

PICT MODEL SCHOOL

Survey no. 6, Mahalunge - Balewadi, Pune – 411045

Minutes of the Second Executive Committee of Parent Teacher Association (EPTA) Meeting 2021-2022

Date: Thursday, 16th December 2021, Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm Venue: Microsoft Teams

Members Present:

Mrs. Manju Surendran (Principal)	Chairperson
Mr. Abhishek Mishra	Parent Representative -Grade 1
Ms. Anindita Kharoo	Parent Representative -Grade 2
Ms. Zankhana Zalavadiya	Parent Representative -Grade 3
Mr. Aniket Palkar	Parent Representative-Grade 4
Ms. Supriya Nagrani	Parent Representative-Grade 5
Mr. Sanjib Kumar Mondal	Parent Representative- Grade 6
Mr. Varun Kumar Arya	Parent Representative-Grade 7
Ms. Ruchi Gupta	Parent Representative- Grade 8
Ms. Hansa Sinha	Parent Representative- Grade 10
Mrs. Srijana Rai	Teacher Representative- Grade 1
Mrs. Rajni Desai	Teacher Representative- Grade 3
Mrs. Swati Zape	Teacher Representative- Grade 4
Mrs. Mamta Sharma	Teacher Representative- Grade 5
Mr. Rajesh Deshmukh	Teacher Representative- Grade 6
Mrs. Preety Sharma	Teacher Representative- Grade 7
Mrs. Tamali Ghosh	Teacher Representative- Grade 8
Mr. Pramod Bichkule	Teacher Representative- Grade 9

Members Absent:

Ms. Poonam Kale	Parent Representative- Grade 9
Ms. Sneha Patil	Teacher Representative- Grade 2
Mrs. Pratima Hawaldar	Teacher Representative- Grade 10

Welcoming Members:

Mrs. Manju Surendran, Principal and Chairperson, extended a warm welcome to all the members of the Executive Committee of the PTA of PICT Model School for the academic year 2021-2022. The Chairperson noted that the requisite quorum for the meeting was present and called the meeting to order. She tabled the agenda as circulated along with the Notice of the Meeting to all the members. The meeting unanimously adopted the Agenda for the Second Executive Committee Meeting of the PTA.

Agenda:

- Attendance
- Sharing the Minutes of the Meeting (MOM) of the 1st EPTA 2021-22
- Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the school schedule- Online classes, latest Government notification, curriculum implications and reopening of on campus class
- Grade 10 Academic Year 2021-22 Term- 1 examination
- Proposed Grade 11 Academic Year 2022- 23
- Increment of fee for Academic Year 2022- 23
- Third installment of the school fee for Academic Year 2021-22

Attendance:

The meeting commenced with the attendance of all Parent Representatives and teacher representatives. Leave of absence was granted to members who were not present with prior intimation by the Chairperson.

Sharing the Minutes of the Meeting (MOM) of the 1st EPTA 2021-22.

The Minutes of the Meeting (MOM) of the first 2021-22 was shared with all the members of the meeting by the Chairperson. The meeting unanimously adopted the same without any modifications.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the school schedule-online classes, latest government notification and curriculum implications:

Online classes- The Principal and Chairperson informed the meeting that the online classes are successfully implemented for all classes across Grade 1 to 7 and starting from 6th October'21, blended sessions for Grade 8-10 have been implemented successfully. The first batch of Grade 10 learners were methodically trained to attempt the re-engineered CBSE MCQ based assessment on OMR sheets. The experience of training the learners for their new assessment pattern with the latest guidelines was undertaken very scientifically. Learners were made aware of the OMR sheets, common mistakes, misconceptions were visually shown and discussed before the Grade 10 learners attempted the Term 1 CBSE Board exam from 29th November' 21 at Akshara International School. CBSE compliant two mock tests were conducted with questions as per the Sample Paper and guidelines. Post the mock exams, learners spent more than an hour with the subject educator for test wrapping sessions. The rigour and practice gave the learners confidence to attempt their first national level public examination. The Chairperson was hopeful that the grade 10 learners will ace the examination with flying colours. Grade 9 learners also successfully attempted the Term-1 assessment on campus.

Latest Government guidelines- As per the latest guideline, Grades 1-7 are allowed to operate physical school. With 100% vaccinated staff and the safety security in place, the Chairperson mentioned that the school is confident of reopening physical school soon. Cambridge English Assessments (CELA) have been a testimony to the commitment to provide a safe learning space for our young learners in the campus. The Chairperson mentioned that the parent partners have been very appreciative of the detailed planning, execution and safety measures for all the batches reporting to school. She also acknowledged the parent partners for their continuous trust and support while they dropped and picked up learners as per the schedule shared.

Curriculum Implications: The school continues to review, audit and improvise on curriculum implementation in alignment with NEP 2020 and CBSE guidelines. The effort is towards a more differentiated assessment and efficacy of blended sessions.

