

# St John's DSG Old Girls' Association

## AGM Minutes

**Date:** Saturday, 9 May 2026

**Time:** 09h30

**Venue:** Chapel

### 1. Opening and Welcome

Mrs Pia Paterson called the meeting to order at 09h55 and welcomed everyone present. She introduced herself and acknowledged apologies received. Guests present signed the attendance register. A total of 29 guests attended the meeting.

### 2. Confirmation of Quorum

Mrs Pia Paterson confirmed that a quorum was present and that the meeting could proceed, noting that two-thirds of committee members were required to be present.

#### **Present:**

- Simon Moore
- Pia Paterson
- Lucy Kewley
- Wendy Porrill
- Jane Cole-Edwardes
- Tori Bisset
- Kate Martens
- Linsey Wynne

#### **Excused:**

- Sarah Cole-Edwardes
- Tyra Oberholzer

### 3. Adoption of Agenda

Mrs Pia Paterson requested approval of the meeting agenda.

**Proposed by:** Lucy Kewley

**Seconded by:** Wendy Porrill

The agenda was duly adopted.

## **4. Minutes of Previous AGM**

The minutes of the 2025 AGM were adopted.

**Proposed by:** Wendy Porrill

**Seconded by:** Lucy Kewley

## **5. Principal's Report – Mr Simon Moore**

Mr Simon Moore welcomed the Committee and thanked members for their continued support and loyalty to the school. Special thanks were extended to Mrs Pia Paterson, Chairlady, Mrs Jane Cole-Edwardes, Old Girls' Liaison, and all committee members.

### **School Heritage**

Mr Moore reflected on the founding Anglican Sisters who established the school 128 years ago, acknowledging their courage, vision, faith, humility, and perseverance which laid the foundation for the school's continued success.

### **Board**

Mr Pete Smith continues as Chair of the Board, with his term renewed until 2029. Mr Moore noted the Board's dedication and commitment to the school.

### **Matric Results 2025**

- 75 candidates wrote the NSC examinations, all achieving Bachelor Degree passes.
- 231 subject distinctions (Level 7 symbols).
- 165 subject B symbols (Level 6 symbols).
- 73.3% of all marks achieved were 70% or higher.
- Average of 3.08 distinctions per candidate.
- Average of 5.28 As or Bs per candidate.
- Top achiever: Rookaya Gafoor with 8 distinctions and an average of 95.83%.
- 21 girls achieved A aggregates.
- Overall average mark: 76.33%.

### **Staffing**

New staff appointments for 2026 were acknowledged in both the Senior and Junior Schools, together with new interns.

## **Boarding**

There are currently 190 boarders, including 10 girls accommodated at 17 Harwin Road. Demand for boarding continues to grow and capacity will be expanded in future years.

## **Pupil Numbers**

Current enrolment stands at:

- 395 pupils in the Senior School
- 187 pupils in the Junior School
- Total: 582 pupils

## **Applications for 2027**

Strong application numbers were reported across both Junior and Senior Schools, including several daughters of Old Girls.

## **Projects and Development**

Recent and upcoming developments include:

- Renovation of the Breezeway bathrooms
- Installation of a new borehole and water filtration system
- Renovation of T-block classrooms
- Dining Room extension
- Kitchen upgrades

## **Conclusion**

Mr Moore thanked the Old Girls' Committee for their ongoing service and support.

## **Addendum – Old Girls Scholarship for 2027**

Mr Moore clarified that the Old Girls scholarship/bursary process has changed. The school now administers and funds the award annually based on family financial need and available funds.

The 2027 recipient is Payton Wright, daughter of Kirsten Wright (née Braithwaite, Class of 1994).

## **6. Chairperson's Report – Mrs Pia Paterson**

Mrs Pia Paterson presented her Chairperson's Report, reflecting on the year's activities, achievements, and connections fostered within the Old Girls' community.

She referred to the Association's constitution and highlighted its aim of strengthening relationships among Old Girls and maintaining meaningful ties with the school.

### **Highlights of the Year**

- 121 Old Girls attended the 2025 celebration event.
- 13 official Old Girls WhatsApp groups were established and are actively monitored.
- Four Old Girls led Grade 9 uHambo groups in September 2025.
- A successful Old Girls gathering was hosted in Pretoria with 50 attendees.
- The Matric Induction Evening welcomed 65 matric girls and their mothers.
- A Golden Oldies Tea was hosted in Howick with 40 attendees.
- The Committee donated towards the upgrade of the drinks area in front of the BE.

Mrs Paterson concluded by thanking the Committee and school community for their ongoing support and involvement.

## **7. Treasurer's Report – Mrs Wendy Porrill**

Mrs Wendy Porrill presented the financial statements.

### **2025 Financial Summary**

#### **Opening Balance**

- Opening Reserve Balance (1 January 2025): R100,021.58

#### **Income**

- Total Income: R77,855.77 (my School, donations and fundraising)

#### **Expenditure**

- Total Expenditure: R32,720.74 (Functions, gifts and flowers)

#### **Closing Balance**

- Closing Reserve Balance: R145,156.61

### **2026 Financial Summary (Year to Date)**

#### **Opening Balance**

- Opening Reserve Balance: R145,156.00



## **Income**

- Donations Received: R3,000.00
- Fundraising & Merchandise Sales: R7,222.00
- Total Income: R10,222.00

## **Expenditure**

- Various Donations: R20,000.00
- Functions & Events: R29,302.00
- Total Expenditure: R49,302.00

## **Closing Balance**

- Closing Reserve Balance: R106,076.00

Mrs Porrill noted that MySchool funding had been redirected to the PA, and future fundraising opportunities would be explored.

## **8. Elections**

Mrs Pia Paterson thanked outgoing committee members and welcomed new members.

### **Outgoing Members**

- Tyra Taylor
- Linsey Wynne

### **New Members**

- Kate Winter (née Walden, Class of 2000)
- Kate Bloemfield (née Leaker, Class of 2001)
- Robyn Allwood (née Fly, Class of 1992)
- Sandy van der Waal (née Collings, Class of 2001)

All current committee members approved the appointment of the new members.

## **9. General Discussion**

Mrs Pia Paterson opened the floor for discussion.

## **Old Girls Bursary**

Sue Smyth enquired about the Old Girls bursary. Mr Moore explained that the school now funds and administers the bursary process according to financial need.

## **Old Girls Representation on the Board**

Robyn Kirkby asked whether there is an Old Girls representative on the Board. Mr Moore explained that while preferable, there is no dedicated Board position for an Old Girl representative. The matter was carried over for future discussion.

## **Availability of Minutes**

Catherine Bean requested that AGM minutes be made available to attendees and published on the school website. Jane Cole-Edwardes undertook to facilitate this.

## **QR Code Payments**

It was suggested that a QR code be made available for future payments. The suggestion was well received.

## **10. Closing**

Mrs Pia Paterson adjourned the meeting at 10h25.

## **Next Meeting**

The next AGM will be held in May 2027.