



ABA Parent Teacher Association

Community Meeting Monday

17 February 2019

PTA Room

**Members Present:**

MEHREEN BANO	ELAHI
MUNIRA	ALAWFI
TONY	KARAM
MANAL	ALBALUSHI
INGRID	BULDER
TERRY	DONTIS
THERESA	RABIE
SUNGKUK	KIM
NOVYANTHIE	JACOB
Jinane	Traboulsi Helou
Reem	Alshaikh
Lubna	Al taha
Iman	Al maamari

**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  
Anjum Khan  
Penny Chang

ECE & Elementary Parent Representative  
New Parent Representative  
New Parent Representative

*Meeting opened at 7.45am*

## **Welcome**

*Meeting opened by Lama; welcomed parents and faculty present.*

## **ABA Faculty:**

### **Sam Cook - Elementary Principal**

Sam began her report by sharing that the new report cards were well received by parents and there had been no major issues.

The professional development the teachers took part in was very rewarding. Facilitated by inquiry-based learning expert Cath Murdock, the focus was on exploring the concept of agency. Sam will schedule a coffee morning in the beginning of March to share more of what they learned during those two days.

Grade 5 camp next week; not only does it support the curriculum, it also aids social emotional development and preparation for the Grade 5 exhibition.

Student led conferences are coming up and more information will be shared in due course.

### **Jasmine - Farewell and Thank You**

Lama thanked Jasmine for the support she has given the PTA over the years and expressed how much she will be missed. Lama presented Jasmine with a farewell gift from the PTA.

### **Sue Groesbeck – Head of School**

Last week there was a Board Meeting which reported a healthy budget with a surplus for this year. Sue will be hosting a coffee morning where she will be speaking in more detail about that. Bahul will also attend the meeting to help explain and clarify.

Sue apologized for the timing of the re-enrollment deposit call and acknowledged that it could have been better communicated to parents. The re-enrollment plan is good and healthy, a benefit to the school. She will be sharing more at the coffee morning.

Sue shared that university acceptances have been very good this year and there is excitement to see acceptance letters from universities such as Oxford!

Teacher hiring is done and she is excited about the caliber of teachers coming in. In every position, they have gotten their first choice.

Sue will be inviting the senior class to mark 100 days until graduation with her in her office next week.

Nancy Shears - the new communications officer is new to ABA and to Oman. She is a parent of two boys in Elementary. She has worked with retail companies such as Sony, Starbucks and LG in both England and Canada. The key projects she will be working on are the website. The backend supplier has been selected and now working on the content and visuals will be gradually taking place over the next few months. The newsletter will be refreshed, making it more readable. Nancy encouraged parents to bring their suggestions; to let her know what they like and what they don't like, what works and what can be improved.

Sue encouraged parents to get involved and participate in the revitalization of the Transition Committee. As the work on the new campus continues, it is essential to prepare for the transitions that will need to happen when the project is done. More information will be in the newsletter.

### **Kendra Glider**

Kendra did not have much to report and hoped parents found the new reports easier to read and more child specific.

### **Booster club**

Lama thanked the Booster Club for a great MESAC weekend and Season 2.

### **PTA Updates**

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Paula presented the Treasurer's report, noting an opening balance of 19, 543.118 OMR as of 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

## Fund Requests

### 1. Lost & Found Closet

Request by: PTA

Cost: 500 omr (3 quotes received)

Benefits: Moms and all children

Expected Delivery: March

**Purpose:** To organize all the lost and found items in one location at school in a closet that will be easily accessible by the parents and students. To get rid of the buckets that hold and mold the clothing and items in multiple areas of the school.

### 2. Sensory Pathway

Request by: Sue Grosebeck

Cost: \$1450 US + shipping (RO.558 + shipping)

Expected Delivery: June

Benefits: Elementary, Staff, Teachers, Parents love it as they walk through, Admissions

**Purpose:** It POPs the areas and makes movement fun through the hallways for children and adults.

Items to be purchased: Recenter Reset Sensory Path, 112 pcs, by 3M. 7ml commercial grade adhesive vinyl with protective, anti-skid coating.

### 3. POP UP Open Mic

Request by: Zita Gange

Cost: RO.650

Expected Delivery: March

Benefits: All students, MESAC, ISTA, Teachers, Booster Club, PTA Events

**Purpose:** I am requesting funds for sound equipment to provide a "Pop Up Open Mic" for the students. This equipment would be stored near the drama court so it could be easily accessed by the students when they wanted to run lunchtime concerts and open mic events during and after school. Why do we need this? Students are often requesting equipment which we are unable to provide either due to resources being used elsewhere or staff not being available to support them for that event due to other obligations.

This would be hard wearing and simple to use equipment which students could assemble and

operate

(selected students would be trained) and it could also be used for many other outdoor occasions including,

MESAC, ISTA, Sports Days, PTA events, to name a few.

#### 4. Live Streaming Equipment for ABA

Requested by: Andrews David

Cost: RO.1790

Expected Delivery: March

Benefits: All Students, Booster Club, PTA, MESAC, Marketing

**Purpose:** Live streaming any event ABA wishes to be viewed by the world. Needed for marketing and communications.

#### Vote

Fund Request	Number of votes
1. Lost and found closet	16/19
2. Sensory pathway	12/17
3. Pop up open mic equipment	18/19
4. Live streaming equipment	14/19

All the fund requests were approved.

#### PTA Upcoming Events

ICF - A World Without Borders

A week of cultural experiences culminating in Thursday night's gastronomically entertaining festival. PTA works in association with the language department throughout the week focusing on celebrating the similarities while sharing cultural specialities.

- **Focus is on culture.**
  - Not your country but your hometown.
  - No country specific stalls
- **How we are similar.**
  - What's a famous rice dish your family makes
  - Favorite desserts
- **Traditions we all share.**

- Family
- Wearing a certain color for weddings
  
- **Games we all played**
  - Tag
  - Jacks
- **Similar words across languages.**
  - Algebra.
  - Soda vs Cola
  
- **Importance of certain colors.**
  - Red for celebrations
  - White for peace
  
- **Special dishes we make for holidays.**
  - Almond cookies from Europe & throughout the Middle East
  
- **How we celebrate**
  - Songs (instruments, lullabies, etc)
  - Dances (Dabka or Zorba)

### **Dates for your diary**

- ★ February 18th - Majlis Al Shura (TTT) - CANCELLED
- ★ March 6th - Flea Market
- ★ March 12th International Cultural Festival
- ★ March 17th - CPR and First Aid

The PTA AGM is coming up on the 2nd June, Lama encouraged parents to join the PTA. interested parents can talk to anyone of the current PTA Exco and find out more about the positions and insight about being in the PTA.

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

Lama thanked attendees and closed the meeting.

Next Open meeting: March 9<sup>th</sup> 7.40 am.