

Minutes of the 52nd meeting of the Governing Board of Kalakshetra Foundation held on Wednesday 4th July, 2018 at 11.00 AM at Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai

Members present

1. Shri N. Gopalaswami, Chairman, Kalakshetra Foundation
2. Ms. Deepika Pokharna, Director (Lib./A&A), Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India
3. Smt. Revathi Ramachandran, Director, Kalakshetra Foundation
4. Shri Anooru Anantakrishna Sharma
5. Smt. Chitra Visweswaran
6. Smt. Malavika Avinash
7. Smt. Ranjana Gauhar
8. Smt. Urmila Sathyanarayanan
9. Shri C.K. Balagopalan
10. Shri N. Vijay Siva

Leave of absence was granted to the following members

1. Shri Apurva Varma, Principal Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Department of Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments
2. Shri Lalgudi G.J.R. Krishnan
3. Dr. Kantham Nagendra Shastry
4. Smt. Saswati Sen

In attendance: Shri V. Srinivasaragavan, Deputy Director & Shri S. Muralikrishnan, Chief Accounts Officer, Kalakshetra Foundation.

Chairman welcomed Smt. Revathi Ramachandran, Director who is attending the GB meeting for the first time after her assumption of charge as Director, Kalakshetra Foundation and all other members to the meeting.

ITEM No.1:

52nd G.B/ITEM NO.1 (52.1)

To confirm minutes of the 51st meeting of Governing Board held on 09.01.2018 and the status of action taken thereon

As no comments were received, the minutes of 51st meeting of the Governing Board were confirmed.

While taking note of the action taken on the decisions in the previous GB meetings, the following observations were made—

Director, informed that in the proposed multi-purpose hall at the vacant plot of land opposite to the main campus known as ‘Vall Thottam’ provision for an Art Gallery will also be made as such a facility is not available in the nearby areas.

As regards the old Town House known as ‘Rukmini Illam’ the earlier proposal was for construction of a two storey building for renting out purposes to generate resources to the Foundation. Director stated that either the house could be restored and used as a boutique / café for sale of Kalakshetra Foundation productions. She was asked to examine the issue further keeping in view the financial viability of the proposal. Chairman remarked that construction could be in phases and if it was well received and viable after the initial phase, it could be expanded in further phases.

As regards leasing out of vacant plot of land at the Besant Nagar Beach, the GB noted the observation of Finance Committee that vacant properties should be rented out directly by Kalakshetra Foundation as any long term lease could lead to legal issues. A few GB members expressed similar apprehensions and advised KF to be cautious.

<u>ITEM No.2:</u>	<u>52nd G.B/ITEM NO.2 (52.2)</u>
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To record minutes dated 4.1.2018 of Finance Committee approved through circulation of agenda (numbered as 55th meeting of FC).

Minutes were noted.

<u>ITEM No.3:</u>	<u>52nd G.B/ITEM NO.3 (52.3)</u>
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To record minutes of 56th meeting of Finance Committee meeting held on 5.4.2018

Minutes were noted. On one of the items viz. Staff Welfare Fund for the retired employees, the GB noted that the issue had been pending for a long time and a Scheme should be formulated at the earliest so that the interest earned from the Corpus could be put to use for the retired employees. GB directed to examine various options including the possibility of starting a pension scheme from the interest earned.

ITEM No.4:**52nd G.B/ITEM NO.4 (52.4)****To record minutes of the Academic Committee meeting held on 31.5.2018**

Minutes were noted and important decisions of the Academic Committee were briefly discussed. Director explained stoppage of one-year certificate course in Visual Arts Department to maintain standard of four-year Diploma course; enhanced upper age limit for admission to Diploma course in Visual Arts Department; one time lateral entry to 2nd year in view of stoppage of certificate course and the assistance to be provided to dyslexic students etc.

ITEM No.5:**52nd G.B/ITEM NO.5 (52.5)****To record minutes of 57th meeting of Finance Committee meeting held on 22.6.2018**

Minutes were circulated at the time of the meeting and were noted by the GB.

