

OAA WORKSHOP OF MARCH 30, 2016

REPORT OF GROUP 4 (SCHOOL EQUIPMENT)

1. STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES

The working group identified challenges of a structural nature in the following areas:

- (a) large class size of about 60 students makes it nearly impossible to provide sufficient equipment
- (b) Large laboratory class size was identified as being particularly inimical to any meaningful hands on practical laboratory work by students
- (c) inadequate consumables in the classrooms and in the laboratories in particular hindered effective teaching and learning
- (d) wireless internet connectivity is problematic presumably because of the large number of trees on the campus
- (e) kilns for ceramics unavailable
- (f) inadequate equipment for games to provide for a balanced educational experience for the students

2. INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES

Problems of an institutional nature confronting adequate provision of equipment for the school were identified as:

- (a) Over dependence of the school on external funding sources such as the OAA and PTA for the provision of equipment. This situation is not sustainable
- (b) Excessive control by GES
- (c) Lack of long and Medium Term Equipment planning to effectively guide the planning for annual equipment budgets

3. POLICY CHALLENGES

some of the challenges of a policy nature which constrain the provision of adequate equipment were identified as:

- (a) The lack of autonomy for the school Board and administration
- (b) Inadequate funding
- (c) The short duration of the SSS program makes it practically impossible to provide sufficient equipment of suitable type

4. GOING FORWARD

The group identified the large asset base of the school as a strength which properly developed and maintained would serve the school and the country well. A committed OAA and PTA were also cited as strengths that needed further nurturing for the continued development of the school.

To permit the school overcome the challenges identified above the working group recommends:

- (a) urgent discussion between the school Board/Administration on the one hand and the GOG, GES as well as other concerned stakeholders to resolve the autonomy issue
- (b) The construction of newer and bigger science laboratories
- (c) The preparation of a Long term and Medium Term equipment maintenance plan to permit the formulation of annual equipment budgets
- (d) initiation of discussion with IT experts to permit the development of broadband and other internet connectivity solutions more suited to the school environment.