

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

### GURGAON PROGRESSIVE SCHOOLS COUNCIL, GURGAON

A General Body Meeting of the GPSC was held on 30<sup>th</sup> October '20 on the virtual Zoom platform, as per the circulated agenda. It was attended by 25 members

#### **The highlights of the Proceedings were as follows:**

1. The Chairperson Ms. Aparna Erry after ascertaining the quorum commenced the meeting by welcoming all the esteemed members. She congratulated Ms Arti Chopra, Principal, Amity International School, Sector 46, Gurgaon and Ms Rashmi Mallik, Principal, Salwan Public School, Gurgaon for being felicitated by HRD minister with CBSE Principal's Award.
2. The Minutes of the webinar held on 28<sup>th</sup> August '20 were ratified and approved.
3. As per the circulated agenda, the Chairperson began the discussion by enquiring from all the esteemed members, their opinion about reopening of schools. She also requested them to share their school's readiness strategy in the wake of the recent notification from district administration, for reopening schools with parent's consent while adhering to the CBSE and District administration guidelines.
4. Ms. Aditi Misra, Principal, DPS, Sector 45, Gurugram shared that in the month of September '20, as per the Govt. guidelines they had called the students of board appearing batch, after ascertaining the readiness of parents by conducting an on line survey. She further added that;
  - Very few students, as few as 10-12 only, turned up for the doubt clearing and science practical's, though all the necessary arrangements were undertaken like creation of sanitization stations on every floor, class wise separate gate entry /exits and teacher time table adjustment for commencing parallel online/offline classes. Their school is planning to repeat this exercise in the month of November, after taking parent's consent.
  - She also shared that as City Coordinator, she has been giving consolidated feedback of Gurgaon Schools to the CBSE regional office regarding the conduct of Board examinations this year. She had shared that most of the schools felt that grade X examinations could be home based in this session, and for grade XII examinations, dates of commencement could be extended, and board practical's could either be conducted home-based or converted into either skill-based tests or projects. But according to her, the CBSE Board is still analyzing the feedback and is yet to announce its decision on dates for commencement of final examinations.
  - She also shared that their teachers are giving lot of practice to students to give pen and paper examinations. She added that though some schools had opened up in the states of UP and Punjab, the response was extremely poor and even in countries like UK, Netherlands, the schools had again shut down recently due to the second wave of the pandemic.
  - For fair Assessments their school had given strict warning to students that any evidence of cheating shall result in cutting down the marks. Also early morning hours were chosen to conduct online exams for better network speed. Question numbers and their options were both shuffled to prevent cheating in online examination.

- For the remaining session of the academic session 2020-21 and to begin the new session 2021-22, their school would follow their routine calendar, unless they receive any new directives from the Govt.
5. Ms. Anita Gupta, Principal Raman Munjal School, Gurgaon shared that in their school, 40% students of the board appearing batches had started attending classes and that the school was maintaining all necessary precautions like sanitization & thermal scanning. She said that they are able to manage simultaneously both online from home and on line from their school Computer lab, as numbers coming to school was less at the moment. She wanted to know from the members if the schools could now charge annual charges , in the wake of the recent directives issued by the Court. The Chairperson responded by saying that as per the High Court orders if the school has accumulated reserve fund , it cannot charge Annual charges. She added that DAV Schools are so far not taking Annual charges in the fees, till the time school reopens or resumes normal working.
  6. Ms. Suman Gulati, Director, Blue Bells Group of Schools, clarified that the schools need to maintain reserves that include three months salary of all staff members, refundable caution money for all the registered students, funds to fulfill emergency needs of the school etc. Any funds over and above these mentioned cases could be considered as surplus in the reserve funds. She wanted to enquire about holding practicals for the CBSE Boards. The Chairperson responded by saying that the schools would have to wait till CBSE's decision is announced formally.
  7. Ms. Alka Singh, Blue Bells Model School, Sector 4, Gurugram informed that 46% of her board appearing students are turning up to school for XII standard classes and 51% of class X parents have shown willingness to send the students to school. As a precautionary measure transport is not provided and the pickup and drop is managed by the parents themselves. Ms Arpita Acharya, Principal, Blue Bells Public School, Sector 10, said in her school too, the figures were somewhat similar. Ms Aditi Misra, reminded everyone that in case of students coming to school, besides the consent received on the survey form, individual consent is mandatory to be taken from the parents too , so that schools should not be held responsible for Covid'19 infections to students, whose cause is otherwise, as we know difficult to ascertain.
  8. Dr Amita Saxena, Principal, Rotary Public School, Gurugram quoted an incident in her school, wherein a child , whose both the parents were down with Covid'19, came to collect his certificates from school, as there was no one else to do that work for him. The school's front desk and office could be at high risk in such cases. So, their school had sanitized the entire effected area after that.
  9. Ms. Sandeepa, Principal, Suncity School, Gurugram shared that all the students from Grade XII had turned up for the practice of science practical's, as per the schedule provided. Students made their own travelling arrangements.
  10. Mr. Vaibhav Kapoor Principal, Ajanta Public School, Gurugram enquired if students from grade VI-VIII, could be allowed to come to school, as they were keen too. The Chairperson responded by saying that there is no directive from Govt yet to support this. He informed everyone about a planned webinar on NEP by Mr. Anil Swaroop, on 5<sup>th</sup> November'20 for which the details shall be shared later.

