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MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEMBERS MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER 2016 AT 16H00 AT SAFA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PRESENT:	L. KHATIB	(PROPRIETOR)	CHAIRMAN	(LK)
	S. MERCHANT	(PROPRIETOR)		(SM)
	S. DUCKITT	(PRINCIPAL)		(SD)
	L. FRIDD	(HEAD TEACHER PRIMARY)		(LF)
	A. SCHAEFER	(PARENT)		(AS)
	C. ANDERSON	(PARENT)		(CA)
	I. IANELLI	(PARENT)		(II)
	K. BITAR	(LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADER)		(KB)
	L. STONES	(TEACHER)		(LS)

MINUTES : L. LE GRANGE

The meeting convened at 16h00 by LK and the following items were discussed.

1. WELCOME

LK welcomed all the members to the meeting and welcomed Mr. Khalid Bitar as a new member to the Board of Members.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as true and correct.

3. PRIMARY REPORT

- 3.1 A key focus in primary is on raising attainment and progress in reading, writing, math, science and Arabic.
- 3.2 Accelerated Reader results showed that students have made above expected progress.
- 3.3 A further major focus in primary has been the new robust assessment procedures providing more informative and transparent information for staff, students and parents.
- 3.4 The school has focused on aspects of environmental enrichment (hatching chicks, seeds in planters) and also on a number literature events to support English enrichment.
- 3.5 The new green oasis has supported the schools sustainability project. KB suggested that the school looked at planting indigenous trees and plants to support knowledge of local flora.



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- 3.6 The overall concept of global awareness is actively pursued by all staff in primary.
- 3.7 The Innovation team is piloting twitter in FS and other aspects relating to supporting the National Agenda.
- 3.8 To support raising standards all staff have been visited twice by school leaders in lesson observations; while moderation of writing has taken place with schools such Arabian Ranches, Horizon and Wellington International.
- 3.9 CA enquired about MyMaths and some parents having problems logging in. The school would address this.
- 3.10 Primary staff were adopting a balance between making learning fun and engaging and also ensuring that academic progress were still rigorously maintained. Various Board members expressed their views that target driven education should not be at the expense of the joy of learning of young students.

4. SECONDARY REPORT

- 4.1 Secondary staff are working hard to ensure that the student voice is recognized and that student's confidence is enhanced.
- 4.2 A number of exciting projects e.g. recycling plastic bags in art, have been taught this term under the themes of culture and global awareness. In Design and Technology there has been a strong link to sustainability education.
- 4.3 Secondary teachers have been helping students to prepare for the IBT tests.
- 4.4 The new staff have settled in well. All the new secondary staff have current GCSE and or A-level experience.
- 4.5 SCS will start our first GCSE courses next year. We will use AQA and Edexcel exam boards and follow a combinations of IGCSEs and GCSEs.
- 4.6 Class sizes in secondary range from 15-18 students per class.
- 4.7 A new school counsellor has been very active since her arrival.

5. WHOLE SCHOOL

- 5.1 The survey of student's attitudes (PASS) showed that primary and secondary children have a very high satisfaction rate with the school.
- 5.2 The school is working hard towards meeting KHDA expectations and ensuring that there is breadth and balance in all learning opportunities at SCS.



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- 5.3 At SCS there is a strong focus on developing student's soft skills and in allowing them to express the individuality.
- 5.4 The strong Modern Foreign Language department has extended its provision by providing mother tongue German.
- 5.5 Succession planning has been a focal point at SCS in order to develop an efficient and effective leadership and management team.
- 5.6 Various coffee mornings and assessment evenings have taken place, these are aimed at providing parents with more bespoke information about key aspects related to their children schooling and learning.
- 5.7 All parents received baseline reports at the start of this academic year.
- 5.8 The Board enquired about the school procedure for staff recruitment. SD explained that they are interviewed by at least two senior staff members, usually have to teach a lesson and full reference appropriate checks are undertaken.
- 5.9 The new secondary and additional primary building will provide outstanding learning environments for all students and will support a broad curriculum.

6. BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

- 6.1 The secondary building will be completed by July 2017. It is on an accelerated programme. All 4 stories will be roof height by the end of February. This building will house Year 1 and 2 on the ground floor, Year 5 and 6 on a floor above, the remainder of the building will be secondary. The building will include 6 science labs, D & T facilities, a large cookery room, art studios, a blackbox theatre, and excellent large spacious classrooms. It also has additional offices and administrative facilities and a number of seminar rooms for sixth form students.
- 6.2 AS asked whether renewable and sustainable energy sources were considered in the construction of this facility. This led to a long discussion on energy efficiency at SCS and II would contact the school regarding the solar energy project.

7. EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- 7.1 The school is finalizing GCSE courses.
- 7.2 New mid-year reports are being developed and will be sent to parents in January.



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8. STAFFING

8.1 Staff happiness, staff welfare and staff retention are viewed with high regard and importance at SCS.

8.2 Many of the staff for next year have already been appointed.

9. LINKS WITH PARENTS

9.1 It is pleasing to see that a number of new Emirati families are joining SCS.

9.2 The school is reviewing whether or not to relaunch parent WhatsApp groups as a mean of social media communication.

9.3 SCS is keen to reach out to the wider community and is exploring all options to do so.

10. PUPIL NUMBERS

10.1 A number of parents are finding times tough in Dubai and many have indicated they will be leaving at the end of the term back to their countries of origin. The school anticipates that this situation will level off over time and is trying to support parents.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 The PTA is working more closely with school management to support to school initiatives.

11.2 The new canteen has been well received and the staff is constantly reviewing all aspects relating to this.

12. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday, 8th February 2017.

The meeting was concluded at 18h38.