

Minutes for Asha Chennai on 26th, May 2024

ASHA CHENNAI CHAPTER MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON Sunday 26, May,2024

Following were present

Bhaskar

Kalyan

Kasturi

Komalavalli

Rajaraman (coordinator)

Shiva

Sriram

Sujatha

0. Ratification of Minutes of the meeting held on 28/4/24

Minutes of the meeting held on 28/4/24 were ratified unanimously.

1. Project Budget Proposal Scholarship (Kalyan)

- Last year, 107 students were supported as against the planned 100 students; this year, 115 students are proposed for our support.
- Since there is an increase of more than 7 lakhs on the Scholarship line item, with almost the same student count as last year, Bhaskar has requested Kalyan to analyse the amount of 30,45,000. [Action: Kalyan]
- Our last year's career counselling Pilot Program with Dheya trust, for 2 students each in 10th, 12th and degree went on very well. Propose to do the same this year as well on a large scale for Class 12, Pre-final and final-year College (not 10th). The plan is to take up 100 students at Rs. 500/- per student.
- Salary for Malliga has been increased to 15000 per month. [2/3rd from Scholarship Project (Rs.10000) and 1/3rd from PoornaVidhya (Rs. 5000)]
- Admin expenses will be 1.6 lakhs including Malliga's 1.2. Career counselling amount has been added twice. This will be corrected and the total will be reduced accordingly. [Action: Kalyan]
- Rajaram said that generally for all Projects, a contingency of 20 or 30 k is allocated. The 2% contingency can be reduced to 20000 or 30000 [Action: Kalyan]
- Since admission fees within colleges vary to a large extent, Rajaram suggested that it would be a good idea to discuss with a few students to find out why they were not able to get the cheaper fees. This would help us in counselling [Action: Kalyan]
- Proposal was approved with these changes.

2. Staff Changes and Loans

- a. Scooter loan request from RTC teacher Sangamam Rs. 50,000
- b. Marriage loan request for Rajatalab teacher - Rs. 50,000 were approved

3. Project Budget Proposal Poorna Vidhya (by Sriram)

- a. Data Plan, Bonus and Salaries can be combined in one single line item, thereby reducing the number of line items.
- b. For Salaries of Computer teachers, reference can be taken from Sangamam budget. [Action: Sriram]
- c. Need to add a line item for KaradiPath payments. [Action: Bhaskar]
- d. Proposal was approved with these changes.

4. Update on RightStart

- All Training sessions went on well and the final day felicitation function with teachers was fun filled.
- On the expenses side, the cost has increased a little on all fronts, like hostel stay, food at Vanavani, etc.
- Attendance was very good this time, more than 90%
- Rightstart expenses will be independent of the Project Budget and hence need not be included as a part of the Project Budgets.

5. Project Budget Proposal Asha Kanini (Rajaraman)

- Kanini was funded by Pravarthak the last few years, till Sep 2023. This year, we are writing a proposal/Budget for Kanini after almost three years.
- For software engineers, we also give them the option to take broadband plan for their homes instead of mobile data. Though this is a bit costly, this is a necessity as our engineers work from home as well.
- Server cost has been increased, since the present 1 GB RAM needs to be upgraded to 2 GB, mainly for MongoDB.
- Payment for mapping and content work for teachers to be a part of Kanini and not the individual Project.
- Our Software team is working on Kanini Version 4 which is likely to be released soon.
- Apart from this, other areas being worked upon by our software team are - improvements on the assessment submission, our own software for monthly reporting to Amazon from google forms , computer teacher reporting, RTC teacher reporting.
- Can reduce the budget for laptop repairs from 50,000/- to 20,000/- [Action: Rajaram]
- Proposal was approved with these changes.

6. Update on Discussions with Govt.

- Discussion on MOU extension for ACEv2
- New ADW hostel program:
- Namma School extension for ACE, and RTCs in other districts:

Rajaram updated the team on the progress on these fronts. These are getting delayed. Esp. the MOU extension for ACEv2. Rajaraman was hoping to talk to the relevant people and bring them to closure.

7. Project Budget Proposal Pearl (Bhaskar)

- All will continue as in 2024-25 (schools, teachers for kindergarten & balwadis, libraries) as was in 23-24. One additional library has been proposed for this year.
- Three of the Regular teachers can be moved as Karadipath teachers. However the count of Reg. teachers to be retained at 5. Adding a new line item for the 3 Karadipath teachers.
Distribute the salaries based on the above split. [Action: Bhaskar]
- Avg. sal. has been increased by 750 from 6250 last year to 7000 this year, along with the existing 250/- for data plan for KG teachers.
- 4 new laptops proposed - 2 as replacement of two very old laptops and 2 for 2 new teachers; to remove 'hotspot' from this line item 7. [Action: Bhaskar]
- Line Item 29 under Library - Honorarium for five librarians (educated, preferably from the same village) - the cost needs to be checked and modified. [Action: Bhaskar]
- Need to add a line item for KaradiPath payments. [Action: Bhaskar]
- Proposal was approved with these changes.

8. Upcoming Important Events.

- For the Asha Impressions event, discussions are on whether to have separate Impressions events for projects like Thulasi, Pearl, since it is a little difficult to get the children to Chennai.
- Inauguration of Nallatinpudhur RTC (14th June) and Inauguration of Kilpennathur RTC (week of 16th June) - Preparation is in progress.
- Schools reopening, computer teacher training, etc.

- Teacher Evaluation tests -- CS on 8th June. MES on 29th June.

9. Project Budget Proposal Sangamam (Rajaraman)

- New library proposed at Thirupachur.

- Of the two existing scooters, one will be scrapped, and a new EV scooter is proposed to be bought.

- Sangamam office has been extended quite a lot. Previously Rs 7 lakhs + 2 lakhs were sanctioned for this. With the room areas being bigger than what was proposed, the expenditure made has already exceeded the sanctioned amount. An additional Rs 7 lakhs would be needed to complete the entire work. Hence an additional allocation of Rs 5 lakhs.

- Proposal was approved.

10. Reporting

- Reports on our website have reduced a bit. It would be a good idea to have at least an Annual report for each project, for uploading on our site.

- We are also planning an annual report. The report must mention all the events that had happened during the entire year but just a brief description with a link to the full report on the website.

General: Proposal / Budgeting approval is a three phase process. The first phase involves a general agreement on a common framework. This was done during the April meeting.

In the Second phase project-wise proposals and budgets are presented and approved. However, the approved amount is not guaranteed by Asha. This is happening currently.

In the third funding allocation phase, it is determined as to how much is allocated for each project from the general buffer. If the amount allocated is lesser than the budgeted amount, the Steward can either raise funds for the deficit amount or spend judiciously.