

# Meeting minutes for Asha Chennai on 22nd May 2022

Minutes of the Hybrid meeting held via GoogleMeet and in person on Sunday 22nd May 2022 at 9.30 AM

## Following were present

1. Anitha
2. Bhaskar
3. Kasturi
4. Kalyan Vaidyanathan
5. Komalavalli
6. Madan Sudarman
7. Paripoornam Online
8. Rajaraman
9. Ramakrishnan Online
10. Shiva
11. Sriram
12. Sundaram R Online
13. Sujatha
14. Venkat Online
15. Usha Bhaskar
16. Usha Rao

## 0. Ratification of the minutes of the meeting

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 10th April 2022 via google meet and in person were ratified unanimously.

## 1 Ratification of ARC Poll

Bhaskar stated that the ARC Poll was conducted on Email and the following results as polled were communicated to Asha Worldwide

1 Should the chapter approve the modification to the Working Capital Ratio calculation use a time period of October to September, instead of January to December?

Voted Yes 9

Voted No 0

Abstained 3

2 How should the chapter vote for President/Asha-wide Coordinator?

Prema Gandhi Votes Polled 11

Sharda Seshabattar polled 1

Abstain NIL

3 For the nominee not selected for President/Asha-wide Coordinator

above, do you approve of them serving as a team member within the same team? At the end of the day, Asha is a lot stronger when multiple volunteers work together than one :)

Voted Yes 12

Voted No NIL

Abstain NIL

4 How should the chapter vote for Asha-wide Treasurer?

Subra Nathan 4

Jeevan Jankar 1

Abstain 7

5 For the nominee not selected for Asha-wide Treasurer above, do you approve of them serving as a team member within the same team? At the end of the day, Asha is a lot stronger when multiple volunteers work together than one

Voted Yes 10

Abstain 2

6 Should our chapter ratify Sridhar Dandapanthula as Asha-wide Secretary?

Voted yes 8

Abstain 4

7 Should our chapter ratify Padmanava Sen as Asha-wide Projects Coordinator?

Voted Yes 11

Abstain 1

8 Should our chapter ratify Amit Sharma as Asha-wide Webmaster?

Voted Yes 10

Abstain 2

9 Should our chapter ratify Anish Mukherjee as Ashawide PR Coordinator?

Voted Yes 11

Abstain 1

10 Should our chapter ratify Payal Shah as Asha-wide Volunteer Coordinator?

Voted Yes 11

Abstain 1

## **2. Staff Loans and other matters**

Rajaraman stated that the System Administrator's scooter was in need of extensive repairs. The nature of his work required travel extensively. It was unanimously decided to make a one time grant of Rs 10,000 for the purpose. Also during the next proposal cycle we should consider allocating Rs 5000 or Rs 10000 per year towards the same like we do for the coordinators.

Our accountant had also requested a loan of Rs 50000 for purchasing a scooter. She needs the scooter for her work. The loan of Rs 50000 for her was unanimously approved.

Asha will limit leave accumulation and encashment to 24 days. I.e. Staff leave should not cross 22 days and they need to encash; otherwise it will lapse

## **3. Status of Funds**

The meeting noted the status of Fund Balances available (Total Rs 37,000,000 Approx as on 30th April 2022 ) at Asha US Treasury, Asha SV, Asha India Varanasi , Asha Chennai, Asha South India, funding portals GiveIndia , Benevity and IIT/Pravartak as on 1st May'22 .

## **4. Amazon Proposal and Status**

Rajaraman stated that the grant from Amazon's campaign under the banner Future Engineers, of Rs 1.5 Crores against the proposal submitted by us was likely to be received any time soon. This supports our computer science education programme for classes 1 to 8 as well as sending trainers out to a broader set of govt schools for our outreach programme. It was necessary to allocate our exiting computer teachers, Kanini trainers and other staff to the Amazon funded part. He also mentioned that unlike other major donors, procedurally Amazon wanted Asha Chennai to raise an invoice. This issue was being discussed with the auditors. Asha Chennai had to fulfill many of Amazon's procedures like Logical Frame analysis and periodical submission of various forms and reports at multiple levels. He further added that since due diligence had been carried by Amazon on Asha Chennai , it was necessary to stick to Asha Chennai tag for the present.

