

BATLAGAE TRUST

Minutes of a meeting of the Trustees of the Batlagae Trust, held at Sacred Heart College on Thursday 5 November 1992 at 3:00 pm.

PRESENT: N McGurk (Acting Chairman), M Tikly (Executive Director), B Watson

IN ATTENDANCE: J Douglas (Assistant to the Chairman)

APOLOGIES: M A S Corke (Chairman), J Samuel

'ABSENT: M Mphahlele

1. MINUTES OF _'I'HE MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER:

The minutes were taken as read and approved once the following correction was noted:

- the spelling of "M Merle" on page five was amended to read "M Mehl".

2. MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 8 OCTOBER:

These were taken as read and approved once it had been noted that the decisions reflected under agenda item 3 "Funding", had been inaccurately recorded. In fact, the Trustees had agreed in principle that Batlagae Trust would offer Sacred Heart College a soft loan in the region of R300 000. Ari Van Esch would contact M Tikly in connection with the drafting of a memorandum. Once the agreement had been signed, Batlagae Trust would transfer the funds to Sacred Heart College.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED BY THE AGENDA:

3.1 TAX EXEMPT STATUS:

It was agreed that the Trust should contact Raymond Tucker. N McGurk undertook to engage with him on behalf of the Batlagae Trust.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The Executive Director presented his written report which had already been circulated to all the Trustees.

4.1 1993 BURSARY PROGRAMME:

It was noted that approximately half the funding required for the 1993 bursary programme had already been pledged. The Executive

Director said that although the Batlagae Trust could anticipate substantial support from its traditional donors, this support would still be insufficient to cover costs. B Watson asked what financial assistance the Batlagae Trust could expect to receive from the NCCR. The Executive Director said that he would be meeting with F Chikane to discuss this issue, but added that he was not hopeful.

Preliminary processing of the 1993 bursary applications had begun. In light of the fact that so many applications had been received - 1100 to date - it had been agreed at a recent staff meeting that all late applications would be put aside. The Trustees agreed that sub-committee meetings would only be held when complications arose in the processing of applications.

4.2 YEOVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL:

With regard to the Yeoville Community School, it was noted that a number of meetings of the working group had taken place and plans were progressing smoothly. The Batlagae Trust had appointed a temporary secretary, Mrs Betty Ngakane, to administer the Yeoville Community School project, and a caretaker principal, Mrs Jackie Stevenson, was in place. A letter of confirmation from Pretoria with regard to subsidisation was still pending. As soon as this was received, a sub-committee would be established to appoint teachers and administrative staff.

The Executive Director asked that the soft loan agreement between Sacred Heart College and the Batlagae Trust be formally ratified by the end of the meeting.

4.3 EDITH HIND SPECIAL SCHOOL:

The Executive Director briefed the Trustees on the possibility of the Batlagae Trust using the facilities of the present Edith Hind Special School in order to initiate another project. The Trustees needed to consider whether the Batlagae Trust should take responsibility for another project, and if so, thought was needed to be given as to what kind of school needed to be established.

5. THE TWO PROJECTS AND THE EVOLVING MISSION AND STRUCTURE OF THE BATLAGAE TRUST: e '

The Trustees discussed the Yeoville Community School and the Edith Hind Special School in the broader context of the evolving mission and structure of the Batlagae Trust.

The Executive Director wondered whether it was appropriate to consider changing the name of the Trust. B Watson felt that the name was still applicable and pointed out that if the Trustees did consider changing the Trust's name, they would not be able to raise funds on behalf of returned exiles. N McGurk concurred, but added that although the bursary programme would still be extensive in 1993, the two projects would relieve a lot of fundraising pressure off the Batlagae Trust because of the level of state subsidisation that the two schools were eligible for.

The Executive Director asked the Trustees to consider the evolving structure of the Batlagae Trust. Was a separate unit within the Trust going to be established that would be responsible for the new initiatives for example, or were the school projects simply ad hoc working groups? N McGurk agreed that these were valid issues requiring careful thought. He felt, however, that it was vital to first get the projects concretely realised and solidly based before looking at the linkages between them and the future structure of the Trust.

The Executive Director observed that the present working group of the Yeoville Community School would be replaced by a governing Board on which the Batlagae Trust and Sacred Heart College would be represented. He stressed however, that the Batlagae Trust needed to have resources in order to contribute to the two projects and therefore reiterated his concern about the evolving structure of the Batlagae Trust. He was particularly worried about developing appropriate mechanisms in order for the Trust to cope with its expanding responsibilities.

N McGurk acknowledged the importance of M Tikly's concerns, but said that he felt the Trustees should give thought to structure as the programmes progressed. He said that the two projects would be largely self-supporting and autonomous. The educational polyclinic on the other hand, would have to be firmly rooted in the Batlagae Trust because it formed an essential component of the evolving policies of the Trust, especially in terms of the broader aim of community outreach. The Executive Director said that the exact nature of the relationship between the Batlagae Trust and the educational polyclinic would have to be carefully worked out. The Trustees agreed in principle that it would be best for the educational polyclinic to be an agency of the Batlagae Trust, at least in the short term.

With regard to the relationship between the Yeoville Community School and the educational polyclinic, N McGurk pointed out that the two budgets would be largely independent of each other, although it would be in the interests of both institutions to share a reception and facilities like a tea room. The school and polyclinic would also have to share some maintenance costs while the pre-school was still sited on the Yeoville campus, but this would be a short-term arrangement.

The Executive Director said that he was not concerned about the schools because these would be accountable to their governing Boards. He asked if the Trustees foresaw the educational polyclinic being accountable to the Batlagae Trust.

N McGurk said that in terms of the kind of future structure that seemed to be emerging for the Batlagae Trust, the bursary programme and outreach/development programme would constitute two departments of the Batlagae Trust under the Executive Director and Board. The educational polyclinic would be a division of the outreach/development department and would be accountable to it. In terms of this structure, the Batlagae Trust would require the additional services of at least a Deputy Director and a programme officer.

N McGurk suggested that should the Edith Hind School become a reality, then the Batlagae Trust should immediately look to the appointment of a Deputy Director, a Polyclinic Director, and at least one remedial teacher. The Trustees concurred.

N McGurk undertook to write a proposal detailing the salary and service conditions for the above positions. It was also agreed to suggest to the Chairman that B Watson be appointed as the Head of the Polyclinic, and if this was approved to offer the position to 3' Watson.

With regard to the Edith Hind School, the Trustees agreed that a working committee would have to be established if the project became a reality. The following names were suggested as possible members of the committee: Patrick Van Rensburg, Pam Christie, Dawn Butler, A Bird, Eric Molobi, L Mabandla, N McGurk, M Tikly, one or two community people, Lottie.

6. OTHER:

The Executive Director said that he had been approached by the NCCR, and asked if the Batlagae Trust would be prepared to supplement the salaries of people working in NCCR regional offices who were helping the Trust process bursary applications. This issue was forwarded to the next meeting.

6. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

Another special meeting of the Trustees of the Batlagae Trust will take place on Thursday 19 November 1992, at St Barnabas College, at 4:30 pm. ,

JOHANNESBURG

19 November 1992

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