2017 and the 2018 convenors, as well as allied parties.

2.6. Induction 2017:

Mr Little will set up a sub-committee to manage the upcoming event, made up of Messrs Lesur, Thembela and Rogers and Mesdames Laubscher and De Matteis. We will sponsor the ties again this year.

2.7. Portfolio reports:

Do we have a policy document on what the individual’s jobs are?

Branch functions are not much more than a dinner with Old Boys, coupled with the opportunity to reaffirm the school to existing parents and to market the school to prospective parents! It was agreed that this latter aspect is a very important aspect of what takes place.

Related to Mr Stainbank’s report on the database below, Mr Reed referred to the Pretoria branch. We need to pay particular attention to it. Lindsay Bassett arranged a huge thrash in about 2002 at PBHS. We must embrace our opportunities in Pretoria with all our Tuks boys.

2.7.1. **Bruce Lesur (Leadership and Branches):** Introduction

2.7.2. **Grant Little (Leadership, Social Media and Marketing):** As per his submitted report.

- 2.7.3. *Pete Stainbank (Database)*: As per his submitted report. Mr Stainbank will speak to Tubby Clayton and will start the process – to be refined along the way. It was agreed that two email addresses would be important. We need to send a “test” email once a year to ensure that all the email addresses are up-to-date.
- 2.7.4. *Doug Mundell (Fundraising)*: He will chat to Mr MacKenzie and the school about where he “fits in”.
- 2.7.5. *Mike Bond (Branches)*: He was absent. His job as the “branch liaison man” is to follow up and cajole.
- 2.7.6. *Robin Westley (Constitution/Legal Matters and Membership)*: The initial matters were addressed above. Mr Westley needs to be kept abreast with database issues. He wants to send out an email to all the relevant convenors about the “special privileges” for the winning class with the most members! The branch chairmen need to get Key Performance Indicators too (KPIs), relating to the collection of subscriptions!
- 2.7.7. *Andrew Clayton (Networking and MemberZone)*: Mr Westley suggested that we have a “send comment” functionality. Mr Clayton spoke of the importance of using the school leavers. The networking is progressing.
- 2.7.8. *Ngcebo Thembela (Youth Association)*: Mr Thembela went through his PPT presentation which was roundly supported by the members present. He is very supportive of OCs being able to edit their profiles, to refer other details, and to administer and drive their year groups. MemberZone is our “secret tool”. Mr Thembela did a survey of the 18 or so “younger” OCs on the staff – the answers were interesting! They are poor payers – but they are keen! We need to target the 20-year Old Boys especially. Our functions all are the same too – golf days and dinners! What else can we do?
- 2.7.9. Some suggestions in the regard were offered by him, including –
- 2.7.9.1. a marathon
 - 2.7.9.2. soccer tournaments

Mr Thembela has also canvassed the 2017 OCs and started to collect their email addresses too. The MCOBA does not cater to all – and it’s not just an age or race thing.

Mr Banfield: Do we then set up a separate youth organisation – like the ANC? He suggested “No” – but there is a counter argument that we need to create something vibrant and sexy with a separate organisation! Mr Lesur reaffirmed the support of the Exec 100%. Mr Thembela was mandated to continue with his initiative and to report back as soon as possible to the Exec about the way forward – from gear to wear for younger OCs (like OC golf shirts) and vibey sports functions. We absolutely want to encourage young, enthusiastic members, including Exec members – wherever they may be? Mr Thembela will target the under 30s, and he suggests that the younger members of staff do some brainstorming. Mr Thembela will also continue to liaise too with the Class of 2017 and gauge what they want too!

- 2.7.10. *Andrew Soden (Foundation)*: He will submit a report.
- 2.7.11. *Gary Banfield (Finance)*: Written report submitted

3. General:

- 3.1. **Howard-Browne function**: To be honoured at the “Friends of College” function.
- 3.2. Excellent progress from the **UK branch**, Mr Lesur reported.
- 3.3. **Jon Cook’s** suggestion: Some concern was expressed.

- 3.4. **Hockey jersey handover:** It was agreed that it will be a permanent fixture on the Reunion Calendar – by the 30-year team.
- 3.5. **Grey College** – go for the jugular! (Mr Banfield)
- 3.6. **Live-streaming:** An offer for us to make about 100 hours of TV, at a cost per person of R150 per month – at a cost of about R450k per annum. Dave will follow it up – Mr Mingay suggests we speak to Dave Mingay.
- 3.7. Mr Thembela conveyed is **special thanks** to Mrs Laubscher.
- 3.8. Mrs Laubscher reported that three OCs have come forward run the **Pretoria branch**, Dr Bob Chonco is now in Durban etc. There are exciting things afoot.
- 3.9. The Foundation is hosting a **“Captains’ Dinner”** on 2 November in the Victoria Hall, and Paul Harris will be hosting the dinner.

The meeting ended at 20h20.

Signed on this day: in Pietermaritzburg

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