ITEM No.6:**52nd G.B/ITEM NO.6 (52.6)****To consider and approve the Draft Annual Accounts of Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 2017-18 along with the Internal Audit Report thereon**

GB approved the draft Annual Accounts of KF for the year 2017-18 as approved by the Finance Committee.

ITEM No.7:**52nd G.B/ITEM NO.7 (52.7)****To place details and status of ongoing capital works for information**

GB noted the status of capital works exceeding Rs.50 Lakh each. It observed that the work of installation of CCTV cameras throughout the campus has been awarded to CPWD at a cost of Rs.96.92 Lakh and the cost of each camera is priced at about Rs.35,000/-. GB felt that this rate was on the higher side and directed to seek clarifications from CPWD and explore economical cameras without compromising on quality. During the course of the discussions, GB members inquired whether such works could be carried out departmentally to reduce cost for which it was informed that CPWD being the Government's technical agency it was less cumbersome to carry out major works through them as they were the repository of technical knowledge and well versed with the tendering processes as required under the statutes.

ITEM No.8:**52nd G.B/ITEM NO.8 (52.8)****To consider grant of Central Govt. scales to faculty of RDCFA**

The issue was discussed in detail inter-alia the origin of State Government scales to faculty of both BASS School and RDCFA. The GB approved the proposal for continuance of State Government scales to faculty of Besant Arundale Senior Secondary School. The GB also approved the proposal for grant of Central Government scales which were analogous to State Government scales as applicable to faculty of Tamil Nadu Government Music Colleges from time to time. The GB directed that the proposal may be placed before Finance Committee and after its vetting, Central Government scales may be implemented to RDCFA staff.

ITEM No.9:**52nd G.B/ITEM NO.9 (52.9)****To consider draft Recruitment Rules for various posts in KF**

At the outset, Chairman thanked Smt. Chitra Visweswaran and other members of the Committees for their contribution in reviewing the Recruitment Rules for majority of the posts of KF. After discussions, GB approved the proposed amendments to the recruitment rules to the posts. It also approved corrections to the proposed amendments and revised the eligibility service for promotion to various grades of faculty of RDCFA viz. 5 years from Tutor to Lecturer; 6 years from Lecturer to Assistant Professor and 6 years from Assistant Professor to Professor. Chairman requested the members if there were any further suggestions to the proposed amendments the same could be forwarded in a week's time so that these could be examined and included before forwarding to the Ministry for notification of the amendments.

ITEM No.10:**52nd G.B/ITEM NO.10 (52.10)****Proposal for framing of Regulations of Kalakshetra Foundation**

GB approved the proposal and also approved the composition of the Committee. Smt. Chitra Visweswaran and Smt. Malavika Avinash volunteered to be part of the Committee as nominees of the GB which was welcomed and approved. Chairman advised that officers from the autonomous organisations such as Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Youth Development, NIFT, NIOT etc. may be invited as outside experts to the Committee.

ITEM No.11:**52nd G.B/ITEM NO.11 (52.11)****To consider and approve the proposal for down gradation of one post of UDC**

GB approved the proposal.

ITEM No.12:**52nd G.B/ITEM NO.12 (52.12)****To consider adoption of FR/SR for employees of KF**

The GB resolved to adopt Fundamental Rules and Supplementary Rules as applicable to Central Government employees to Kalakshetra Foundation employees. However, as regards the proposal for exemption of provisions relating to payment of honorarium and fees, the GB directed that the issue should be examined in depth and brought up in the next GB meeting for consideration.

While discussing the issue, the GB noted that as the faculty were paid salary during vacation, they were required to take permission from the Director while proceeding abroad during vacation indicating the specific purpose of the visit inter-alia private performances/private classes etc. The GB also noted with concern that not all the faculty were available on the re-opening day of the College. GB noted that even during vacation faculty should be available as and when required so that their services could be used for selection of students for admission, completion of preparatory work for the ensuing academic year etc. as has been the practice in other academic institutions.

