

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Kashmir

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Sh. Alok Kumar (IRS), Principal Secretary to Government, School Education Department, J&K with the representatives of Private School Associations / unaided recognized institutions of Jammu & Kashmir on 27.7.2024 at 11:30am in the Conference Hall of Directorate of School Education, Kashmir.

The following were present in the meeting:

1. Chairman, JKBOSE / Director, JKSCERT.
2. Director School Education Kashmir.
3. Director School Education Jammu (Through VC).
4. Special Secretary School Education Department (Through VC).
5. Secretary, JKBOSE.
6. Project Director Samagra Shiksha, J&K.
7. Additional Secretary to Government (M/B), School Education Department.
8. Deputy Secretary to Govt. (M) School Education Department.
9. Under Secretary (T), School Education Department.
10. Representatives of Private School Associations / unaided recognized private schools / low budget private schools of J&K.

At the outset of the meeting, Sh. Alok Kumar (IRS), Principal Secretary to Government, School Education Department extended a warm welcome to the representatives of Private School Associations / unaided recognized private schools / low budget private schools of J&K and emphasized that all the stake holders from private schools shall strive / ensure quality education for students. The meeting provided an excellent platform to address and deliberate on the challenges encountered by private schools. He emphasized that the private schools play pivotal role in imparting education across length and breadth of UT of J&K.

The program was structured and the Chairmen of various private school associations / unaided recognized private schools / low budget private schools were given time to put forth their views on various issues of the private schools.

Sh. Vijay Dhar, Chairman, Delhi Public School, Srinagar in his opening remarks congratulated the Principal Secretary, School Education Department and his team for conceiving this idea of interaction between Private School Associations and the Administration at the highest level. He said that an order was issued in 2016 for automatic raise of 06% in fee fixation by the schools, which was well received in all the circles and is now being followed in other states and UTs. He exhorted that such a system should be in place where an automatic raise indexed with inflation be allowed for the private schools and if any school wants a raise above than the one fixed (automatic), he shall go to FFRC for the same. This will decrease the workload on FFRC and will also be an example of ease of doing business for the private schools. Those institutions / schools who are not in line and charge exorbitant fee shall be

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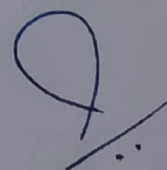
penalized for such actions. He also laid thrust on mutual respect among the providers of education and the Administration at large.

Sh. Rameshwar Singh Manhas, J&K Private Schools Coordination Committee, spoke about the joint report for grant of affiliation / recognition as the individual verification is time consuming. The joint report will ease the process for affiliation / recognition. He also emphasizes that the time lines set by the Board of School Education be strictly adhered to. He also conveyed that the number of NOCs / certificates required from departments are time consuming and a single window clearance system is the need of the hour for the affiliation / recognition / extension of the private schools. He also raised the issue of school transport being considered as commercial activity and same is taxed as commercial.

Principal Secretary to the Government, School Education directed that the meetings for affiliations / recognition shall be held as per the time lines and shall not be postponed because of absence or busy schedule of Principal Secretary. The minutes of the meeting of the affiliation committee shall be put before the Principal Secretary for consideration / approval. **It was also directed that for the chemical certificate, an affidavit be submitted by the Chairman of the School stating that the chemicals are safely stored and in the custody of the Principal of the school. It will not be a vicarious responsibility for safety of the chemicals, but a direct responsibility of the Principal.** Principal Secretary also conveyed that multi-departmental synergy will resolve this issue of pollution control certificates / building safety certificate / transport facility certificate / building safety certificate / chemical safety certificate and the School Education Department will take-up the issue with the concerned departments. The necessary changes required to bring these certificates in alignment with the recognition / registration / extension will be looked into by the Department. He also conveyed that the issue of transport of schools being considered as commercial activity will be taken up with the Transport Department.

Sh. G. N. Var, Chairman, Private Schools Association, J&K also spoke on the occasion and after formal thanks to the Principal Secretary to Government, School Education Department laid emphasis on the fee structure of the schools and requested Principal Secretary that automatic fee fixation route shall be adopted and schools / institutions having less than Rs. 2000/- fee per month shall be exempted from approaching the FFRC. He also raised the issue of NOCs / certificates which are to be submitted to the Board of School Education and Director School Education for registration / affiliation / extension and the time period for which these certificates are valid.

The Principal Secretary to the School Education Department conveyed that in a letter by the Forest Department, it was conveyed that the Forest Department does not provide any certificate for the school registration. He also emphasized that the Inspection Committee and Director School Education shall give their assessment in inspection reports on noise pollution and presence of air polluting / noise pollution creating factories in the vicinity of the schools. It was also directed that for the chemical certificate, an affidavit be submitted by the Chairman of the School stating that the chemicals are safely stored and in the custody of the Principal of the school.



It will not be a vicarious responsibility for safety of the chemicals, but a direct responsibility of the Principal. He also directed that JKBOSE and Director School Education shall sensitize the officials who are involved in inspection of the institutions about the rules and also other aspects of inspection.

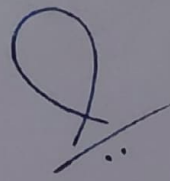
Sh. Showkat Choudary, Chairman Unaided Private Schools Coordination Committee spoke on the requirement of CID verification for managing body of the school. He requested the Principal Secretary, School Education that the verification shall be done as early as possible and also that the tagged schools have zero admissions. He also requested that a simple notarized lease deed may be accepted in place of a registered lease deed which is time consuming. It was also requested that schools who are functioning on Roshini land should be allowed to operate till the court pronounced final judgement on the Roshini Act. He requested that the fee fixation shall be automatic and an order wherein the fee is indexed to the inflation be issued by the Department. The schools running from rented buildings / premises and are asked to provide ten years registered lease deed whereas previous only notarized rent deed was required to be shown. He also said that NOC of Land is also being asked for by JKBOSE / Director School Education in view of SO-177 and also that students of the tagged schools are not allowed automatic migration from 8th to 9th and 9th to 10th.

