



ABA Parent Teacher Association

Open Meeting Monday

9 September 2019

PTA Room

**Members Present:**

Mehreen Elahi  
Shanoona  
Nadia Naber  
Ingid  
Tara novacek  
Leena Al Bastaki  
Manuela Emmer  
Tatsiana kaldayeva  
Moin Amena  
Shalini verma  
Nawal Al Rahbi  
Tony Albert Karm  
Alison Al-Maskari  
Eman Shaltout  
Marzieh Shahsavari  
Gabriella Ibrahim  
Omega Hilbron  
Melanie Pitcher  
Iman al Maamary  
Felicia Anand  
Sylvia Quintana  
Lubna Taha  
Dana Albasha  
Gisele Jabbour  
Sreevidhya Ananth  
Hiba Kamal  
Ekta Pangasa  
Ann-Katrin van Schie  
Sulafa Ahmed  
Wendy Ting  
Munira Alawfi

Radka Slaba  
Azza Saeed  
Jane Sharma  
Cecile Loubens  
Yasmin Oshana  
Charmain Kuhn  
Soma Saha Roy

**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:**

### **Simon Walker – High School Principal**

Simon began by welcoming parents back for the holidays. He informed parents that both the Middle and High school have introduced device-free zones throughout campus as a way to help manage the use of mobile devices among school age children. He encouraged parents to watch the video he posted in the Newsletter which discusses the impact of technology not only in young people, but in adults as well. The two phone-free zones introduced this year are

- 1) During registration – encouraging getting to know their advisors and talk to other students during the first 10 minutes of the day.
- 2) In the cafeteria – encouraging dialogue and interaction among kids

Upcoming Events:

Parent information evening for Grade 10 e-assessments

International Awards next week Tuesday. More information is in the newsletter

Meet-the-teacher evening. This is an informal opportunity to meet the teachers and this is not a consultation with the teacher about how individual children are doing.

24<sup>th</sup> September – Introduction to MYP in the secondary cafeteria.

### **Kathleen Bowin – Middle School Principal**

Kathleen began by letting parents know that Sue was away this week.

The meet-the-teacher/advisor in the Middle School will be happening the same time as the High School to accommodate parents whose children are in both Middle and High School.

Speaking to Middle School parents, she explained that they will be meeting the teachers in the advisory room. She went on to explain that children spend 80 minutes with their advisors every week. Within those 80 minutes, they spend time developing research, technology and various other skills.

Kathleen explained that in the Middle School, phones are not allowed unless students have been asked by teachers to bring them in for an activity. Following that, the phones are turned off. She assured parents that students are always allowed and given the opportunity to call their parents when they need to.

The Middle School common room has a schedule that allows the different grades to use it. The students have opportunity to go to the gym, the common room and the playground during the break times.

This gives the opportunity for the kids to play and spend less time on their devices.

### **Sam Cook – Elementary Principal**

Sam explained that the Elementary was off to a great start of the year and the emphasis has been on building classroom culture, community and looking forward to the Week of inspirational Maths that the year begins with. This generally looks at growth mindset specifically in maths, but also general approach to challenges, positive outlook on making mistakes and emphasis on students thinking about the way they learn.

There is emphasis on independence right from the K1 classes and allowing kids to do things themselves.

The parent orientation session held last week were very successful and Sam encouraged parents to feel free to contact or talk to their child's teacher should they have any queries.

Tomorrow (10 September)- What is the PYP session. This is primarily for new parents, but it would be beneficial for everyone as the session will go over the changes to the PYP program. It's a broad overview of the program and how children receive the content and how this differs from the way we received content when we were at school.

11 September - IT workshop. Ms. Gloria will be going through security settings for parents with students in grades 3 -5

In the classrooms – the children are going through assessments to determine each child's strengths and identify areas that need more attention.

There is a formal assessment coming up for Grades 3-5. The students will be taking part in the International Schools Assessment (ISA) at the beginning of October.

What this assessment seeks to reveal are the trends across the current cohort. There are many other ways the students are assessed and this is just to give a snapshot on one particular day.

### **Kendra Glider**

Kendra reminded parents that ABA strives to be environmentally conscious and she has noticed an increase in the use of plastics and non-reusable bottles and containers. She urged parents to be mindful of reducing waste when packing school lunches.

Sam commented that the school cafeteria had done a good job with minimizing waste and that the food is very good, she encouraged parents (from grade 3) to use the facility.

### **Booster Club**

Vanessa gave an introduction and overview of the Booster Club and its function as well as the update of events.

She announced that the 2019/2020 pledges have been met and shared that the gym and the MPH are now branded with the Vipers logo.

The Vipers hoodies are available for pre-purchase for all students. Vanessa shared that the new school policy is that the hoodies are the approved uniform for students and any queries should be directed to the principals.

Please check the newsletter for information on Booster Club events and pop up shops.

Vanessa encouraged parents to support the Booster Club by volunteering, wearing their Vipers colors and coming to events and cheering the kids on during meets.

### **ABA PTA – Lama**

Lama explained the work and role of the PTA in ABA and introduced the executive committee for the year 2019/2020.

Home Room parents – Lama explained what the role of the Home Room parents is and how essential they are in the flow of communication from teachers to parents, as well as building the community within the classroom. She encouraged new parents to volunteer as HRPs as this is the quickest way to get plugged in and get first-hand information on the various events in school.

Lama pointed out the classes that had yet to fill their HRP positions and encouraged parents to volunteer.

The HRP orientation will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. This is training and the guidelines will be shared with all HRPs.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Paula presented the Treasure's report, noting an opening balance of 16, 062.618 OMR

### **Upcoming Events**

October 31 – Spooktacular

November 18 – National Day

November 12 – TTT (Muttrah and Museum visit)

November 22 – Flea Market

Melanie presented more information on the Spooktacular event and encouraged parents to volunteer to make the event a success.

This year, the event will be from 5 – 7 pm to allow families to attend other community events that are scheduled on the same evening.

Melanie showed a photo slide show of past events to give new parents an idea of how fun the event is for the kids.

There will be a volunteer meeting on the 12 September. For those interested in volunteer.

PTA Calendar – Amendment: January 2020: Back to school is the 5<sup>th</sup> of January

### **Expressions of Thanks and Close**

Lama thanked attendees and closed the meeting.

Next Open meeting: October 7<sup>th</sup> 7.40 am.