Proposed Grade 11 ACADEMIC YEAR 2022- 23: Admission to Grade 11 for academic year 2022-23 has commenced and an exclusive orientation was conducted for the existing Grade 10 parent partners on Sunday, 12th December 2021. The subject combinations and offerings were discussed in details and parents were very happy with the information shared. All three streams are offered in subject combinations which would enable learners to make the right choice for undergraduate studies based on aptitude and passion

Increment of the School Fee for ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23 and 3rd Installment Fee for ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22: The Chairperson mentioned that as adopted in the EPTA Meeting of 2020-21 on 10th October, 2020, the fee increment as per the school policy, was deferred to 2022-23. However, in solidarity with the duress faced by many parent partners because of pandemic, the managing body has generously offered to defer the increment to the academic year 2023-24.

Since the inception in 2016, PICT Model School is in its 6th year of operation and has had only 1 fee increment

in the academic year 2019-20 and it was just 8%. Also, for the academic year 2020-21, the managing body has graciously given a blanket fee waiver of 14% to all parent partners across Grades 1-10. In line with the DFRC rules and the school policy, the fee increment due for academic year 2022-23 has been deferred. The consequent burden has been absorbed by the school. With the support and trust bestowed on the school by the parent partners and the ever-enthusiastic energy of the learners, she mentioned that the school continues in its efforts to nurture an intriguing learning space for young minds to realize their innate competencies.

The Principal and Chairperson went on to add that against the background of the rising cost of operations in terms of salaries, increments, maintenance and upkeep of the facilities with the additional burden of COVID 19 protocol and yet, taking cognizance of the ongoing economic duress of the parent partners, the managing body has offered a further rebate on the annual school fee of the ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22. For Grades 1 to 7, the rebate on the annual fee offered is 8%. For Grade 8 to 10, who have started physical classes on campus from October 2021, the rebate on the annual fee is 4%. The window period to make the payment of the modified 3rd installment fee has been extended up to 10th January 2022. The adjusted and reduced fee amount will be reflected on the school ERP portal.

Interaction with EPTA members:

The Chairperson informed that all agenda points have been covered and welcomed questions, observations, concerns, and queries from the Parent Representatives and opened the meeting for discussion.

Mr. Aniket Palkar, Parent Representative of Grade 2, enquired about the probable dates for reopening the physical school for Grade 1 to 7 owing to the upcoming Periodic Test 2 scheduled in the first week of January 2022. The Chairperson explained that the Periodic Test 2 will be conducted online and based on the number of consents received from the parent partners to send their wards to the school campus, the school will announce the reopening date, shortly. She also added that the details of how the Periodic Test 2 would be conducted would be shared soon.

Mrs. Hansa Sinha, Parent Representative of Grade 10, appreciated the effort of all educators of Grade 10 and their guidance throughout the Term 1 examination and expressed her positive hope that learners would come off with flying colours. She shared concern over the commuting challenge that the parent partners and the learners are facing owing to the physical classes on campus. She put forward the proposal of transport facilities from the school or taking up hybrid or blended sessions for the learners.

Similar concern regarding transport was raised by Mrs. Ruchi Gupta, Parent Representative of Grade 8 as well. With respect to that, the Chairperson added that a consent form on transport facility would be shared soon with the Grade 8 to 10 parents as well. In compliance and consultation with the educators of Grades 9 and 10, the Chairperson added that the institution would not opt for the hybrid model of sessions. Owing to the changed pattern of assessment that CBSE has introduced, as seen in the Term 1 examination, it is important that the learners are trained on campus in the presence of the educators to be in much better prepared to answer subjective type questions during the final Term 2 assessment.

Mrs. Hansa also mentioned the concern regarding long hours invested by learners for maintaining the learning log along with the draft of their science journals. The Chairperson responded that if the learners maintain their learning logs updated on daily basis, it will not consume any extra time of the learner, instead help the learner to have better reflection of the concepts. Reiterating to the importance of learning logs, which has been beneficial for all learners during the Term 1 exam, she requested the parent partners to encourage the learners to work towards maintaining their learning log and also encourage them to reach out to the educators in case they face any difficulty in the process. The Chairperson also adequately explained the need for the drafts of the journals as they are important with respect to their internal marks and for external review, when asked for. It was further said that the learners are advised to implement the feedback from the educators to avoid such last-minute rush.

Mr. Abhishek Mishra, Parent Representative of Grade 1, acknowledged the sincere effort of the educators with special appreciation to the CELA team imparting the training and guiding the learners throughout. He raised the enquiry about the process of reopening the school and the type of sessions that would be executed for the Grade 1 to 7 learners. The Chairperson responded that it would be a hybrid or blended session for learners from Grade 1 to 7 with 50% of the total capacity, wherein the students would come in batches to attend the classes on campus while the remaining learners would attend the classes online on that academic year. She added that the success of the on campus CELA examination, as appreciated by the external Cambridge Team, has boosted the confidence of the school to reopen the campus for the learners.

The Chairperson brought it to the notice of the parent partners, the observation that a lot of learners are not attending classes regularly and absenteeism is becoming a major concern, with regards to the request for leave of absence for vacation and family outings during the ongoing session. Absence during sessions is a hindrance in the learning process for the learners and leads to learning gaps and therefore, school will not grant such leave of absence.