The Principal Secretary to the School Education Department conveyed that number of years for lease / rent deed shall be determined as per the recognition / registration given to the private school. If a school is registered upto 5th standard, the lease / rent deed necessarily has to be for five years so that a check is maintained on the private schools not be leave the students in lurch. The Principal Secretary also conveyed that acceptance of notarized rent deed and the issue of schools operating on the Roshini land will be examined and further directions will be imparted. The student's movement from class 9th to 10th should be done and shall not be denied on land issue of the schools and also that the JKBOSE shall issue an advisory for the same after considering all the aspects. ||

Sh. Deepak Handa also spoke on various issues and highlighted that there exists a communication gap between the top echelons of School Education Department and the officers on the field. He also said that FFRC files are pending for last 3-4 years.

The Principal Secretary to the School Education Department conveyed that the Government has no intension of creating another bureaucracy in the form of FFRC and required changes will be made in rules to address the issues faced by the private schools. However, the interests of students and parents will be safeguarded so that education is not commercialized at any cost.

Sh. Ajay Gupta, Chairman Private Schools Association, Jammu spoke on various issues and requested that SO-233 of May 10, 2022 may be reviewed to fix the upper limit of fee so that school authorities can charge from the parents in accordance to the paying capacity, topography and geographical conditions of that particular area as was done in Order No. 01 of FFC of 2019. Allow all private schools to enhance their fee structure automatically every year at the beginning of academic ||



session @7% to 10% on the existing fee structure so that it can match with the annual inflation rate and varying price index. He requested that to coopt a representative of a recognized school association as an expert member in accordance to the provision laid in the notification S.O. 233 of May 10, 2022. He also said that Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of JKUT made number of amendments in the J&K School Education Rules, 2010 and by virtue of which a notification was issued on April 15, 2022 vide SO-177. But, today private schools which are constructed on State / Kahchhari land become defunct because government has demanded 'No Objection Certificate' regarding land use from the Revenue Department for granting affiliation / extension of affiliation / upgradation / recognition of all private schools functioning in JKUT.

The Principal Secretary to the school Education Department conveyed in the meeting that the Department will look into these issues and JKBOSE was directed that the schools having all the documents prescribed by the rules shall not be tagged and the issue of Himalayan Model School, Udhampur be resolved.

Prof. C. L. Vishan, J&K Unaided Private School Coordination Committee spoke on various issues and requested the Principal Secretary, School Education Department that the schools should be allowed to increase the tuition fee to a fixed amount calculated on the basis on inflation and the increase by percentage as applicable in the neighboring state should be implemented in UT of J&K also. Any school wishing to increase its fees above the fixed amount should be asked to apply to the FFRC for the same and justify their case. It is not physically possible for the FFRC to process files of 5600 private schools every year. He also appreciated the recent order issued by the government wherein the teachers were asked to stay back upto 2:00pm and exhorted to the Principal Secretary that an advisory should be issued in this regard so that teachers can effectively use their time in the schools.

The Principal Secretary to the school Education Department conveyed that he will look into this and necessary instructions will be passed. He also directed the JKBOSE to notify the format of NOCs issued by NCERT.

Sh. S. K. Saproo, Vidya Bharti conveyed that the Vidya Bharti schools want the permission of the Government to teach their own books in Vidya Bharti Schools.

The Principal Secretary to the School Education Department conveyed that he will look into the matter and also asked JKBOSE to examine the issue and submit their response on it.

In his concluding remarks, the Principal Secretary, School Education Department called on the private schools to provide quality education, promising that the government would resolve their genuine issues very promptly and assured that reforms will be ensured to ease the business operations of private schools. He exhorted the private schools to work in a cooperative spirit which will ensure all possible administrative support to these schools. Tagging of schools is a temporary measure, however, because SO-177 is under challenge, amendment in rules cannot be effected till a decision is taken by the Hon'ble Court.



The vote of thanks was presented to the chair and thanks was conveyed to the Hon'ble LG and Principal Secretary School Education Department for convening a meeting with the stake holders of private schools and it was assured that full support will be provided by the private schools in implementing the education policies and adhering to the set rules and norms of the Education Department.

Sd/-

(Alok Kumar) IRS

Principal Secretary to Government,
School Education Department

No: Edu-GEN/481/2022-01

Dated: 01.08.2024

Copy for information:

1. Chairman, JKBOSE / Director, JKSCERT.
2. Director School Education Kashmir.
3. Director School Education Jammu.
4. Special Secretary School Education Department.
5. Secretary, JKBOSE.
6. Project Director Samagra Shiksha, J&K.
7. Additional Secretary to Government (M/B), School Education Department.
8. Deputy Secretary to Govt. (M) School Education Department.
9. Under Secretary (T), School Education Department.
10. Representatives of Private School Associations / Unaided Recognized Private Schools / Low Budget Private Schools of J&K.
11. Pvt. Secretary to Chief Secretary J&K, for the information of Chief Secretary.
12. Master file.

(Ghulam Nabi Bhat) JKAS

Additional Secretary to Government,
School Education Department

01.08.2024