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ABA Parent Teacher Association

Open Meeting Monday

9 March 2020

PTA Room

Members Present:

Attendance list not available

Attendees from PTA Executive Committee:

Lama Samman	Chair
Anjum Khan	Communications Liaison
Paula Colaco	Treasurer
Bokamoso Kumwenda	Secretary
Nandita Shukla	Communications
Laila Al Mawali	Logistics Coordinator/vice chair

Meeting opened at 7.45am

Welcome

Meeting opened by Lama Samman; welcomed parents and faculty present. She went through the upcoming PTA events, highlighting the Parent Art exhibition and the trip to Muttrah and the Majlis al Shura tour. Sign up for this tour was done at the end of the meeting and could also be done online at the PTA website.

ABA Faculty updates:

Sue Groesbeck – Head of School

Sue shared that the School had been mandated by the Ministry of Health to make health related announcements and tips over the PA system. There is a schedule of different people to give announcement during the week.

She reminded parents about the new health page added to the website, sharing that it was updated every evening with the latest health information.

She explained that she is in daily contact with the Heads of School of TAISM and BSM and is in a Whatsapp group with all the Heads of Schools in Muscat to share information and advice. This also extends to the MESAC heads in the participating countries and schools.

Sue has connected with colleagues in Singapore, China that have experienced COVID-19 effects; and has been able to learn the things that have worked well in their schools.

The effects on schools are 3 levels of precautionary measures. Currently, ABA is at level 1: The cessation of extra-curricular activities and outside vendors

Level 2 – is the closure of school; student stop coming to campus, but the faculty continues coming.

ABA already has a sophisticated online learning platform, which she anticipated will be easier for the higher grades to transition, should there be a need to, than the lower grades and kindergarten. Parents will be counted on to help assist with learning.

ABA has ran faculty meeting practice on the online platform CISCO to test the system.

The situation is evolving and the School is ready to transition to online learning, should the situation dictate so.

There was a question regarding the likelihood of the School moving to level 2 and Sue responded with no, there is no indication that the Minister of health will be mandating schools

to close for students. Sue is in contact with the Ministry which keeps the School informed with all the information and national updates.

The ABA Gala has been postponed.

There was another question regarding the new cleaning and disinfection procedures ABA has adopted recently. Sue explained that the cleaners have been put through two additional trainings and there are new cleaning solutions being used which are much more effective than the previous ones. Level 3 – total school closure for both students and faculty

Over the weekends the school campus has a deep clean. Another parent remarked that she has witnessed the attention of the OIG workers even in the cafeteria, as the door was wiped down and cleaned very regularly.

Children should stay home if they have a fever and they may return to school at least 24 hours after the fever has broken. Sue commended parents for keeping sick children home.

Kathleen Bowin – Middle School Principal

Kathleen shared that the Middle school had a very fun sports day last week, she was in the dunk tank which the kids enjoyed. All the graded took part with Grade 10 being the organizers of the event as part of their unit.

Grade level assemblies have been introduced and there is a campaign for Kindness currently going on. These assemblies take place once a month, followed by the whole middle school assembly. The last one was led by the MS student council. The student council also hosted a disco, which went very well with about 80 kids attending.

The middle school faculty is working on online learning, on Tuesday there will be a MS faculty meeting to discuss what that is going to look like and how it will be conducted, activities, and schedule.

Sue added that Kathleen has made great effort to make sure that every student in the Middle School is known by at least one faculty member – she shared that the Middle school has had a departmental faculty meeting that was dedicated to the faculty knows each student, by name and face, if they know their family /situation/members and the student's attitude to learning.

Kathleen explained that they are slowly trying to take the focus off the numbers but rather the descriptors as this fuels conversation.

Paul Brace – Athletic Director

Paul opened his remarks by letting parent know that the ASAs will be going on as usual, no changes in the elementary. The middle and high school will not be having any competitive sport going on which has affected how the kids train and what they do during the ASA time.

Season 3 MESAC will not be going ahead but the school will offer ASA to keep the students active. These training sessions are is only for ABA students and staff.

The PE department is still working out the schedule, parents will need to be prepared for changes to the usual sports schedule as it's possible the changes could result in clashes with other external clubs and activities.

Nancy shared that there are developments with the newsletter (the new layout got positive reviews from parents), the yearbook and the School's social media platforms. Parents are asked to post Google reviews.

Expressions of Thanks and Close

Lama ended the meeting by thanking the parents that had attended.