11. Ms Rashmi Malik, Principal, Salwan Public School, Gurugram informed that 87% of her parents had refused to send their children to school, owing to the fear of Covid'19. Due to positivity created with the help of counselling session taken, some students did attend school for practical's and doubt clearing. She added that they had added orals to the assessments and given no marks to those who could not answer orally, though in written answers were submitted. This was done to bring about seriousness for purpose.
12. Ms Arti Chopra, Principal , Amity International School, Sector 46, Gurugram enquired from the schools who had called their children for practical's and doubt clearing, if there were reports of spread of Covid'19 .Some members said that they did have a few incidents of their teachers reporting about the sufferings but not children.
13. Ms Dipinder Kaur, Principal, DPS Pataudi shared that 60 % of her board appearing students turned up for doubt clearing and they provided school transport for the same as their school is in remove area. They held the classes for one and a half hour only and every 45 minutes the occupied spaces were sanitized.
14. Ms Shalini Bajaj, Principal, Maurya Public School, Gurugram shared that one of their parent had complained to the DEO, questioning the school about Annual Charges being added to the fees. They had responded to the authorities about the same. Ms Aditi Misra, added here that all the confusion had arisen, as in one of the newspaper daily the Govt order was quoted as "only charge tuition fees", whereas it actually was , "charge Tuition fee only if online classes are being conducted".
15. Ms Anuradha Handa, Principal, G D Goenka Public School, Gurugram shared that for one such query raised by a parent, that was questioned by the DEO, they had seeked legal opinion and reached the conclusion that- 'Schools which were earlier not imparting on line education, cannot charge tuition fees, does not mean that, those who are imparting education on line, can only charge tuition fees,. rest of the things remaining same( *as it was pertaining to an interim order of the court*)'
16. Mr. Jamil Ahmed from Aravali Public School, Gurugram wanted to know how the schools were able to manage both online and off line classes. The Chairperson responded that the timetable is adjusted in such a manner that teacher's working hours can be adjusted between online& off line classes.
17. Dr. Neelima Prakash, Principal, Lion's Public School, Gurugram shared that teachers are putting in a lot of efforts but some students use unfair means for which she was guided to keep parents involved and be strict on marking if cheating is detected. She also wanted to know how to plan the next session as there was so much uncertainty about dates of Board Examination. She was informed to plan as per school calendar except the board classes, till board announces.
18. Ms. Anita Makkar, Principal, HDFC School, Gurugram shared that live streaming from classroom to the benefit of those studying from home had been planned for the coming months. She informed that parents were happy to come and collect the results of first term examinations from school.
19. Some of the members said that the collection of fees was becoming a problem and reminders were being sent for deferred payments.

20. The Chairperson took up the issue of holding GPSC Annual Conference this year and enquired from everyone about suggestions for topic of Conference as well as speakers for the session. Members were informed to share with Chairperson or the Secretary, about the topics by the coming Monday, 2nd November'20.
21. The Secretary shared that with the contribution of all the members, Articles, Case studies, and Essays could be compiled and considered for online and offline publishing. All members appreciated the idea,
22. There being no other matter, the meeting ended with a formal vote of thanks, proposed by The Chairperson Ms Aparna Erry, Principal, DAV School, Sector 14, Gurugram to the members.

Warm regards



Arti Chopra  
Secretary, GPSC