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ABA Parent Teacher Association

Open Meeting Monday

11 March 2019

PTA Room

Members Present:

Attendance list not available

Attendees from PTA Executive Committee:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Lama Samman | Chair |
| Jankie Sampat | Vice Chair Secondary |
| Meeta Khira | Co-Vice Chair Elementary |
| Anjum Khan | Communications Liaison |
| Paula Colaco | Treasurer |
| Bokamoso Kumwenda | Elementary Secretary |
| Nandita Shukla | Co-Chair ECE & Elementary Parent Representative |
| Evelyn Hon | Secondary Parent Representative |
| Dina Wahib | Elementary New Parent Coordinator |
| Hend Farouk | Co-Chair ECE & Elementary Parent Representative |
| Laila Al Mawali | Logistics Coordinator |

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:

Kathleen began her remarks by explaining that Simon Taylor was away due to a family situation, Simon Walker was away at a conference in Scotland and Sam had an unavoidable meeting during the same time.

She began with the elementary news – the Seussical the Musical production scheduled on the 12th and 13th March.

Middle school and High school just had a successful Language week 18th – 21st. There were world cup football matches in the gym and students enjoyed movies in various languages throughout the week. during that same week, the Grade 6s had their Adventure Oman trip in the desert. Students gave positive feedback.

25th February the Middle school had their One Act plays.

The Professional Development days for the staff were very successful. The staff came together to look at the 10 effective learning principles and reflect on how we are all learner. During the full day of PD, the Middle and High School teachers experienced peer led workshops; including experiential learning, building authentic assessments as well as task specific rubrics. The Elementary School teachers worked on the development of the math curriculum.

A selection of Middle School students travelled to Abu Dhabi this past week to take part in ISTA. Kathleen spoke to some about their experience and reported the students had a very enjoyable trip.

Prom for High School on Thursday

Grade 10 – Travel to South Africa for the Leadership Symposium (18th – 20th March)

27-28th March - DP2 Art Exhibition

May 2nd – there will be a Middle School event. More details will follow as the students plan and formulate their ideas for the event.

Kathleen concluded her remarks by thanking Lama and the PTA for the wonderful Spring Fest (ICF) event held over the weekend.

Treasurer's Report

Paula presented the Treasure's report, noting a balance of 17,377.397 OMR as of 10 March.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday Talks and Travels – Tour of Muttrah and Majlis al Shura

Parent Art exhibition scheduled for the 23 April will be held in the Secondary Cafeteria and Bokamoso is coordinating.

The PTA is currently looking for artists, sculptures, musicians, photographers, illustrators etc. to take part.

Spring Fest – Report

32 cultures represented with 60 leads.

More than 1000 people attended the event.

Income made – 2301 OMR

Expenses – 537 OMR

Expenses: from the renting of the bathrooms (399OMR), ice, Vimto, water and Ice Tea (38.650)

Round One Fund Requests

Lama gave an update on the PTA Fund Requests (Round One).

Mother Tongue Language program – money requested 2016 and completed March 2019

This fund request was approved by the community three years ago and is finally complete. The libraries and the classrooms from grade 1 to 5 all have a wonderful selection of books from a range of mother tongue languages. The feedback has been positive from students, teachers and parents.

The Mobile gardens - requested by Mr. Ian White are functional and the Gardening Club kids have been working on the garden and these have attracted some Middle school kids as well. These gardens are currently located behind the Middle School common room.

Secondary Library Games – the games have been very successful and the kids really enjoy the games and are happy being device-free in the library.

Round Two Fund Requests

Two fund requests have been received

1. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math) CORNER for the Elementary Library:

An area in the library offering Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math games for students to play with during breaks as the library is a break option for students and it becomes an even more crowded place with students when the hot weather schedule is on and the outdoor options become minimal.

It is also a great opportunity for teachers to bring their student to use the games as a class bonus or reward.

Amount Requested: 400 OMR includes shipping- prices and items were presented at PTA open meeting

Requested by: Ms. Mara

Benefit to the Students/Community: This is an important project as today's libraries are moving towards becoming learning commons that not only include books but makerspaces with STEM and STEAM activities. Having those games in the library means students are doing something fun and educational during breaks as well as developing their problem-solving skills, enhancing their cognitive development, team working and engaging with others, overcoming challenges, cooperating with others and learning to be patient.

2. Arabic Theatrical Production

The Secondary Arabic Department would like to organize and arrange a major theater production that can be enjoyed by the entire community. It will broaden the cultural experience and help bridge the gap created by what is lost in translation. The money requested will be used for props and stage decoration. The Arabic Department is working collaboratively with the Drama department for guidance and direction on this project.

Amount Requested: 400 OMR

Requested by: Mr. Waleed

Benefits to the Students/Community: To help students feel more confident in front of an audience showing their Arabic language skills. Enrich the Arabic Language and Literature program in the school and community. A link between Arabic L&L and drama. Opportunity for students to practice their ATL skills.

VOTE

After discussion, the Association voted for the STEAM initiative (16 votes) to be awarded the funds. Concerning the Arabic production, the consensus was that more information needed to be presented and given that we are at the end of the school year already, there is opportunity to plan now for next academic year.

Sam Cook – Elementary Principal

Sam reported that the Seussical tickets for Tuesday were sold out and encouraged parents to get their Wednesday night tickets as soon as possible. She reminded parents about a coffee morning she is hosting where she will be discussing the Student-led conferences coming up. The 27th March will be a no-school day for the Elementary Students.

Expressions of Thanks and Close

Lama ended the meeting by thanking a few ladies that helped during the ICF – Clauss, Fransisca, Jinan, Kamino and Elaheh. She presented Jankie with a small gift for her leading the event.

Next Open meeting: April 8th 7.40 am.