Ms. Anindita Kharoo, Parent Representative of Grade 2, thanked the Chairperson for considering the different suggestions and concerns raised in the first EPTA meeting and conducting one- to- one interactions with learners that have boosted the enthusiasm of the young learners. She opined that in case of few subjects, the pace is a bit too fast, and the learners are unable to cope up. The Chairperson requested the Parent Representative to send an email mentioning the specific subjects where she feels the pace is fast so that the school can objectively investigate the matter.

Ms. Supriya Nagrani, Parent Representative of Grade 5 and Mr. Sanjeev Mondal, Parent Representative of Grade 6 put forward their concern regarding commencement of on campus classes. The Chairperson mentioned that based on the number of learners who are willing to come for on campus sessions and the number of learners who wish to avail school transport, school will be in a position to take a call on commencing with on campus classes. She also mentioned that as per the COVID 19 safety protocol, buses will have only 50 % occupancy which will enhance the transport cost substantially. On enquiry of the availability of cafeteria, she responded that on receiving the number of learners who are willing to come to attend on campus classes, the logistics of availing the service of the school cafeteria will be proposed to the parents.

Ms. Ruchi Gupta, Parent Representative of Grade 8, opined that evaluated answer scripts should be shown to the parents for them to analyse the areas of strengths and weaknesses. In response, the Chairperson informed that after every assessment, educators conduct test wrapping sessions giving specific feedback for the learners to assess and reflect how their preparation had been and what went wrong in attempting the answers with regards to each and every question. She added that the learners should be encouraged by the parents to reach out to the educators whenever they have any difficulty and clarify their doubts for better conceptual understanding. That would help learners prepare better as the educators are the best guides to the learners.

Ms. Supriya Nagrani, Parent Representative of Grade 5, enquired if wearing the mask for the learners throughout on campus would be mandatory. The Chairperson emphasized that although the comfort of the learners is important however, that should not compromise on their safety and thus, the need of following the COVID 19 safety norms strictly is a mandate. Mrs. Nagrani also enquired about the CELA examination if the learners have to attempt the same level if their results do not reflect five shields. The Chairperson informed that the learners have been trained adequately to master the competencies in language learning with all four skills, LSRW, to ace it. Therefore, mere passing a high-stake internationally benchmarked language assessment will not benefit the learners in their higher education. Hence, the mandate on securing five shields. With regards to CELA examination, Mrs. Anindita Kharoo, enquired about the result date, to which the Chairperson responded that it is expected to be towards end of February 2022, tentatively.

Mr. Sanjeev Mondal brought it to the notice of the members of EPTA that in the absence of transport facility from the school, it would be difficult to pick up the learners from the school during the academic year, to which the Chairperson mentioned that the school timing is being closely looked upon to meet all ends but timing of 8:30am to 3:30pm would not be offered at the moment. However, as the situation unfolds, bringing back normalcy would be the aim. The Parent Representative also put forward a proposal to postpone the reopening of Grade 1 to 7 till 15th January in the view of receiving update about the Omicron variant scenario and asked for the guidelines to adhere, in case of inevitable situations. The Chairperson reassured that keeping in mind the safety security of the learners and based on the consent received from the parents to send their wards to the campus as well as the numbers who would wish to avail transport, the school will come out with the proposal at the earliest. She appealed to the parent partners for their trust to maintain the protocols through the tough time.

The Parent Representative of Grade 10 raised concern regarding the discrepancies in CBSE Term 1 Social Science and Science Board question papers and asked if the learners could be given a study leave before their exams. With regards to the question papers, the Chairperson assured that the needful has already been done and CBSE has been informed of the same. Regarding the study leave for the learners, she highlighted that had it not been for the seamless training and mentoring till the last minute by the educators before their Term 1 exam, the learners could not have taken this first high-stake exam so comfortably. The learners were indeed overwhelmed that they could clarify their doubts and utilize the guidance from their educators till late in the night before the exam date. She also informed the meeting that having taken a survey among the Grade 10 learners, it was found that 85 % of the learners felt that coming to school and being with their educators is preferred to taking a study leave.

Mr. Abhishek Mishra threw light upon the issue that the parents were facing while updating the Aadhar card details. The Chairperson responded that the edit mode has been opened up on the ERP portal and the parents to update their Aadhar card details along with their current residential address as that would be required for providing efficient transport facility.

Ms. Anindita Kharoo, EPTA member of Grade 2, Mr. Sanjib Mondal EPTA member of Grade 6 and Mr. Aniket Palkar EPTA member for Grade 4 appreciated and complemented the school managing body for their empathetic approach towards fee rebate and deferring the fee increment twice since 2019-20. The Members specifically noted the fee rebate proposed and offered for Grades 1-7 at 8% and for Grades 8-10 at 4% (ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22) as a big step.

Vote of Thanks:

There being no other business, the meeting ended with the Chairperson thanking the members warmly for their participation and presence in the meeting. She wished everyone a safe and a healthy year ahead and with this, she ended the 2nd meeting of EPTA for the academic year 2021-22.

Date: 16th December, 2021

Place: Pune