

**The Orchid School**  
**Parent Teacher Association- Executive Committee Meeting**  
**2022 - 2023**

**Date:** 16.7.2022

**Venue:** Conference Room

**Time:** 3:00 p.m.

**Agenda:**

- Orientation about School
- Introduction to various committees at school
- Role of PTA members in committees
- Year ahead
- NEP Implementation changes
- Areas of concern

**Members Present:**

**School Representatives:**

1. Ms. Lakshmi Kumar – Board Representative
2. Ms. Sangeeta Kapoor – Principal, Ex- Officio Secretary
3. Ms. Atreyi Saha – Vice Principal
4. Mr Sunil Kale – Admin Unit Head

**Parent Representatives:**

1. Dr Suvid Nadkarni
2. Ms Supriya Khanolkar
3. Ms Jayshree Shinde
4. Ms Sharmistha Gaikwad
5. Ms Sweta Agarwal
6. Ms Preeti Ratti

**Teacher Representative:**

1. Ms Suparna Maity
2. Ms. Susmita Patnaik
3. Ms Rekha Menon
4. Ms Chanchal Gurung
5. Ms Chaitali Savala
6. Ms Jyoti Warkhede
7. Ms Priya Bhargava

**Points of discussion:**

- Director, Dr Lakshmi Kumar welcomed all the parents and teachers to the PTA Meeting.
- She conducted an activity with all members present; on the 3 predominant values that each one of them has experienced in The Orchid School
- Every member introduced themselves and then shared their personal experiences of the values seen in action and words.
- Principal, Sangeeta Kapoor then shared the agenda for the meeting.

#### **Familiarizing Members with the School System:**

- The members were oriented with the meaning, aim and role of PTA.
- The details of the Executive Committee and the responsibilities of each PTA member were explained.
- The committee was apprised of the importance of attendance in meetings and the basic quorum needed for every meeting.

#### **Selection of PTA Members for Various Committees in School:**

- To select the PTA representative for various committees, members were oriented about objectives, structure and functioning of the committees in the school.
- The members were asked to volunteer to be the part of the committees as per the norms.
- The names of the members who will be the part of various committees are given below-
  - **School Management Committee:**  
Parent Representative: Dr Suvid Nadkarni  
Teacher Representative: Ms Susmita Patnaik
  - **Transport Committee:**  
Parent Representative: Ms Supriya Khanolkar  
Teacher Representative: Ms Chaitali Savala
  - **Internal Complaint Committee:**  
Teacher representative: Ms. Suparna Maity
  - **Admission Panel (RTE and General Admission):**  
Parent representative: Ms. Supriya Khanolkar
  - **Recruitment Panel:**  
Parent representative: Ms. Sharmistha Gaikwad,  
Ms. Preeti Ratti
  - **Protection of Child from Sexual Abuse:**  
Parent representative: Ms. Jayshree Shinde  
Teacher representative: Ms. Priya Bhargava

#### **Staff Status-**

- The members were apprised with the current staff status of the school i.e. 126. Above the 126 staff members there were ancillary staff recruited for sports department and security department. The school maintained a healthy student to staff ratio of 10:1.
- Members were apprised of the various initiatives undertaken by the school to invest in their staff which would result in positive outcome for the students.

- They were informed of the various facilities and opportunities given to staff for their professional growth.

### **Some highlights in the weeks ahead– July, August 2022:**

#### **Quiet Time-**

- Members were informed that Quiet Time would be reintroduced in the school from 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
- Members were apprised of the importance and benefit of Quiet Time and how it would immensely help the students' and staff in school to channelize their thoughts and action. This would be a 5-minute exercise to begin with wherein the entire school would maintain silence at a predetermined time and practice this on daily basis.
- She informed that the Student Leadership Council Retreat would be conducted on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022.

#### **Student Leadership Council-**

- In the current academic year, the school had introduced the student leadership positions in Middle Domain. This gives more opportunities for students to get the exposure of leadership role and also, due to the realities of different timelines of academic year for both Middle and Secondary domain, these 2 levels of Leadership Council would be beneficial for all the students.
- Members were informed about the importance of this retreat as it was the preparatory ground for the student leaders to understand their roles better.
- PTA members were cordially invited to attend this event and witness how the young school leaders will be groomed by the school in their new roles.

#### **Founders' Day-**

- Founders' Day would be celebrated on 2 days. The school had introduced an Interschool Band Performance as one of the events.
  - 6<sup>th</sup> August – Interschool Band Performance
  - 7<sup>th</sup> August – Students' Performance

#### **Higher Education Fair-**

- Members were informed that this year the school would be organizing a Higher Education Fair for classes VIII to XII on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August.
- This event was organized for the benefit of students and parents who needed guidance and information on the current trends in Higher Education and the approach path ahead.

#### **TEDxThe Orchid School-**

- TEDx will be on 27<sup>th</sup> August. This event is managed by the students of Class XI and.

- It provides the opportunity and gives the exposure to the students of Managing the event in its complete form. Students get the exposure of leading the team, collaborating, coordinating, public speaking, etc.
- The speakers are also students of TOS those who have experience and the idea of their own to share.

