

Meeting Minutes for Asha Chennai on 18th, Aug 2024

ASHA CHENNAI CHAPTER MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON Sunday 18 Aug,2024

Following were present

- Bhaskar
- Kasturi
- Komalavalli
- Paripoornam
- Rajaraman
- Shiva
- Sriram
- Sujatha
- Sundaram
- Venkat
- Vidya Arun

0. Ratification of the Minutes of the meeting held on 14/7/24 as well as the online polls.

Minutes of the meeting held on 14/7/24 and the online polls held on 2 August on Budget and Allocation were unanimously ratified.

1. Staff Changes and Loans

The poll held on emergency basis by Paripoornam to grant a loan of Rs 50,000 to a teacher in Thulasi was ratified unanimously. . The father of the teacher suddenly became ill and was hospitalised.

Following proposals for staff loans up to Rs 60,000 each to teachers as below were granted unanimously

Four teachers from Sangamam for Scooter Purchase

Two teachers from Sangamam for house repair.

It was also decided unanimously to grant a loan of Rs 70,000 to a teacher in Poorna Vidya Project for higher Education for her ward".

2. Office rent for Mylapore office.

Rajaraman explained the background of paying rentals on the basis of a workstation used by Asha Chennai. Since the activities of Asha Chennai have increased manifold, a proposal to take on rental two more Work Stations, taking the total expenditure on this account of rent to Rs 24,000 was approved unanimously.

3. Govt Discussions

* CEO permissions for ACEv2.

Permissions were obtained from Villupuram and Tiruvannamalai districts. Permission was granted after lots of discussions with the CEO of Thiruvallur. It appeared that the Thiruvallur district schools were experiencing considerable shortage of regular teachers and the CEO wanted help from Asha Chennai to bridge the gap at least partially.

* ADW MOU

A draft proposal to work with ADW (Adi Dravidar Welfare Board) hostels had been submitted. We are awaiting the next steps.

* Schools of Excellence -- plan for working together.

Government is trying to establish Schools of Excellence in all the districts, limited to 28 this year. These schools will have excellent infrastructure on par with good private schools. They will have classes from 6 to 12 and are expected to have a total strength of 65000. Asha Chennai is drawing up plans to work with the government in imparting CS Education from 6th to 9th

* Namma School permission.

Our Volunteer Murali is looking after this and will get it completed soon.

* MOU extension.

Extension of the MoU for imparting CS Education to Govt School Teachers can be taken as given although a formal letter in this regard is still awaited.

Government authorities suggested running summer camps for Govt school students. However there are practical difficulties in running such camps in schools in remote areas, that too during the vacation period. .

4. Sangamam enhancement of Budget

In view of the request by the CEO/ Tiruvallur Rajaraman presented a revised Sangamam Budget caused by the addition of 5 Regular Teachers bringing the estimates to Rs 1,18,65,000. This was unanimously approved.

5. Updates

* RTC impressions in 31/7/24

RTC Impressions were held in IIT Research Lab auditorium on 31/07/24 with teams from Sangamam and Pearl participating. Digital Literacy, Web Development, Animations with JavaScript, Physical computing and Basic Programming. For the first time video editing was also added as a competition event. Children gave a very impressive performance, as noted by the judges.

* Launching ACEv2

As the first edition of ACE program imparting CS skills to Government teachers is continuing well, there was a lot of request from all districts for a second edition. We gathered the details of interested school in all the districts and the inauguration function of the second edition was conducted at Thirupachur on 10th Aug, Kovilpatti on 12th Aug, at Kilpennathur on the 12th and Melmalayanur on the 13th of August.

Rajraman, Venkat, Paripooranam and Shiva participated in these important events. Notably, TN Government Educational authorities and HMs evinced great interest.

* Laptop purchases for teachers and used laptop distributions.

Rajaraman stated that Asha Chennai has purchased about 300 laptops and got about 700 by donations. About 600 of the used laptops are found serviceable. He is exploring the possibility of buying low budget price laptops at Rs 14,000 to replace the tablets which have to be carried by some CS Trainers to the classes

Since the process of creating an asset register to identify the person to whom the laptop is given is now in place. It is possible now to track the location and have a perpetual inventory.

6. Upcoming Events

* Teacher's Excursion

Venkat has bought train tickets for Sangamam and Poorna Vidhya teachers for an excursion to Hyderabad on September 18th. Tulasi is planning to go to Kochi. Project stewards may liaise with Venkat or the respective Coordinator, if need be, re joining the excursion.

* Maths/Science training.

Maths Training through Meena Suresh and Science training by Purva is scheduled at the end of September in Thoothukudi, Oct 4th, 5th in Thiruvallur and 18th and 19th Oct in Thiruvannamalai.

* Stationery and other materials distribution.

This routine annual activity is progressing well and is being monitored closely by the project stewards. Pearl, Rajatalab and Mirzapur have been completed.

7. Teacher reporting and other IT enhancements

Gomathy, our software developer, presented the main features of computerisation of many back office functions like teacher scheduling, tracking, attendance etc. Eventually we will also bring leave records into our system and link them with payroll and accounting etc. Everyone appreciated the good work done by Gomathi and her team.

8. Leadership and Growth of Organisation

* Pradeepa's training.

Pradeepa Narayanaswamy, a professional Leadership Coach from Dallas US, conducted online free of cost, six hour training program for Volunteers, Coordinators and Lead Teachers. It was received well by the participants. The course covered various aspects; conflict resolution, ownership of activity, how to focus on the end object and the qualities required of a leader to motivate her or his team and leading from the front.

* Arjun's efforts

Arjun Shankar who is studying the procedures and systems had suggested that it would be a good idea if we could have a meeting every quarter where Coordinators and other key staff could also take part. His study will continue over the next few months and he will present us with a report.

* Rajaram's mail and enhancing the central coordination team.

Rajaraman drew the attention of the volunteers present to his mail wherein he had listed many routine things he had to do and could be shared or delegated. After some discussions Rajaraman was authorised to hire a senior staff for coordinating our administrative activities at a monthly salary of between Rs 50K and 75K.

9. Other updates.

* Event calendar and annual report.

Rajaraman informed us that a Calendar of forthcoming events is available on our [website](#). He requested all volunteers to peruse the Annual Report 23-24. He mentioned that the report was put together by Priyanka. Sundaram stated that the report was eminently readable.

* Checklists and bringing money from the US.

The checklists are under preparation by Bhaskar and Rajaraman and it was expected that the meeting with AofE US would be held on 24th August

* Audit of 2023-24 accounts.

The audit of Asha South India Trust accounts is completed. The audit of Asha Trust has been completed from our side and the report has been provided to Varanasi to be rolled into the bigger Asha Trust audit report. It is expected that this would be completed as scheduled. We usually sign our audit only as the Asha India audit report is also signed.

10. Rajatalab matters

Sujatha volunteer and / Steward of Rajatalab and Mirzapur brought up the point regarding grievances expressed in writing by Suresh Rathore and Teachers about her functioning. . It was explained to her that since the grievances had been expressed in writing it was necessary to go into them to establish the facts without bias. A committee consisting of volunteers, viz., Usha Bhaskar, Sundaram, Bhaskar was going into them. She was informed that we should await the findings of this committee.