



ABA Parent Teacher Association

Open Meeting Monday

9 December 2019

PTA Room

Members Present:

Jabbour
Tony Karam
Elena Terracciano
Terry Dontis
Alison Al-Maskiri
Indrid
Vanessa
Kim
Kiathja Keuning
Ann-Katrin van Schie
Shanoona Al Barwani

Attendees from PTA Executive Committee:

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 Laila; welcomed parents and faculty present.

ABA Faculty:

Sue Groesbeck – Head of School

ABA is a very busy school, there is a lot going on. At any time in the year, there are 2 or 3 major events going on and this is in addition to the day to day running of the school. These take preparation, personnel, setting up, taking down cleaning and maintenance. This is done by the same people and it has an impact. Sue gave the example of last week's events; the Grade 10 exhibition "take down" crew was the same "set up" crew of the Winter Fair. This affects events. Sue shared that in her previous school they had more administration staff which ABA does not have and here, it's the parents who do the work and help fill in the missing layers.

The Early Childhood Open Day - Erum took the initiative to have posters and flyers have been distributed around the community. There was an open house held at Devco which attracted 32 families to come visit the School. This is an advantage to have 3 classes of each grade in the ECE.

Sue shared that she does trend reports for the Board and keep them updated on the international trends.

She also shared that there is a committee working on the 30th graduation coming in June of 2020.

With regard to marketing - ABA now has a recruitment video and 2 teachers have been hired for next year. A couple currently teaching in Sweden; one is Australian and the other Norwegian.

The search of the PR person is still underway - the job vacancy is also up on the website. There have been a number of interviews conducted already. With Peter Wadsworth leaving, his position will be filled by a communication and PR person.

The new campus - Sue let parents know that the new campus will not be ready in the Fall although there is significant progress being made. She will give an update in the next open meeting.

Kathleen Middle School Principal

Kathleen began her update with an apology from Simon Walker who was not able to be at the meeting due to suffering a broken wrist which needed surgery.

She congratulated the Grade 10's for their personal projects and noted that these projects were special to her because this was the culmination of work begun in the 6th grade.

She thanked the parents who volunteered and made the Winter Fest such a success.

The Grade 12 Discovery Week payments are due before the start of the winter break and she reminded parents that Thursday was an early release day; explaining that at 11:05 there will be an assembly in the gym and the kids will be dismissed from there.

She also thanked parents for quickly responding to the emergency school closure and picking up their children promptly.

MS Serves - with all the delays they have experienced, this has had to be postponed.

MS Explores - The trips were all a great success! There is a plan to do the same thing next year.

There is a coffee morning scheduled in January; more information will be put in the Newsletter, as well as a link for parents to submit their questions.

Sam Cook - Elementary Principal

Sam quickly told parents that the EC and Elementary Sports Days will be postponed and that details will be sent by email during the course of the day

Paul Brace - Athletic Director

Paul started off by making a suggestion that the PTA look into providing flood lights for the field as a means to alleviate the lighting problem during events on the grass pitch. The encouraged the PTA to think about it.

MESAC - Season 2 will start as soon as we are back from holiday, this will be an away tournament and details will be confirmed and communicated.

Booster Club

Jinan gave a few remarks in honor of Vanessa and a farewell video was played

PTA Updates

Treasurer's Report

Paula presented the Treasurer's report, noting an opening balance of 19,918.218 OMR as of 8th December 2019.

PTA Thank You

Laila thanked a presented gifts to,

- Cortney and Mara for National Day celebration activities
- Meeta for organizing and running the Flea Market
- Paula for coordinating Santa's Workshop
- Alison for coordinating the Winter Fest

Upcoming Events

- ★ January 16th - Parent Art Exhibit
- ★ 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

Laila thanked attendees and closed the meeting.

Next Open meeting: January 13th 7.40 am.