Detailed Proposals, as below, submitted by Rajaraman were considered and unanimously approved subject to corrections, where required, due to decisions taken on staff salaries during this meeting.

1 LEARN\* Computer Teacher Support 100 Schools 7000 Children Rs 115,508,800. For the year 2022-23 Rs 85,45,250

2 EXPLORE\* Trainers at 10 Blocks With 30 Schools Per trainer and 100 Students per school (Class 6th to 9th) Rs 3,960,000. For the Year 2022-23 Rs 2,575,000

(LEARN provides support for teachers in underserved schools to learn computer science

EXPLORE Helps students to explore the world of computer science and try out different careers arising out of it) .

## 5 Project Proposals

1. SANGAMAM Rajaraman presented the budget proposals for Sangamam truncated to an extent consequent to the proposals made under Amazon Learn for computer teachers. This proposal covered 25 Regular Schools and 10 Computer Schools. Budget for the year 2022-23 amounting to Rs 76,50,000 was unanimously approved with a caveat that revisions may be effected based on decisions taken on Staff Salaries during the meeting.

1. MANIGAL Usha Bhaskar presented budget proposals for the year 2022-23 amounting to Rs 12,39,000 which was unanimously approved subject to changes likely to arise out of decisions on salaries taken during the meeting.

Important Rajaraman requested all project stewards to submit their proposals positively by mid June'22 in order to discuss and approve during the June Monthly Meeting.

## 6 Staff Salaries

Rajaraman presented full details of salaries of all positions in the organisation and also future positions to be created consequent on the expansion of activities.

a. Differential between Computer Teacher and Regular Teacher

Following norms were proposed for differential between computer teachers and regular teachers and voted upon.

a)Rs 500 b) Rs 750 and c)Rs 1000

Votes For a).above ..... 1

Votes For b) above 10

Votes For c) above 5

It was decided to fix the differential at Rs 750

a. Norms for Annual Increases

After considerable discussion it was unanimously decided to give a base increase of Rs 800 plus a performance based increase of 8 per cent on basic salary.

Extensive discussions were held on salaries position by position and unanimous decisions were arrived at. They will be notified for further action.

a. Other Increases

Salaries of other key personnel were discussed including coordinators, accountant, lead teachers, system engineers etc. Besides specific pays for coordinators and system engineers, following generic decisions were made:

- Lead teachers will have a Rs 2500 excess salary over regular teachers.
- Specific set of 3 lead teachers to have a special one time increase of Rs 750.
- Senior teachers will have Rs 500 more than regular/computer teachers.
- Some of the increments that were brought in because of Pravartak funding are to be made permanent. I.e. Carried back into Asha salary.

## **7. Quick Updates**

### a. Assessments 2022

Rajaraman stated that the written assessments were conducted successfully and they ended on 24th of April '22 and papers are under grading by volunteers and teachers.

### b. Excursion

Venkat stated that all is set for the staff trip to Ooty. About 45 staff and additional 20 children will be coming for the excursion on June 22nd. Bhaskar and Paripoornam confirmed that the trip to Kodaikanal by Pearl and Thulasi staff was also well set.

## **8. Right Start 7th to 11th June**

Rajaraman stated that all arrangements to hold Right Start at the IITM campus including accommodation for teachers are underway. Mrs Meena Suresh had agreed to handle Maths Training for four sessions. He expected Purva Bhattar to handle Science and Karadi Path trainers also to pitch in for English. Venkat said that he was still exploring the possibility of an external faculty for a session on English failing which he said he along with Sundaram would cover the subject. Here is the tentative schedule.

RightStart - 7th to 11th

- 7th & 9th - Meena ma'am (Maths)

- 8th - Purva (Science)

- 10th - English (still exploring)

- 11th - first half - IIT profs general talk

second half - Longer convocation; teachers' programs; 5 years & 10 years completion; other recognition

## **9. Updates on other IIT Pravartak Related initiatives**

Due to paucity of time, this agenda point was deferred.

R.Sundaram