



'IN DOCTRINIS HONORATE DOMINUM'

MINUTES OF THE MARYVALE COLLEGE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2019 AT 18H00

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was said collectively, who recited the Lord's Prayer.

2. Apologies and Confirmation of a quorum

Apologies were noted and a quorum was confirmed.

3. Approval of Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting

Copies of the minutes had been made available to all. The Minutes were adopted without corrections as an accurate reflection of the meeting. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Financial report

Mr Chikara as Chairperson of the Finance Committee of the School provided the financial report. The financial statements had been made available on the School website. The following points were made:

- The financial challenges continue. The government subsidy is small and the main income is derived from fees. However, the number of students has declined by a small number.
- The major expense which is 70% of costs is the staff costs for both teachers and administration staff. If the School does not have good teachers it cannot charge market-related fees. If it does not bring in the fees it cannot pay for good teachers. If the good teachers are not properly remunerated they will leave and go elsewhere.
- The increase in fees in 2017 was 9% and the average in the education sector is around 10% for 2018.
- The school is aware that the economy is compromised and parents are challenged to meet their commitments. However, it is also acknowledged that the cost of a good education in South Africa is high.

- Because all fees were not paid the teachers could not receive a bonus of any kind and this was unfair as they are very dedicated to the welfare of all learners at Maryvale College.
- There is a critical need for all parents to committee to paying their fees in full and on time. It is also important that all parents are treated equally and it would not be fair for some parents to pay fees but not others.
- Parents who have not paid fees in full will not be permitted to re-register or to register an additional learner.
- If students are asked to leave the school through fees not being paid, this will impact on all parents in the long term as the fees will have to be increased to cover the losses.
- The School is a non-profit entity and does not seek to make a profit from school fees. However, it must cover costs and maintain the School property.
- Parents who have not paid fees will be interviewed by the Finance Committee from April 2019 to discuss their specific situation.

Mr Davids noted that Mr Chikara had served on the Finance Committee for over 20 years and his contribution to the School is greatly appreciated.

5. Acceptance of Audited Financial Statements 2017

The Audited Financial Statements as at 31 December 2018 had been provided in advance of the meeting. The auditors had provided a clean audit opinion. There were no questions raised and the Financial Statements were accepted as an accurate reflection of the finances of the School.

The Chairperson noted that the proposed increase in the fees for 2020 would be between 9% and 10%. The acceptance of the parent body was requested and it was confirmed that this increase was acceptable.

6. State of the College

i. Ethos

It was explained that Maryvale College is owned by the Assumption Sisters who have a vision for education as being fully alive based on the words of Jesus Christ, who said “I have come that you may have life and have it to the full”. The School motto is “Honour God through Learning”. The School practices the values of the Gospel in all spheres of college life and aims to develop all the gifts of the learners holistically. Each learner is encouraged to reach full potential and grow into a caring and mature community member, which is much needed in South Africa today.

Every member of the College community is equally valued. If anyone experiences hardship, they are supported in an attitude of mercy and compassion. This reflects the approach of the Pope. Prayer is at the heart of all the work being done and informs all actions and decisions. Christ is the foundation of the College and the community grows together in love that reaches out to the whole of God’s world.

It was emphasised that the mission statement informs all activities in the School, and comprises faith, outreach and pastoral care. Outreach includes soup kitchen, feed a friend, mite boxes, and Lenten projects. There is a weekly teachers’ reflection. There are retreats



for learners at Bosco Camp. The outreach work is broad. The primary school for example encourages learners to bring extra lunch for those learners who might not have as well as the Church feeding scheme at the Cathedral. The outreach programmes include a children's home, a home for the elderly in Alexandra, and a shelter for refugees in the City.

Pastoral care includes school counselling. There is a school counsellor, peer support groups, religious education teachers who assist, and in a serious case the Priest may be consulted.

ii. High School

Mr Davids report that the Matric results were greatly improved from 2017 and all learners had achieved well. The School provides extensive support to enable its learners to succeed. The lesson is that each learner is an individual and where there are concerns about the academic ability of a child, the School undertakes extensive evaluation in order to make a correct decision when providing guidance to a learner. The teachers are experienced enough to identify problems accurately early on, such as in grade 9. However, it was emphasised that the parents also have a central role to play since they need to approve any changes to the learner's education path as required by the Department of Education. Parents were therefore urged to take the advice of the School as this is always provided with the interests of the learner in mind. Mr Davids also emphasised the importance of parents knowing where their children are at all times as the need for improved security for learners has become evident.

iii. Pre-Primary and Primary School

Mrs Smith explained that ethos of the School is positive and supportive as a family. It is a team effort, and Mrs Smith acknowledged the caring contribution of all the school management as well as the Board of Governors. Of equal importance is the work of the dedicated administration staff.

The pass rate has been excellent, and the school has done very well at additional activities and external sporting activities. It is critical that more learners join the primary school and in particular the early childhood learning classes. A Board of Governors award was introduced from 2017 for the learners who show a passion for learning but might not necessarily be the top academic achievers. This has been well received by the learners and Top 5 has also been introduced per classroom.

Additional support is being provided via a laptop reading programme that is available online and can also be worked on at home by the learners.

The construction of a footbridge remains a central project for the School. The design has been discussed and the School hopes to fundraise as this will be a real benefit to the whole school in terms of learner safety and also in providing greater access to the shared facilities.

The security of the learners remains a central concern and there is always a teacher present as well as a security guard when children are brought to the School or collected in the afternoons at the designated Pick-Up point.

7. Board of Governors Report



Dr Hayward thanked all for their attendance and commended the School team that provides able and dedicated leadership – great appreciation is due to the School management, teaching staff, administration and maintenance staff.

The financial challenges cannot be overlooked in 2019 and are likely to continue. This will impact on all communities. Parents may need to make sacrifices to educate their children and the School is aware of this. Parents are requested to pay their fees in full and on time. The School commits to managing the finances with the greatest care and to doing the best for all learners. Mr Chikara was thanked for his ongoing contribution to the school. Those who do not pay their fees will be engaged with in a proactive and respectful manner. It is hoped that parents who do experience financial challenges will engage with the School at the earliest opportunity.

The fundraising responsibility of the Board is a key area and in particular the focus is on building a footbridge across Louis Botha Avenue to increase the safety of the learners. The School also hopes to raise funds to build a swimming pool at some point in the future. These will be ongoing projects that the parents will be informed of. All fundraising suggestions are welcomed.

The Grounds Manager and Handyman continued to make improvements in the School and to save on expenses. The quality of the School staff and management is acknowledged and their impact is seen in the achievements of the learning outcomes and the successes of former learners.

Despite the external challenges that are being experienced by most schools, Maryvale College continues to provide a supportive and caring environment for every learner. The School appeals to all parents to continue to support the School and their children. Your commitment is appreciated.

8. General

There were no matters raised.

9. Closure and Concluding Prayer

The closing prayer was said by Mrs Kirsten, who expressed gratitude for the School as a safe harbour for all its community.

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the meeting at 19h00.

