

FEDERAL COUNCIL OF AFRICAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT
THE SECONDARY SCHOOL, QUEENSTOWN, ON
THE 18th AND 19th DECEMBER, 1960.

2ND SESSION.

ROLL CALL.

- COUNCIL: Messrs. C.N. Lekalake (President)
A.J. Mwelase (Vice-President)
H.H. Dlamlenze (General Secretary).
- CAPE: G.R. Gaobepe.
- NATAL: G. Yeni
T. Mtembu.
- T.U.A.T.A.: H.M. Ntsaba
A.E. Tlakula
D.M. Mphahlele.

Mr. T.A. Ndungane, principal of the Local Secondary School was the host. Messrs. N.T. Mabanu and M. Nzuku of the S.A.P. (Special Branch) also attended all sessions of the Council.

19th DECEMBER, 1960. 9 a.m.

Mr. A. Tlakulu opened the session with a short prayer.

OPENING REMARKS:

The President expressed dissatisfaction with some members of the meeting for the way in which they had conducted themselves the previous day. He appealed to the Council delegates to present their problems with dignity.

The previous session had not been adjourned because Natal had asked for it; but because of the manner in which the request was presented. The O.F.S.A.T.A. delegation had to leave before the closing because their treasurer, Mr. I.O. Mapena, was leaving the Orange Free State and therefore the Executive Committee had to transact the business regarding their banking account immediately.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Council was dissatisfied with the replies of the Department as appearing in the "Notes and discussions" submitted by the Department to the Council Secretary.

To the minds of the delegates, the notes did not bear testimony to what transpired on the 2nd September, 1960. Members felt that the position was "As you were". Mr. D.M. Mphahlele quoted an instance to show that our interview had been fruitless: "The Department offered a dismissed teacher a post, instead of requesting the School to reinstate him, in spite of the fact that the Department was aware that the Board had acted wrongly." Mr. Mphahlele suggested that in future, memoranda should be sent to the Department and that the Council should wait for replies. Interviews should only be undertaken on receipt of the replies.

It was finally decided that the matter of the "Notes and discussions" be referred to the Executive of the Council.

DISMISSAL OF TEACHERS:

(See memo and letter dated 15th September, 1960).

- (a) The Council still desired that the Boards should be answerable for their actions to a higher body;
- (b) that 30 days should elapse before action was taken against a teacher;
- (c) the teacher should be allowed to reply direct to the Department.

In order not to interfere with the authority of the School Boards as requested by the Honourable, the Minister, the Council resolved as follows:

That in cases of misconduct the principal teacher should report to the Committee, the Committee to pass on the report to the School Board, the latter to pass it on to the Inspector who should submit it to the Regional Director. The Regional Director should then advise the School Board on what action to take.

POLITICIANS:

If a teacher is believed to be meddling in politics, the following procedure should be followed:

The Department of Justice (Special Branch) should report to the Bantu Education Department about a teacher's political activities; the Minister of Bantu Education should then instruct the Regional Director, who should appoint a Commission of enquiry which may be composed of the Circuit Inspector and his staff or a neighbouring Inspector. The teacher must be present at the enquiry. The commission should report to the Minister through the Director.

THE SCHOOL BOARDS:

The Council criticised the method of electing School Boards. It felt that eight members should be elected and five should be nominated.

SALARIES:

Mr. Yeni suggested a minimum living salary of £15.

The matter of paying a special allowance to Secondary School teachers should be explained to the Department as it was evident that the Department did not understand the point. The idea of approaching bodies like SABRA and Dutch Reformed Churches was discouraged.

STANDARD VI 3RD CLASS:

The President made the Council understand that the J.C. standard in Rhodesia and in the Protectorates was higher than ours. The minimum was 50%. The Standard VI requirements were also higher than ours in South Africa.

The comparatively few standard VI 1st and 2nd classes would easily result in the retrenchment of teachers.

The underlying causes of many failures and many 3rd class passes were : Low qualifications (inadequate training) understaffing,

lack of accommodation and equipment.

