

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2022 – Wentworthville Tamil Study Centre

Date: 10th December 2022

Time: 6.00 PM

Venue: Bowman Hall, Blacktown

Attendance: 160 members

The meeting officially began at 6.15 PM, with attendees signing the attendance sheet. However, it was observed that some of the members who signed in were not present when the meeting commenced. In response to this, a parent made a request for all 160 members to be marked as present.

Determining the quorum

When the secretary checked the quorum for the AGM 2022, A parent member Narenthiranathan raised a question and objected to running the AGM without the sufficient quorum.

The secretary kindly reminded the attendee that the 2021 AGM had been conducted under similar circumstances, without achieving the required quorum. Considering this experience, other members who were present also expressed their agreement to proceed with the AGM, despite not meeting the quorum requirement.

Narenthiranathan stated: The AGM cannot be run due to lack of quorum. He objected to running AGM 2022 regardless of what happened in the past. We cannot continuously make the same mistake of running AGM against the Constitution. He also demanded to remove the signatories from the AGM attendance sheet providing the parent was absent at the time of the AGM.

Ramanan stated: The last few AGMs have been conducted in a similar way even though the quorum wasn't present. He requested all members to come forward to sign the members' attendance sheet voluntarily considering all members are volunteers and the WTSC is run by one hundred percent of volunteers. These proceedings should not affect future committees.

Kumaran stated: if a quorum was an issue, the proceedings of last year's AGM were null and void due to not enough quorum. Any decisions that were taken in the last AGM were invalid. If the AGM meetings were conducted in a similar way to members' acceptance in the past, The same approach should be followed this year as well.

Jesu stated: Since WTSC had to close the accounts of 2022, reporting to DoE, report back to fair trading and the continuous operation of the WTSC, we would request the audience's presence to agree or disagree to run the AGM 2022.

Secretary stated: The last year's minutes weren't fully printed on the annual report. There were only 150 members attending the AGM 2021. Members in the last AGM agreed to run AGM proceedings. This had been the normal procedure for the last several years.

Rujen: Apart from the argument whether AGM has enough quorum or not, we needed to see how many members were objecting to run the AGM. If there weren't enough objections, we should continue with AGM.

Senthuran stated: AGM2022 may be run upon acceptance of members present. We could run this as a distinct AGM and think of doing amendment to the constitution to allow the AGM to proceed with the members present or little quorum.

Gangeyan stated: The AGM and Prizegiving needs to be conducted on different days to run both events in an efficient manner without one event disrupting the other. Most of the members clapped and agreed to this approach.

President Thayanathan stated that AGM meeting minutes would be final and official upon the approval of the members in the AGM. If anyone brought up an issue that there were any errors or ambiguities in the minutes, they would be verified, corrected, and finalised. This might be published in the following AGM report as an addendum. For the last several years AGM had been run without a sufficient quorum at the time of running the Annual General Meeting, but the members present agreed to carry on the AGM formalities regardless of constitutional requirements.

After thirty minutes of back-and-forth comments or arguments, Members decided to run the AGM if more members supported the AGM proceedings. AGM and the price giving will be split and run as two separate events on two separate days from next year onwards.

President's Speech: Thayanathan Sithamparanathan welcomed the members, followed by expressions of gratitude. He also extended heartfelt thanks to the principals, teachers, the executive committee, and the parents. Furthermore, he expressed appreciation for the diligent efforts of the sub-committee members and volunteers. They have worked throughout the year tirelessly. He further expressed the unity among members of the Wentworthville Tamil Study Centre to run the WTSC healthily and efficiently going forward. The president stressed that strong support for the upcoming committees is vital to run this organisation to reach its high potential and the heights that we could achieve. We should encourage the people who do not promote themselves, those who do not execute their personal agenda in the name of WTSC, those who do not give self-importance to themselves, and those who put WTSC ahead of them, to join the school and work for the growth and sake of the WTSC. The WTSC needs to include the youths more in the future to gradually handover this organization safe and sound to the younger generation. He also recommended upcoming committees to amend the constitution to embrace the students who studied at the WTSC as legitimate members of the organization.

Minutes of the Previous AGM: Janane Sairuban then proceeded to present the school's 2022 annual report and the minutes of the 2021 AGM. It was noted that the annual report incorporated the results of an independent review, as previously agreed upon during the 2021 AGM. This review specifically focused on the HSC marks evaluation process.

The Secretary was pleased to inform the members that the independent review confirmed the absence of significant irregularities in the evaluation process. Notably, the member who raised this issue in the 2021 AGM was not pleased with the outcome.

Narenthiranathan stated the following:

He was for the benefit of future HSC students. When he was a high school principal, talking a panel of five members was established to moderate every student's HSC marks before giving them out to schools. He said that this process didn't happen in 2020, which caused unfairness to some students and there was a mistake in moderating the marks in 2020. He referred to the report saying some students' marks were raised more than once. He also expressed his frustration for not circulating the report to a wider audience. He also stated that the president didn't give him the report in January and expressed the report was hidden from him while the committee was still discussing it. If WTSC needed to hold HSC in the future, the five members of the 2020 HSC panel would be requested to go out of action from the WTSC. He then read their names. The names were AJ Jeyachandra - Principal, Arunmolithevar Thiyagarajah- HSC vice principal, Nanthakumar Kanapathypillai - President, Sowthary Ganeshan HSC internal Coordinator and Para Paramesvaran - HSC External Coordinator. He further said that he was the parent who was affected and gave all the chances to the committee, and he would find other options to escalate the issue and find resolution in his own right.

The secretary stated that she had emailed the HSC panel report to those who requested or were interested in seeing the report.

