



THE GLOBAL OGB ASSOCIATION (GO)

Held on Friday, 9 February 2024, at 9.30 am IST

Virtual Meeting held via Zoom

PRESENT:

Alfred Khan	Treasurer/NGO Trustee	Siliguri – India	9.30 am
Pauline Singh	Trustee	Kalimpong - India	9.30 am
Sushil Marda	Member	Siliguri - India	10.30 am
Nannette Gomez	Member	Kolkata - India	9.30 am
Tenzing Norzang	Member	Minnesota – USA	11.00 pm
George Borthwick	Member	Wellington, New Zealand	5.00 pm
Arijit Mallick	Member	Sydney - Australia	3.00 pm
Dawn Van Steensel	Secretary	Sydney – Australia	3.00 pm

Apologies Received:

Garth Mitchell	Member	Dubai – India	8.00 am
Anirban Bhattacharyya	Chair/NGO Trustee	Mumbai – India	9.30 am

Absent:

Babita Chakraborty
Bernard Trench Lyngdoh

Noted 2 of 4 GO NGO Trustees were present.

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am.

In Anirban's absence, Tenzing chaired the meeting.

ITEM 1: Minutes

The GO Management Team noted and received the **Minutes of the Committee** meeting held on 6 November 2023. The minutes were previously circulated in November 2023 and approved.

ACTION *Noted that the Minutes are available on the GO Website*

ITEM 2: The **MATTERS ARISING** from Previous Meeting report was tabled at this meeting.

Issues were updated as completed and removed; WIP; and others still on hold.

ITEM 3A: GO/OGBs/BOM COLLABORATION

Background - In November 2023 the AGM of the DGH Board was held and several long-term BOM Members resigned and/or term expired. As advised in the November 2023 GO Minutes the GO Committee was approached to put forward a proposal and recommend suitable candidates to fill these vacancies.

Consequently, a call for nominations was initiated among OGB members who share similar values and possess progressive thinking, with the aim of collaborating for the collective well-being and advantage of children in DGH.

It is pleasing to report, significant progress has been made in appointing 5 new members to the DGH Board of Management from the OGB community. Namely:

- a. Dr. Bernard Lyngdoh - Shillong
- b. Mr. Jigme Tshering – Kalimpong
- c. Capt. Prakash Pradhan – Kalimpong
- d. Ms. Ratnalekha Shetty – Kolkata
- e. Mrs. Dawn Van Steensel – Sydney, Australia (TBC)

The 5 new OGB Members attended their first Board meeting on 6 February 2024, where Board governance issues were addressed.

Tenzing, delivered a potent message from Anirban. An extract is reproduced:

“ With new blood on the BOM, GO hopes to see action being taken on many pending issues including the now dormant teachers’ issue, the land issue, the recommendations made by the Joint International Review Committee (JIRC – Deloitte Report) and the GO-IC Blueprint – because only action and tangible changes and hard decisions will help the Homes, not words. The bullet has to be bitten, the cat has to be belled – someone has to be the bad cop taking the hard decisions – if the BOM doesn’t start putting processes and actioning policies and changes – we will further go down the hill. This is a great opportunity for GO to, once again, help the school, now more importantly, from within.... ”

This goal is important, for both current and new DGH Board Members, to strive towards.

“MEET & GREET” new OGB Members

Considering the above-mentioned progress, consensus was reached on the increased significance of the new OGB Board Members engaging with both the GO Committee and the entire OGB community. It was, therefore, agreed an on-line townhall style “meet & greet” forum be organised by end February 2024.

Once the availability of the new OGB Board Members is known, the meeting forum will be confirmed.

The Meeting agreed on the format for the proposed forum and assigned tasks to the various GO Members:

- ACTION**
- Pauline to get confirmation of availability from the new OGB Members
 - When the date and time is confirmed, Tenzing to prepare a Notice
 - Tenzing/Anirban/Arijit – to prepare a Q&A for the OGB Board Members panel
 - Tenzing/Anirban ensure the Notice and publicity are rapid and efficient.

- Addendum:
19 Feb 2024**
- 19th February 2024 – Dawn declined the role on the Board of Management. Position was offered to the next candidate on the Ballot Sheet.
 - 21st February 2024, at 6.30 pm IST has been set for the Forum meeting.

ITEM 3B: GO REPRESENTATIVE ON THE BOARD

Pauline has represented GO on the Board since October 2020. The 3-year term ended in November 2023. Pauline expressed her willingness to continue holding this post on behalf of GO.

The meeting recognised the position as crucial to GO and was unanimous in renominating Pauline for another 3-year term.

- Nominated by: Alfred
- Seconded by: Tenzing & Nannette

ACTION Reassigned to the Board until November 2026 or until the conclusion of Pauline's tenure on the GO Committee, whichever comes first.

ITEM 5B: EOM DECEMBER 2023 ACCOUNTS

The Association funds as of 31 December 2023 stands at:

Opening	Expenditure	Balance 31 Dec 2023
Rs.13,05,545	Rs.10,000	Rs.12,95,545

Note:

1. There was a delay in making the payment to the Chartered Accountant in December 2023. This will be reflected in the EOM January 2024 accounts.
2. A large percentage of the above reported funds have been pre-allocated to the 2023-24 Winter Projects, reported below.

ACTION: Resolved that the EOM December 2023, Accounts be received and noted.

ITEM 6: WINTER 2023/24 PROJECT

Winter Projects commenced on 9 December 2023 and are well on track. As in the past, Pauline has the responsibility of project management for the various projects, receiving consistent support from Jigme Tshering, Alfie Khan and Nannette Gomez.

a. Jarvie Hall

A total of Rs.13,64,996, received in 2 instalments, from George Borthwick (DGH New Zealand Committee during January 2024.

