



THE GLOBAL OGB ASSOCIATION (GO)

Held on Sunday, 20th October 2024, at 5.30 pm IST

Virtual Meeting held via Zoom

PRESENT:

Tenzing Norzang	Member	Minnesota – USA	6.00 am
Alfred Khan	Treasurer/NGO Trustee	Kalimpong – India	5.30 pm
Pauline Singh	Member/NGO Trustee	Kalimpong - India	5.30 pm
Sushil Marda	Member	Siliguri - India	5.30 pm
Nannette Gomez	Member	Kolkata - India	5.30 pm
Jigme Tshering	Member	Kalimpong - India	5.30 pm
Tenzing Norzang	Member	Minnesota – USA	7.00 am
Arijit Mallick	Member	Sydney - Australia	10.00 pm
Dawn Van Steensel	Secretary	Sydney – Australia	10.00 pm

Apology Received :

Anirban Bhattacharyya

Absent :

Babita Chakraborty
Bernard Trench Lyngdoh

On reaching a quorum the meeting commenced at 5.45 pm IST.

ITEM 1: Minutes

The GO Management Team noted and received the **Minutes** of the Committee meeting held on 21 July 2024. The minutes were approved by circulation in July 2024 and available on the GO Website.

Noted the September 2024 meeting was dedicated to finalising the arrangements for the 10th Anniversary Celebrations. No formal minutes.

ACTION

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 3: OUTCOME 2024 ELECTIONS – OFFICE BEARERS

As reported previously, at the close of nominations on 31 July 2024, there were no new nominations to fill vacancies on the GO Managing Committee. Therefore, Anirban, Alfred, Nannette and Sushil have been reappointed, uncontested, for another term ending 2027.

The new Terms stand as follows :

Term to 2025	Term to 2026	Term to 2027
Pauline Tenzing Jigme	Dawn Bernard Babita Arijit	Anirban Alfie Nannette Sushil



OFFICE BEARERS 2024:

The following appointments were confirmed :

Role	Name	Term To:
Chair	Tenzing Norsang	2025
Secretary	Dawn Van Steensel	2026
Treasurer	Alfred Khan	2027
Membership & Newsletter	Nannette Gomez	2027
GO Rep on Board	Pauline Singh	2025

- a. The Committee acknowledged that the Newsletter has been published irregularly and encouraged Nannette, in her new role as Newsletter Editor, to work towards more consistent publication. It was recommended to aim for a one-page update on a regular basis. All GO Members to assist and contribute to the contents.
- b. To ensure effective succession planning, it was further proposed that Nannette begin working closely with Dawn to gain a comprehensive understanding of the Secretary role and its responsibilities within GO.

RESOLVED

- *The results of the Election were accepted.*
- *The Office Bearers and new Terms of Office re-confirmed.*
- *Nannette and Dawn to collaborate, going forward.*

ITEM 4 : 10th ANNIVERSARY – EVENT

Tenzing provided an overview on the 4 main Events, GO was directly involved in during September 2024 at the Homes Birthday in Kalimpong.

Bike Rider – 2024

- Departed Paro, Bhutan on 18 September 2024 and arrived DGH on 22 September 2024
- 10 Riders successfully completed the Course and were welcomed and felicitated on their arrival on the Campus.
- Funds are still being received and will be reported by Tenzing in due course.
- Thanked Pauline/Jigme/Sushil and the School Staff who supported the Riders over the 2 days. Noted this year, the back-up Team was fully organised by the GO Team – Thank you Team GO.

GO General Meeting

- 23 September 2024 – 2.00 pm. Successfully held in the A.V. Room
- The financial summary, election results, launch of the Betty Sherriff Arena and the proposed Sponsorship Program was the highlight of the presentations.
- Anirban, as the outgoing Chair, was presented with a special memento of thanks.
- Attended by OGBs, staff, visitors and the impending 2025 Year 12 School Leavers.

GO Social Event

- 23 September 2024 – 6.30 pm. Rotary Club Hall, Kalimpong
- 54 OGBs, staff and visitors attended.
- Rs.74,550 raised from an open auction of donated items from a couple of guests.

