



ABA Parent Teacher Association

Open Meeting Monday

4 November 2019

PTA Room

Members Present:

Reem Alshaikh
Terry Dontis
Elena Terracciano
Yiling Zhang
Felicia Anand
Alison Al-Maskari
Kiranmayee Jandyam
Shuchi Malik
Elaheh Karimi
Theresa Rabie
Hiba Kamal

Attendees from PTA Executive Committee:

Lama Samman	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 Samman; welcomed parents and faculty present.

ABA Faculty:

Kathleen Bowin – Middle School Principal

Kathleen began by thanking the PTA for the money given for the Middle School common room. The middle school common room is now closed and the kids are encouraged to play outside since the weather is so pleasant.

MS Explores: All three trips are leaving next week at the same time. On Monday, students will bring their bags to school. They will be checked to make sure the kids have everything they need and for quick loading the next day. No electronics are allowed and only healthy snacks will be permitted.

There will be a parent coffee morning on Wednesday in the Secondary Library. Cortney parks will be going through library resources. Parents should bring devices as she will also be going through the electronic resources as well.

To conclude her report, Kathleen informed parents that they were getting excited for the upcoming National Day celebrations – there is a lot planned including a special assembly, KAHOOT, traditional Omani performances etc.

Simon Walker – High School Principal

Simon began his remarks by thanking the Grade 9 and 10 parents for attending the coffee morning and informed those who could not attend, that there will be a summary of the main points in the newsletter.

He noted the tremendous success of the Addams Family production last week and noted that many of the students involved in the production were also heavily involved in other areas; service, sports etc.

Upcoming Events:

High school reports to be published next week. following that, consultation bookings can be made online.

Spirit Day on Thursday, 7th November.

There was an enquiry about Remembrance Day; whether or not there will be poppies distributed or other commemorations planned. Simon acknowledged that in the past, there has been, but nothing has been planned this year.

Paul Brace – Athletic Director

Paul gave a quick update on the after-school program;
Elementary – Next season of ASA will be going live the MPSL program has had great success – the kids did very well in the football games hosted by ABQ. The Bench ball tournament will be held on Tuesday 12th November. Paul encouraged parents to attend to attend not only to understand what bench ball is, but to cheer the students on.
Middle School – season done, all tournaments were completed last week. they did very well achieving many second places. There is a full report in the season in last week's Newsletter. There will be a MESAC email from the Booster Club for the activities happening this weekend. Paul reminded parents that every time there is a MESAC event, it is a Spirit day. This encourages the ABA team spirit. He also encouraged parents to volunteer their time and make food donations this weekend to help the Booster Club.
Paul noted that with about 85 students traveling for MS Explores, it will be a very busy time and thanked teachers for all the preparation they have done.

Kendra Glider

Kendra reported that the EC and Elementary had very successful Omani Tree day celebrations with the Eco Rangers having prepared a number of educational activities and videos for students. She also thanked the PTA for a great Spooktacular in the evening. The Goal Setting conferences were very well attended and she was happy to let the parents know that the EC and Elementary are looking forward to a great rest of the semester.

Sue Groesbeck – Head of School

Sue began her remarks by letting parents know that in August she asked each faculty member to write down three things they would not change about ABA. She presented those findings and noted that diversity, caring, support, school mission were the most noted by the staff and faculty. She shared that she was very happy with the results because, having done the same exercise in other schools, this has been the most positive report she has ever gotten; which is the essence of the IB program and values.

Spooktacular – not only was it a big event, it was successful and well organized. She noted that what is more astonishing is that when she came on the Saturday morning for a meeting, it was clean and she attributed that to the value that people place in this school.

MESAC – Sue assured parents that the students travelling to India for MESAC will have face masks provided for their health and safety throughout their stay.

She continues to be in contact with Craig Williamson and she has planned to spend time with him and introducing him to the leadership and giving him the information and insight he will need coming in.

30th Graduation coming up in June

Addams Family – 50 or 60 staff members helping, attending and this is what makes ABA special because there is support not only for the students but also among colleagues.

Sue also mentioned the noted need for a marketing person for ABA and that there is positive action being taken to find someone.

Sam Cook – Elementary Principal

Sam quickly noted the Math evening workshop schooled for the 19th November. There will be a couple of Library workshops next week about the importance and benefits of reading out loud to kids regardless of age; more information will be sent out through Seesaw and in the Newsletter.

With regard to marketing, Sam informed parents that she and Erum had begun reaching out to preschools in Muscat and have planned to invite parents for open days in the Early Childhood. Paula expressed her thanks to the new swimming coach, Jim and the new drama teacher John Pew for their work with the kids. She also thanked Turinada and JP who are instrumental to the success of all the events the PTA hosts.

She expressed concern that judo was no longer offered as an ASA because of a shortage of space. She asked if there was any other way of having it back.

Sue responded by letting parents know that once the new campus is ready and is in use, that will open up space on the current campus. There will be renovations made and more activities can be made available.

Booster Club

The Booster Club is asking for donations of baked goods – email was sent out to the parent community.

Upcoming events:

Spirit day on Thursday
Awards – 17th November

ABA PTA – Lama

Lama thanked both Clause and Melanie for the work they did in organizing Spooktacular and she encouraged parents to thank them when they see them around campus.

Treasurer's Report

Paula presented the Treasure's report, noting an opening balance of 16, 294.618 OMR as of October 30th

This does not include the financials from Spooktacular.

Upcoming Events

November 12 – TTT (Muttrah and Museum visit)
November 18 – National Day
November 22 – Flea Market

December 5 – Winter Fest

Alison briefly explained the vision behind the Winter fair and the desire to capture the nostalgia and magic of this time of year. There will be entertainment, not only from the school choirs but also Muscat Singers, Santa's Grotto, kids crafts to name a few. She encouraged parents to get involved by volunteering and/or providing festive foods to be sold at the event.

PTA Calendar – Amendment: January 2020: Back to school is the 5th of January

Expressions of Thanks and Close

Lama thanked attendees and closed the meeting.

Next Open meeting: December 9th 7.40 am.