



ABA Parent Teacher Association

Open Meeting Monday

20 January 2019

PTA Room

Members Present:

Mehreen Elahi
Reem Alshaikh
Ingrid Van de coevering
Terry Dontis
Shanoona al Barwani

Attendees from PTA Executive Committee:

Lama Samman	PTA Chair
Laila Al Mawali	Vice Chair/ Logistics Coordinator
Nandita Shukla	Communications Liaison
Paula Colaco	Treasurer
Bokamoso Kumwenda	Secretary
Rebecca Mitchell	Middle School Representative
Kami Lamki	High School Representative
Minita Sampat	ECE & Elementary Parent Representative
Anjum Khan	New Parent Representative
Penny Chang	New Parent Representative

Meeting opened at 7.45am

Welcome

Meeting opened by Lama; welcomed parents and faculty present.

Lama began the meeting with a moment of silence followed by a tribute to the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said. She spoke about his legacy of peace and how he built Oman to be the country it is today. He will be greatly missed, not only by Omanis, but by all.

ABA Faculty:

Sue Groesbeck – Head of School

Sue acknowledged the loss of Sultan Qaboos and noted that none of us would be here if not for him. In the wake of the announcement, she has tried to steer the campus during this time. The counsellors tried to help the students understand and process the information. The school is initiating a condolence book which will be submitted to the ministry.

The school is also closely in contact with the ministry; getting direction from the ministry regarding how to proceed during this time, the transitions and protocol. The picture of the late Sultan will remain up until the ministry communicates the next steps.

Regarding MESAC; the School is communicating with the ministry to get directives as to what can be done and what can not during the period of mourning. For the students travelling to India, she has gotten assurance that the students will be safe and cared for by the embassy school there.

Sue also shared that during the initial uncertainty regarding the announcements of the 3 days mourning, she was in constant communication with the Heads at TAISM and BSM. They provided each other with a lot of support as it was new territory for everyone. The ministry allowed external exams in progress to continue and for DP assessments, Omani students were not expected to study. Teachers were also asked not to meet students during the days of mourning.

The faculty had a meeting with board member De Buin. He presented an update regarding the new campus and what to expect in the next year. The campus will not be ready in the Fall, but the athletic facilities will be operational in August. This means the 10th MESAC will be held at the new campus.

Other updates;

- A firm called Final Site has been hired to redo and update the ABA website.
- Kathleen is currently in London at a hiring fair

- Reports cards are in process
- The newly appointed marketing and communications officer will start February 10th
- February 26th marks 100 days until graduation

Paul Brace - Athletic Director

With approval from the ministry, MESAC will go ahead. This will be done with respect to the 40 days of mourning. The visiting schools have been sent information regarding the respectful conduct while they are here

Volunteers are needed to help during the MESAC weekend. Paul asked the PTA to rally parent volunteers to donate food and housing. Information will be sent out through the HRPs.

Parents will be updated on the MPSL program activities. ASAs will continue uninterrupted.

Lizzy Simmons will be on campus running master classes and general talks with students. She is a double Olympian from London.

Sam Cook - Elementary Principal

Sam briefly reported the fire incident that happened on the weekend. There was a fire in one of the Grade 5 classrooms which destroyed everything in it. Thankfully one was hurt, and those students are currently in the MS common room for the time being. The cause of the fire is still being investigated.

The Grade 2 assembly has been postponed until after the mourning period.

There had been a Fun Run planned but there has been consideration to cancel it to allow the children to settle back into their routines. A final decision will be made after the 40 days of mourning, and if the weather is still favorable.

Teachers are currently writing report cards and these will be published early February. Parents will notice a change in the layout of the report because now they will be using a continuum and parents can see where children are making progress. There will be a coffee morning before the reports come out which will be to explain the changes to the reports.

PTA Updates

Treasurer's Report

Paula presented the Treasurer's report, noting an opening balance of 19,565.916 OMR as of 19th January 2020.

PTA Update and Events

Lama thanked Paula for taking the lead in Santa's Workshop.

International Cultural Fair - ICF

Lama explained that this year the ICF will be celebrating "A World Without Borders". The focus will be on cultures, not countries; looking at how we are similar and the cultures, foods and traditions that we share.

Fund Requests - forms have been sent out to teachers and staff and at the next Open Meeting there will be a presentation and vote.

There is an internal assessment of the PTA positions. From last AGM, the trial version is being tested and each person is critically assessing their position.

Date for your diary

- ★ January 16th - Parent Art Exhibit - tentatively postponed to the 20th February
- ★ January 21st - Hiking Club kicks off! (TTT)
- ★ February 18th - Majlis Al Shura (TTT)
- ★ March 6th - Flea Market
- ★ March 12th Spring Fest
- ★ March 17th - CPR and First Aid

Expressions of Thanks and Close

Lama thanked attendees and closed the meeting.

Next Open meeting: February 20th 7.40 am.