Year 12 School Leavers

- 24 September 2024. Held during Homes Birthday ceremony.
- A magnet + badge + khada with a special OGBs emblem, designed for the occasion, was presented to the students.
- The Class of 1999, celebrating their 25th Year Anniversary collaborated with GO to felicitate the students. It was enthusiastically received.



For future reference, GO has committed to:

- a. Continuing collaboration with future classes celebrating their 25th Year Anniversary, to uphold this tradition.
- b. Take responsibility for providing mementos and coordinating the event with the School Management.
- c. Holding this as an annual event at the Home's Birthday. Approval received from the Board and Management on 29 August 2024.

NOTE : In the interest of transparency, GO advises that the funds raised from the auction and entry fees for the dinner, were combined to cover the costs of the three GO events mentioned above. We were fortunate that the funds were sufficient to fully cover the three events.

Update

- *Letters of appreciation to the non-Committee Members who assisted with the above events have been forwarded to them.*
- *Noted that all the vendors and expenditure has been paid as of 15 October 2024 and the final Accounts presented at this Meeting.*
- *Matter closed for 2024*

ITEM 4 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – PROPOSAL

Dawn reported that she was invited to attend a meeting of the Board Finance Committee on 17 September 2024 in DGH. The Committee established the ground rules for administering the special *Education Fund*, to be opened for the Sponsorship Scheme.

- a. Currently waiting for the Bursar and School Auditor to advise that the Account has been opened.
- b. To protect the future and integrity of the Education Fund, all transactions from the account will require approval from two Board members and two GO Committee representatives. Specifically, the:
 - DGH Board Chair and Vice-Chair.
 - GO Chair and Treasurer.

On Hold – until the Education Account has been opened.

RESOLVED:

- a. *The GO Committee resolved to adopt the recommendation that the GO Chair and the Treasurer would be the authorised representatives on this Account and work closely with the Board of Management*
- b. *In adopting this recommendation, the Committee proposed that this arrangement be implemented for an initial 3-year term, with the option to extend for further 3-year terms. It was agreed that once GO has confidence in the proper management of the Account, this arrangement could be withdrawn, and full accountability would be returned to DGH Management.*
- c. *To advise the BOM of the proposed Clause (b) above.*

ITEM 5: GO FUNDS ACCOUNTS – July 2024

5.1 Due to mitigating circumstances, there was no update for the Accounts ending September 2024.

However, it was noted that an overview of the last 3-year Accounts was presented at the 23rd September 2024 General Meeting.

The Accounts for the period April to October 2024 will be updated and presented at the December 2024 meeting.



5.2 12A Registration – Status AND Financial Audit

All documents and reports have been re-submitted as requested and the case is still pending with the Income Tax Office, New Delhi. The new hearing date is set for 31 December 2024.

At this time the C.A. in New Delhi will be representing GO. However, it was proposed, if required, that a GO Member be in attendance also. Pauline, graciously, agreed to make herself available for this hearing.

No advice/information received to date, regarding the financial audit, conducted by the ITO New Delhi in mid-2024.

ACTION :

Dawn : *To get guidance from the CA and to co-ordinate Pauline's attendance at the Hearing, if required.*

ITEM 8: BETTY SHERIFF ARENA

Tenzing provided an update on the Betty Sheriff Arena project, which was introduced to attendees at the General Meeting on 23 September 2024 at DGH. OGBs with professional expertise in design, architecture, and engineering are currently assisting GO in the project's planning phase. However, there is an urgent need for an experienced civil engineer who can be relied upon to support the Project Team on-site.

The initial estimate suggests that, once construction begins, the project will take approximately six months to complete at an estimated cost of Rs. 50-70 lakhs.

ACTION:

Tenzing/Arijit

- *Urgently identify and appoint an experience engineer, locally.*
- *Commence, immediately, fundraising campaign.*

ITEM 9 : PROJECT Updates – September 2024

- Jarvie Hall.** The major repairs have been completed. However, several smaller repairs remain pending .
- Ahava Guest House** – Feedback from visitors in September 2024, the upgrade has improved the internal structure and aesthetics. The external walls repair and repaint are pending.
- Crozier Club** - 1st floor balcony floor and railing were completed in September 2024. GO to advise the DGH Management that GO's proposed scope of work for this project is now complete.
- Gymnasium Hall - Upgrade** : The repair work in the Gym has been completed. There was a soft reopening of the Gym on 24 September 2024. Minor repair pending.

f. HEATHLAND COTTAGE

Heathland has been a priority on GO's project list for several years. Following a detailed inspection of the Cottage and valuable feedback gathered during the September 2024 visit, the Committee was informed that GO currently lacks the financial capacity and resources required to restore Heathland to an acceptable +standard.