#### **Youth Summit-**

- The Youth Summit will be on 30<sup>th</sup> August for Classes IX and X. This event too is completely handled by the students of Classes IX & X. It gives them an opportunity and exposure to manage large scale event through collaboration, coordination and team work while making the plans and also during execution stage.
- Student speakers do good amount of research and present their paper.
- All the members were invited to witness all of these enriching programs.

#### **Sports Update:**

- The members were apprised of the two sports ground facilities which the school had recently hired to manage the sports requirements of the students.
- The members were informed about the additional coaches hired for the same.

#### **Mapping of the TOS Enrichment:**

- The TOS Enrichment mapping document was shared. The document gives a glimpse of how the curriculum had been enriched with activities, programs and events to make the learning holistic and meaningful.
- The enrichment document at a glance would give any parent an insight of what all the student will experience, learn and encounter in her / his journey as a student from Grade I to Grade XII.
- It was reiterated that the mapping of activities is extremely dynamic in nature and is regularly studied and scrutinized by the leaders to check on the relevance of all activities and changes are made in case needed.

#### **Practicing NEP2020 at TOS:**

- The members were apprised on how TOS had imbibed NEP2020 in spirit and action.
- The school had introduced no streams policy for classes XI and XII. Students were allowed to choose any 4 subjects of their choice for these grades instead of limiting them to subjects based on Science, Commerce and Humanities stream.
- The school would be reintroducing Bagless days for Class VI to VIII where in vocational skills would be imparted to the students.
- The school has introduced CS Soch – a computational thinking-based course for the students of Class II and III. In this course the students learn the very basics and fundamentals of computational thinking through games.
- The school has also reintroduced hobby sessions for students from Classes VI and VII. These sessions helped students enrich their hobbies along with their academic pursuits.

- The school has introduced the pattern of competency-based assessment for the students. This is in line with the current practice introduced by CBSE.
- The school has also introduced Artificial Intelligence module, Robotics and skills-based courses for students based on the recommendations of NEP2020.

### **Some Concerns of School**

- Furthermore, she shared that the school had some concerns regarding students and would highly appreciate if the members would actively participate in finding out solutions to tackle the same.
- The members were apprised that it was noticed that the students were coming late to school. The official school timing is 8:30 a.m. and it was noticed that many students walked in much later than the stipulated time.
- She asked if the members had any suggestions. It was jointly decided that the school would draft a late coming policy wherein every child would be allowed to enter the school premises latest by 8:45 a.m., however not more than 3 times in the academic year. Also, as a consequence, the students would be seated in the office area till end of short break period and then allowed to attend classes.
- No student would be allowed to enter school after 8:45 a.m. This was a proposed plan and it was decided that the SLC too would be asked for recommendation for this issue.
- Members were apprised that the students were using social media recklessly thus endangering their security and safety. Students were unknown to the perils of social media and it was advised that parents should be aware of their ward's social media footprint.
- The school would also regularly organize Expert talks sensitizing the students about the negative impact of reckless use of social media.
- Members were apprised that it was noticed that students were using foul language. Many members also spoke of how the younger students were also affected by this behavior of the older students.
- Lakshmidi mentioned that along with SLC members the school would look at ways of tackling this problem. She also mentioned that parents should work hand in hand with school and counsel the children at home too on the importance of being considerate while talking to others.
- Sangeetadi mentioned that this academic year, it had been noticed that some students were not regularly submitting their mobile phones at the beginning of the day. She mentioned that if found with any student, the phone was immediately confiscated.
- Lakshmidi suggested that the students should be given 15 days' time to procure a simple phone (not smart phone) for school purpose. In case any child wishes to carry a cell phone to school only basic phone without internet facility will be allowed. If any other phone is found with the students, the same would be confiscated. The prime objective of the phone was for communication and the basic phones would be as much useful as smart phones.
- All members agreed to this as it also addressed the problem of unnecessary surfing of internet in school. The school further mentioned that SLC members too would be taken on board for this problem and then the school would communicate the decision accordingly to all parents.
- Sangeetadi also reiterated the importance of correct school uniform and mentioned that the school would be implementing plans to ensure that students abide by it.

- A parent mentioned that the sports uniform needs to be looked into as the quality of the black shorts were not upto the mark. The school assured the same will be looked into immediately.
- The members were apprised that the traffic issues outside the school would be a reality for a long time due to the Metro work. Hence, the school authorities proposed that if the school could alter its timings.
- The current school timings coincide with the IT traffic heading towards Hinjewadi, thus resulting in traffic congestion. By moving the school timing half an hour earlier than usual would lead to lesser traffic congestion. Hence the school has proposed the following timings:
  - 7:45 am to 2:15 pm OR
  - 8:00 am to 2:30 pm
- The school would be sending a form to the entire parent community to know their preferred school timing. Based on majority the timing would be changed.
- PTA members agreed that this move would help in tackling the traffic congestion issue, however as it affected the entire school, the google form would definitely give a clear picture to all.
- Lakshmi Di and Sangeeta Di thanked all the parents and teachers for attending the PTA meeting to discuss these points.