ITEM No.13:**52nd G.B/ITEM NO.13 (52.13)****To place details of regular appointments and probation cleared officers since last GB – for information**

The information was noted.

ITEM No.14:**52nd G.B/ITEM NO.14 (52.14)****To consider appointment of a Counsellor for the College and Schools**

Director explained in detail the necessity for engagement of trained Counsellors for the two Schools and to the College and in particular students staying in the Hostel to understand the psychological issues affecting the students. After detailed discussions the GB approved the proposal. One Counsellor would be appointed initially and after assessing its effectiveness additional Counsellors would be appointed on need basis.

ITEM No.15:**52nd G.B/ITEM NO.15 (52.15)****To place details of contract appointments and justification therefor.**

The need for engagement of faculty and other staff on contract basis was examined in detail and the GB approved such engagement on functional considerations. During the course of the discussions, the GB noted that the working hours of the regular faculty is less than 20 hours a week. It observed that the number of contractual faculty could be reduced if the time table is reviewed and the regular faculty is allotted sufficient work in keeping with their status and responsibilities as full time staff. Director assured that a thorough review of time table would be carried out and reported to the GB in its next meeting. While noting the reasons for non-filling up of posts on regular basis, the GB observed that though engagement of contractual faculty may provide some economy, however, for ensuring quality and continuity in imparting Art education, it was necessary to engage regular faculty.

Any other item with the approval of the Chair**ITEM No.16:****52nd G.B/ITEM NO.16 (52.16)****Proposal to dispose of 25-year-old mini bus**

The agenda was circulated at the time of the meeting. This proposal was earlier considered by the Finance Committee in its meeting held on 22.6.2018 in which it was decided that the reserve price for the vehicle should be fixed in consultation with Central/ State Govt. authorities and the vehicle disposed of after observing the procedures. GB endorsed the decision of the FC as maintenance of the vehicle was economically unviable in view of its low usage.

ITEM No.17:**52nd G.B/ITEM NO.17 (52.17)****Creation of separate repertory wing in Kalakshetra Foundation**

The issue was discussed in the Finance Committee in its meeting held on 22.6.2018. Finance Committee observed that the proposal be first placed before Governing Board for its in-principle approval before it was referred to Finance Committee.

Director initiated the discussion and stated that KF does not have a separate repertory unit that functions parallel to and independent of the academics of the institution and conducts rehearsals and learning sessions of performances throughout the year. The repertory of KF is not functioning as a 'company' or an independent unit from the time it came into

existence. It does not have permanent artists readily available and can travel at any time to perform at different venues in India and abroad. The existing arrangements have lot of limitations and it adversely affects both academic work and performances. She briefed the GB about her vision and mission for the repertory and its proposed structure to make it a full-fledged performance wing as in the case of other organizations similar to Kalakshetra Foundation such as Kathak Kendra, National School of Drama, Kerala Kalamandalam etc. It was informed that there would be 22 constant members in the repertory which includes 1 Head, 15 contractual artists from the alumni of KF; 5 faculty members taken on deputation to the repertory; 1 public relations and coordination manger. The staff will be taken on three-year contract basis. Director had also mentioned about the proposed retainer fee and performance fee payable to the artists.

GB appreciated the initiatives taken by the Director and gave its in-principle approval for setting up of a repertory. GB further directed that a comprehensive proposal be prepared and submitted to Finance Committee for their consideration before it is placed before GB for approval.

ITEM No.18:

52nd G.B/ITEM NO.18 (52.18)

Presentation by Director

It being her first GB meeting after assuming office, Director made a presentation to the GB on her vision; short term and long term goals for the Foundation. GB appreciated her vision for the Foundation and assured its support for her efforts.

ITEM No.19:

52nd G.B/ITEM NO.19 (52.19)

New production:

Director apprised the GB that Kalakshetra Foundation has been requested by the Ministry to undertake a new production to present at the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and also for the Kumbhmela. Accordingly, a new production titled ‘Shanti Sutra – threads of Peace’ is being conceptualized and produced by the Foundation.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(N. Gopalaswami)
Chairman
Kalakshetra Foundation