Former vice principal Bhirajan Stated that Narenthiranathan repeatedly made allegations and accusations to divert the member's views in favour of him. He requested members to take a stance based on the report, and not from the emotional statements, allegations, and accusations.

AJ Jeyachandra Stated the following:

I was the one who was accused by Narenthiranathan. When he became a principal in 2020, there were no process documents in place. He further stated that the HSC panel only reviews the marks that are given by HSC teachers. There were no problems or allegations in the AGM before 2016, but most of the AGMs after 2016 were having issues and arguments. In 2020 another fabricated allegation was made against me saying I didn't purposely give teachers allowance to those who attended the school. Narenthiranathan accused me of not paying teachers allowance to some teachers and forced the then committee to establish a panel to audit the payments made by the WTSC to see whether they were legitimate. No teachers were supported to whitelist me during the AGM. Ratnam Ramanan did a thorough investigation and said no error was made in the teachers' allowance payment in 2020.

When the HSC review panel was appointed last year, Narenthiranathan proposed the professor as one of the panel members, and the committee appointed other two members. He is now questioning the panel members whether they are knowledgeable or not. This was absurd. The panel report said there were no issues with moderation. The panel also questioned whether you increased the marks for this student or not. HSC panel Members and I checked the marks given to me by the internal coordinator, checked arithmetic errors, and sent them to schools. Narenthiranathan repeatedly made trouble in AGM proceedings

and tried hard to get rid of me from the WTSC. I didn't need to give judgement to anyone, and God would take care of that. Narenthiranathan rang many people and requested them to support him in the AGM. Many people have told me about his call or email. He must have misused the data he took when he was in the WTSC committee. He used the power to mishandle the data. This was a breach of confidentiality of the WTSC.

The Vidya teacher requested AJ Jeyachandra to withdraw the comment he made regarding HSC process documents as she claimed she handed over all documents related to marks finalisation.

Kumaran: There were no systematic errors found in the review process and no complete disregard or wrongdoing to affect a particular student/s. The report highlighted a few minor flows. It was the sin of sacking all five teachers and volunteers. These errors had to be avoided by streamlining the process of moderation of marks. We had to sit together, review the process, and avoid errors in the future.

Nanthan: The person would take responsibility for their comment. Nanthan questioned the Sownthary teacher as to how she received an HSC marks Excel sheet.

Sownthary teacher replied to him that the Excel sheet was given by Vidya teacher, and she liaised with Vidya teacher in moderating the marks. The Vidya teacher sent instructions as to how the marks should be moderated. The instructions that were given by the Vidya teacher were followed. The way Narenthiranathan explained the marks made me think that he appeared to have a thorough look at the marks sheet. I was wondering who sent the confidential data to him. Sownthary teacher further stated he says to everyone he meets that Sownthary teacher is a thief, and he tarnishes my name and image of my public life. I was also scared of him that he might do something to me due to the nature of the allegations he has been making. She also mentioned that she emailed the WTSC administration to ensure her safety and well-being on the school grounds.

Vidya Teacher: The Sownthary teacher was correct and there was nothing wrong with her saying here at the AGM. I also helped the Inthumathy teacher as well on finalising or moderating HSC marks. There was no hiding among all the HSC main teachers. Since I had to clarify lots of things in the report, I requested a meeting with the administration and HSC teachers on July 7; this wasn't organised as of today. She further stressed that requesting a confidentiality agreement to see the attachments mentioned in the in-review panel report was not right. Vidya Teacher disclosed one student's marks were raised out of proportion and the marks cannot be awarded under medical grounds.

The President replied to Vidya teacher that the first meeting organised by the principal regarding the HSC marks review became like a meeting designed to accuse the President and Secretary. It wasn't a proper meeting or healthy discussion to find a resolution for the HSC marks review. hence no further meeting was organized.

Jesu also made an allegation about how 2021 HSC marks were finalized. The president said that this wasn't in the scope of today's agenda.

Para Parameswaran: We had to discuss how the error happened and how to rectify the error, how we can move forward rather than talking emotionally, and accusing each other. An information session had to be organised to share information on how marks are given or finalised. We had always agreed to do our actions without affecting any student. The person who raised this issue rang me last year (2021) and said, there was no problem with you, but today accused me and asked me to resign. This was a personal attack or accusation against me which was bad behaviour of that parent. We all are humans and make mistakes at times but correct ourselves and move forward on the right path to success.

Varathan: All the parents should consider the student's future and the growth of the school rather than putting themselves ahead of the school. No parents should scare the students or portray the WTSC as a bad place to learn Tamil.

The Vidya teacher emphasised that no files or information leaked from her regarding this HSC review matter.

Yasotharan: If the issue was raised in the school, it had to be discussed within the school and find a solution within the school. The committee must investigate the issue and decide whether the issue needs to be taken to the AGM.

The President suggested two options for the upcoming committee to consider regarding the finalisation of HSC marks. Gangeyan Added another option for consideration.

Option 1: Solely depend on the teacher's mark and no moderation.

Option 2: Sophisticated IT software to punch in the raw marks to calculate finalised marks without the human intervention of moderating the same.

Option 3: Full revamp of all the HSC teachers

Conclusion: The President stated that there was nothing more the WTSC committee could do on this matter. Therefore, this issue of reviewing the HSC marks is closed and no further actions will be taken by future committees on this matter. If the parent wasn't pleased with the conclusion of this issue, the parent could seek other avenues to the resolution that he wanted.

The Secretary report was proposed by Gangeyan Ganesalingam and seconded by Sownthary Ganeshan.