To date the full external walls of the Jarvie Hall block and the tower have been repaired and repainted. Commencement of the internal upgrade has been delayed due to the Hall being used for the Year 12 external examinations.

Pauline is exploring an affordable quartz system to repair the clock on the tower.

b. Ahava Guest – to date the old linoleum has been removed and the timber flooring is being repaired in areas.

c. Crozier Club - 1st floor balcony floor and railing to be completed. On hold

d. Senior Girls School Toilets -

Recent developments include:

- The concrete tank on the toilet block roof has been replaced with a lighter polyethylene tank.
- A similar second tank and pump has been installed on the ground floor at the size/external wall.
- Once there is guarantee of 24 hrs of water – the remaining hand-held toilet taps will be installed. Noted that the plumbing work has already been completed – awaiting the taps!!
- In addition, a second privacy wall will be built outside the back Entrance to the Senior Toilet.

e. **Gymnasium Hall - Upgrade**

The Internal/External repairs of the walls have been completed. The roof has been repaired and leaks plugged. Roof painted with red oxide. Roof painting to follow. Funds received from the Chibber family.

f. **Heathland Cottage**

The projects mentioned above were accorded top priority. Consequently, if work on Heathland cannot proceed as planned, a proposal was made to accommodate the Heartland boys at Assam Cottage upon their return from holidays at the beginning of the 2024 School year.

This arrangement would make Heathland Cottage available for necessary work to commence at the start of the school year.

Plan remains on target.

ACTION: *Despite funds still available from the 2019-2020 Cottage Appeal earmarked for one*
Anirban *cottage's repair, the suggestion is to initiate a fundraising call directed at the Heathland boys.*

Woodburn Cottage (Outside the scope of GO)

Pauline reported the project is being supervised by the Woodburn girls supported by Higgins, his school students and external contractors.

Submitted for information.

ITEM 7: SPONSOR A CHILD PROJECT 2024

As an initial discussion point, Dawn proposed three scenarios to increase the boarder student numbers e.g.

1. 100% full paid boarders
2. 1 person paying 100% fees to sponsor any child
3. Group of people sponsoring a child

Fees:

Concerns were raised about the financial burden for potential new sponsors, who are required to pay school fees in addition to a Security Deposit and a one-off non refunding Joining Fee.

- a. A full sponsorship is between Rs.1,93,200 and goes up to Rs. 2,63,500 in Year 12 (July 2023 Fees)
- b. A full paid private student pays a Security Deposit of Rs.10,000 that is returned when the Child leaves the School
- c. In addition, they pay a One-time non-refundable Admission Fee of Rs.20,000/-

Sponsors have historically, only paid Tuition and Boarding fees and not fees Items (a) and (b).

Sponsorship Model:

Following discussion, the Team agreed on the following model:

- i. A combination of Scenarios 2 & 3 (above) would be the more viable option to pursue.
- ii. While it was preferable to have a dedicated Sponsorship Liaison person on the campus, in the interim, the School Admissions Team would be required to administer this program.
- iii. Initially GO may be engaged in coordinating with the School Admissions Team to create documents that will formally bind the parent, student and guarantor. Although it was acknowledged that there would be no legal recourse to enforce ongoing sponsorship, the document would formalise the relationship.
- iv. Once established, the program would be administered by the School Admissions Team - similar to that of a full-paying student – with minor modifications.
- v. The Team also agreed on the need for a procedure outlining the responsibilities of sponsors and the potential for changing sponsors, in the future, if necessary.
- vi. A formal paper to be prepared for consideration by the Board - May 2024.
- vii. Once approved by the Board, a test-run to be completed - June 2024.

- Action:**
- *Sushil to obtain and share current figures for the cost of education and boarding at various Schools in Siliguri - as a cost comparison.*
 - *Anirban/Dawn to draft the proposal by end April 2024.*

ITEM 8: GOVERNANCE: POLICY REVIEWS due

Following GO policies were due to review.

- a) Authority to Operate GO Bank Account – Policy
- b) Terms of Reference of GO/NGO Trust Committee
- c) Terms of Reference of GO Representative on the Board

However, as several Members had to leave, prior to the conclusion of the meeting, it was decided that obtaining agreement via email from the majority of Members would be acceptable.

Action Dawn will be responsible for sending the email seeking approval

Addendum: As of 14 February 2024 – 75% written email approval was received.
15 Feb 2024

ITEM 9: GO – 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Tenzing will forward a short survey to the GO Committee to provide ideas/suggestions for events for the 10th Anniversary gathering. Responses to be received by 16 February 2024 in preparation for the 21 February 2024 meeting forum.

Tenzing/Arijit to lead the “organising committee “with support from Pauline/Sushil/Alfie/Jigme on the ground.

Action Survey responses to be completed by 16 February 2024

ITEM 10: NOMINATION FOR GO COMMITTEE MEMBER

A nomination was received from Anirban to appoint Jigme Tshering (Kalimpong) as a formal Member to fill a vacancy on the GO Committee. The Committee currently stands at 12 Members. It was recognised that Jigme is already an active Members directly supporting GO Projects and enterprises. The nomination was accepted and seconded.

- Nominated: Tenzing on behalf of Anirban
- Seconded: Alfie, Nannette

Jigme will be formally appointed at the first meeting of the GO Committee, he attends.

- Action
- Anirban to send a letter of invitation
 - Jigme to attend an induction prior to attending his first GO Meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.30 am IST

Next meeting in April 2024 - TBC