Presently, only Rs. 8 lakhs are available from Cottage funds for this project, an amount insufficient to initiate the necessary repairs. Noted, no direct funds for Heathland's upgrade have been received to date.

While the decision was disappointing, it was unanimously agreed that the Heathland project will be indefinitely postponed unless an additional Rs. 20 to 25 lakhs can be raised to fully support the endeavour.

ACTION

- *That Heathland be put on hold.*
- *The Board be advised of GO's decision.*



ITEM 10. FUTURE RENOVATION PROJECTS by GO - SUSPENDED

During the recent visit to DGH, several members of the GO Team received critical feedback regarding the scope and quality of work on GO projects over the years.

It was clarified that GO's initial mandate focused on necessary repairs to improve immediate living and usable conditions, rather than full-scale rebuilding. This purpose was communicated to OGB and staff observers during the September 2024 visit and acknowledged by them.

While GO's earlier work was a temporary solution, it served its purpose at the time. However, recognizing evolving needs, GO has since significantly enhanced the level of its repairs and refurbishments, thanks to tighter monitoring and supervision by both, Pauline and Jigme.

GO Rebuild Policy – Future:

Considering recent feedback, the Committee discussed the costs associated with all GO projects. The Committee expressed deep appreciation for Pauline's supervision and commitment but acknowledged that continuing with short-term repairs is no longer sustainable, especially with the ongoing demands on Pauline's time, during the Winter months, in Kalimpong.

After a thorough discussion on the future of GO project work, the following decisions were made:

- a. Current pending projects will continue to proceed as planned, sourcing external, qualified labour where necessary. Until finalised.
- b. Any new renovation projects by GO are suspended indefinitely.
- c. Future work will only resume when full-scale rebuilds or refits of the 120-year-old infrastructure are feasible in terms of the improved standard of workmanship and its associated outcome.
- d. Importantly, start-up funds of approx.Rs.25-30 lakhs per project, would be the minimum requirement to consider any future building repair project to proceed. Whether by GO or other OGBs, alike. This level of financial commitment would ensure that a full scale rebuild is feasible.

AGREED

To suspend any new renovation/repair projects in DGH

ITEM 10. TOWN HALL and OTHER ISSUES

- a. The meeting reviewed the agenda items for the Town Hall scheduled for 3 Nov 2024.
- b. The meeting reiterated that while the Board appreciates the initiative shown by individual OGBs in undertaking various projects for the benefit of DGH students, the Board has a policy requiring collaboration with GO on any projects or initiatives that directly impact the School. This collaborative approach ensures alignment, consistency, and cohesion with the School's overall goals and values.
- c. It would be reinforced to OGBs that GO neither seeks nor takes ownership or credit for work undertaken by individual OGBs. Our role is to facilitate, negotiate and mediate directly with the Board on their behalf, which also prevents a situation where multiple groups compete for the Board's attention and time.

For Town Hall meeting discussion and consideration.

ITEM 11. FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION:



Issues in the parking lot, for further consideration :

- a. To consider regularly arranging meetings, directly, with the School Management to keep them informed of GO activities and issues.
- b. Possibility of holding an informal GO Forum during the Homes Birthday period. Negotiate with the School Management.

CLOSING :

In closing, Tenzing shared his aspirations and plans for the GO Association over the next twelve months.

He emphasized the importance of enhanced synergy among GO Committee Members, underscoring that a united effort will enable the Association to strengthen its focus on fostering a spirit of giving and cooperation among all OGBs. Tenzing encouraged the Committee to work together with renewed dedication, inspiring each other to build on the legacy of generosity and teamwork that defines the GO Association.

With shared commitment, the coming year promises growth, resilience, and meaningful impact for the entire OGB community.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm IST

Next meetings :

- Town Hall : 3 November 2024
- GO Committee : December 2024 TBA