



**Minutes of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual AGM of the Guild - 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017**  
**Haydock Hall, Somerset House**

**1. Welcome**

Gerhard Smit (Chairman of the Board) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking those present for attending the 37<sup>th</sup> Guild AGM. He apologised on behalf of Donna Eames (Chairperson of the Guild) for her absence.

**2. Attendance**

a. Apologies

Mrs Phil Thöle, Ms Victoria Holford and Mrs Donna Eames

b. Attendance register

See attached register

**3. Acceptance of Minutes**

Mrs Jo Royden-Turner – Accepted

Mrs Cathy Hugo – Seconded

**4. Chairperson's Report (Donna Eames)**

Report tabled, noted and discussed (Gerhard Smit on behalf of Donna Eames)

Gerhard Smit, in Donna Eame's absence, emphasized the purpose of the Guild and it's function. He referred to Donna's report and briefly highlighted the events that took place over the year. Gerhard made special mention of the Family Fun Day which raised an impressive R186k. He congratulated the Guild and the class representatives on a fantastic day and remarked that he felt the passion and effort of all involved was evident.

Gerhard reminded all present that the 'My School' program was an excellent passive income for the Guild and that it made a substantial difference to the funds available to spend.

A special note of thanks was made to the outgoing Guild members – Catherine van Galen, Simone Schreuder and Meerushini Govender for their hard work and dedication over the past 2 years. Gerhard also thanked Tracey du Toit, Robyn Rautenbach and Delf Amm for their invaluable support of the Guild Committee.

**5. Treasurer's Report (Victoria Holford)**

Report tabled, noted and discussed (Gerhard Smit on behalf of Victoria Holford)

Gerhard Smit referred to the Guild statements distributed during the meeting. The written Treasurers report made note that it was the Guild's intention to spread the spending of the funds to ensure a maximum number of children at Somerset House benefit. It was highlighted that the accounts are in a good position and it is the Guild's intention to make a substantial contribution to the upcoming playground upgrades at Oakwood and the Junior Prep.



**6. Chairman of the Board's Address (Gerhard Smit)**

Gerhard Smit detailed the Board's Strategy to remain firmly committed to the challenges that lay ahead and embracing change. He is confident that the Board were on the right path. Gerhard thanked Chris and all the staff for making the school so special.

**7. Headmaster's Address (Chris Storey)**

Chris Storey took the opportunity to share the achievements of the school over the past year and also the strategy. He highlighted the changes in the ICT department, Arts & Culture & pushing the boundaries in Academics. He updated on the process of the planned refurbishment of Oakwood – work on the new space will start on Monday. The project is being completed in phases, as the work on the playground area will be substantial.

Chris thanked the staff and stated he was proud of the good progress that has been made, he in turn thanked the parents for their ongoing support.

**8. Guest Speaker: Michele Botha - IEB**

Michele Botha spoke in depth regarding the 'Independent Examination Board' bench mark testing. She detailed the value of the benchmarks that recognise more than just the skill of regurgitating information – highlighting that the skills that will be required in the workplace by our children will be far more complex and demanding. The parents were able to see how Somerset House did extremely well when our children were assessed and could see a clear comparison to the results with other IEB schools here in South Africa and Internationally.

**9. Election of New Guild Committee**

Gerhard Smit announced the Guild Members for 2017/2018. They are Donna Eames (Chairperson), Victoria Holford (Treasurer), Lynley Mitchell (Secretary), Sarah van Schalkwyk, Stephanie Crossley and new members Karen Lowe and Anke Steyn.

**10. General**

No further business was discussed.

**11. Closing**

Chris thanked everyone for the good turnout and a great opportunity to engage on several topics.