DECISION:

Council recommends that all those who satisfy the conditions laid down for standard VI and obtain a aggregate of 45% be allowed to continue their secondary education; and that from Sub-Standard "A" to Standard VI the aggregate be raised to 45% (with effect from November, 1961.).

(All recommendations regarding the Secretary's report and replies from the Department should reach the Secretary by the end of February.) The Secretary to request the Department to allow those candidates who have obtained a 3rd class pass during 1960 to continue their Secondary education.

PROVINCIAL REPORTS:

CAPE: No report was available. The General Secretary was instructed to write a letter of censure to the C.A.T.U. A copy of the same letter to be sent to the President of that Union.

The General Secretary of the C.A.T.U. was instructed to draw up the report and submit copies of it to the General Secretary of the Council for distribution throughout the Provinces.

NATAL: One copy of the report was available. It was read by Mr. Mtembu.

O.F.S.A.T.A: Copies were distributed amongst the members. Mr. S.J. Mahila read it.

T.U.A.T.A: Mr. D.M. Mphahlele read the report. There were sufficient copies for all delegates.

DISCUSSIONS ON PROVINCIAL REPORTS:

Council was worried by the disturbances and expulsions at certain Institutions such as Kilnerton, Emarentia, Diocessan, Tiger Kloof and St. Augustine.

The Provincial Associations were asked to submit to the General Secretary more facts about these expulsions. The latter was requested to write to the Department for explanation.

WORLD CONFEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

The Council Secretary was instructed to ask for the Constitution of this body.

The Provinces should discuss the possibility of Council affiliating to this body.

The Department was not against Federal Council joining W.C.P.T.A. but would rather encourage affiliation to C.C.T.A.

CAPE:

The President of C.A.T.U. told Council that the Cape was experiencing great difficulty in organising the different regions of the Southern and North Eastern Districts of the Cape. He appealed to the other provinces for assistance.

Mr. D.M. Mphahlele suggested that a one or two page magazine, giving information on the activities, membership and finances

should be printed by T.U.A.T.A.

N.A.T.A. could also do likewise. The magazine should be issued gratis to the Cape teachers. The mover was prepared to approach his Association's executive on this matter.

Mr. H.H. Dlamlenze said that if Branches or Regions organised meetings, it would be possible for him to arrange transport for T.U.A.T.A. or Federal Council representatives to attend such meetings.

Mr. Yeni suggested a questionnaire for the Cape and O.F.S.A.T.A. According to the Council Secretary, the O.F.S. suffered from the fact that most schools were farm schools, and that managers of these schools were not interested in the Association. There was also the misfortune of less energetic Secretaries in the past. According to the General Secretary, the new O.F.S.A.T.A. secretary was a promising young man of responsibility.

AFRIKAANS:

According to Natal delegates there were few teachers who were proficient in Afrikaans in that province.

A request had to be made to the Department to delay the introduction of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction until the teachers knew enough Afrikaans.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

A total income of £237.5.2. and a total expenditure of £93.12.1. was revealed by the statement of the treasurer. The O.F.S.A.T.A. paid £25 before the close of the meeting. Their arrears amounted to £75. This they promised to send by the following week. C.A.T.U. and T.U.A.T.A. also promised to send their fees soon.

It was agreed that all affiliation fees should be paid by the end of February of each year.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

It was agreed that an extra ordinary meeting would be held in September instead of in December.

Those teachers who were contributing towards the Unemployment Insurance Fund were advised to claim even if they were paid by the Department when on sick leave. The Council took a resolution of condolence to Mr. C.A.R. Motsepe on the death of his father-in-law.

The Secretary was asked to send a telegram of congratulations to Mr. G. Radebe who was getting married.

Mr. Mabunu sang praises to the Federal Council.

A Queenstown ladies' duet sang "Oh Danny Boy."

In closing, the President thanked Mr. T.A. Ndungane and the ladies who served tea. He asked them to convey the appreciation of Council to the people of Queenstown.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.45 P.M. MONDAY, 19TH DECEMBER, 1960.

Recorder: MR. S.J. Mahila.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE:

PLACE:

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