

**MINUTES OF ST NICHOLAS GIRLS' SCHOOL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION (SNGSAA)
EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM) 2018**

Date: 27 October 2018, Saturday
Time: 9.30am
Venue: CHIJ St. Nicholas Girls' School Primary Multi-Purpose Room

Total number of members present: 18

Chairperson and President: Kok Moi Lre
Secretary: Jamie Lim on behalf of Han Lilin (overseas)

1	<p>OPENING</p> <p>The EGM opened with a buffet breakfast.</p> <p>Vice-Principal Ma Yiling took the opportunity to thank the AA for supporting the school and to screen a video of the school's 85th anniversary celebrations.</p>
2	<p>QUORUM</p> <p>The Constitution stated that: <i>"The quorum for any General Meeting shall be ¼ of the total membership eligible to vote or thirty (30) voting members, whichever is the lesser. Proxies shall not be constituted as part of the quorum. In the event of there being no quorum, the meeting shall be adjourned and reconvened at a time not less than 15 minutes after the adjournment and should the number then present be insufficient to form a quorum, those present shall be considered a quorum but they shall have no power to amend any part of the existing Constitution."</i></p> <p>As the total number of attendees (17) was less than 30, the EGM was adjourned at 9.50am and reconvened at 10.09am.</p>
3	<p>AGENDA</p> <p>Chairperson Moi Lre introduced the agenda as stated below and encouraged the attendees to raise questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To update Members on the 85th Anniversary Film Project in relation to:<ol style="list-style-type: none">A. Status of film production; andB. Donations collected.2. To update Members and explain the expected increase on expenditure on the Film Project.3. To seek for approval from Members on the expected increase in expenditure.

4 **UPDATE ON STATUS OF FILM PRODUCTION**

Moi Lre explained that one of the driving forces behind the film is the desire to maintain our unique school spirit. She gave an overview of the various aspects of the work-in-progress (see EGM slides), with some spontaneous elaborations from film director Eva Tang.

Interviews

Eva said it is important to understand and record the contributions of the school's pioneer staff, and this endeavour is a "race against time" as many of the pioneers are ageing and their memories declining

Another challenge is finding appropriate younger interviewees for the next tranche of interviews to provide a balance.

Lee Yuanyu asked if it is possible to preview the interviews. Eva explained that this is not feasible as the footages are stored in a large hard drive which is difficult to bring around.

Lee Huay Leng elaborated that besides the interviews captured on footages, some oral histories were also captured in writing as certain interviewees were camera-shy.

Location hunt

Moi Lre and Eva explained the process of hunting for a suitable location. Eva shared that the Convent Light Street in Penang is not just close to our school in appearance but also in history. Moreover, like our old Victoria Street campus, it created a sense of peace in a busy district.

Preparing the student cast

Eva said that a major task is getting the student cast to understand the setting and the challenges of that era, and to help them get emotionally connected to the story. She illustrated with an example of getting the girls to feel excited at eating bread with condensed milk.

While the attitude of the girls is good, much work is needed to enrich their emotional complexity and imagination. For instance, Eva asked Prof Chow Wan Cheng to explain to the girls the art in that period and how it reflects the history. The girls were inspired by Prof Chow who is a doctor with a deep appreciation the arts. Over time, Eva can see the girls growing emotionally and their bonds deepening.

The meeting agreed that "台上一分钟, 台下十年功". Yuanyu commented that there are many stories behind the scenes. A discussion ensued on how to capture such elements. Eva said that she is consciously recording the "the making of" process.

5	<p>NEXT STAGES</p> <p><u>Screening</u></p> <p>The premiere screening is set at 11 April 2019, 7.30pm at Capitol Theatre, selected for its significance to the school.</p> <p>The film is not for commercial release but there will be additional screenings so more school supporters and Eva fans have a chance to watch the film.</p> <p>Huay Leng had sounded out the Singapore Chinese Film Festival organiser to see if the film can participate in the April 2019 event. This may be dependent on whether Eva can provide a cut for festival selection by December 2018.</p> <p><u>Sharing the experiences from the production</u></p> <p>Lee Huifeng suggested having a platform to share the experiences of making the film to help the younger audience better understand and appreciate the final product, as the “感情和投入是非一般的”. It is particularly valuable to hear from the student cast who benefit the most from the experiences and can use their journey to inspire others. One possibility is to arrange for a round of interactions during the premiere screening.</p>
6	<p>UPDATE ON DONATIONS COLLECTED</p> <p>Moi Lre provided an update on the donations collected so far, totalling \$560,860 (see EGM slides for breakdown). She specially acknowledged Prof Chow Wan Cheng for her major role in the fundraising effort, including convincing Lee Foundation, which contributed \$190K, about the meaning of the film.</p>
7	<p>EXPLANATION OF INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE</p> <p>Moi Lre explained that the increase in projected film budget from \$250K to \$486K, including 10% contingency, is due to several factors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was difficult to do a precise budget projection at the start as the script was still under development. The initial benchmark budget of \$250K was based on Nanyang Girls’ 100th anniversary short film shot in Singapore. This is also a comfortable fundraising target. - However, no suitable Singapore location could be found despite searching various options including CHIJMES, SMRT building and LTA building. Therefore, the film must be shot overseas which would incur additional costs including travel expenses, insurance and rental. - It is more appropriate to make the film in the more expensive 4K format which is more suitable in today’s cinemas.

	<p>Moi Lre explained that Eva gave a 7-page budget forecast with detailed line items. Several Exco members scrutinised it and concluded that it really does cost that much to make a film. Exco had deliberated whether the rental terms quoted by Convent Light Street were reasonable and even asked Singapore IJ Board to help negotiate, but unfortunately the board has no connection to the convent. Eva is not profiting from the production and just drawing a nominal director fee of \$15K for a year's work.</p> <p>Moi Lre went through Exco's key considerations in agreeing to an increase in budget (see EGM slides), which can be summed up to the belief that it will be a quality product with 细腻度 that we can be proud of and we have the necessary funds.</p> <p>Lim Hee Joo raised a question about cost control and the concern of further overrun. Moi Lre explained that the Exco film project team had several rounds of discussion with Eva and made it clear that there will be no more budget increase. Huay Leng added that the budget overrun for Eva's previous production "The Songs We Sang" was mainly due to high copy right fees for commercial songs, which are not needed for our film project.</p>
8	<p>FILM OWNERSHIP AND RIGHTS</p> <p>AA commissioned and funded the film, so it is AA's property to deal with freely, but we should be sensitive about the feelings of the school in the screening decisions and give Eva credit for making the film. Legally, Eva must seek permission from AA to participate in film competitions.</p>
9	<p>PROPOSED MOTION</p> <p>Dr Kang Meiling proposed and Dr Rachael Tay seconded the proposed motion as stated below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For the following resolution to supersede the resolution passed in relation to the Film Project. 2. For AA to expend up to \$550,000 on the Film Project to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) commission Irene Films to produce the film; b) cover cost of any activities relating to the Film Project including but not limited to the screening of the film, publicity of the film, and any relevant publication in relation to the film etc. 3. Any unused amount raised to be contributed towards archival project undertaken by AA in preservation of the school's history. <p>The motion was passed with all 17 Members who attended the EGM voting in favour of it, including proxy voting for Lee Huifeng (proxy Lim Hee Joo) and Melissa Loh (proxy Jamie Lim) who had to leave early. The EGM closed at 11.33am.</p>

