



# ABA Parent Teacher Association

Open Meeting  
5 November 2018  
PTA ROOM

**Members Present:**

Rebecca Mitchell

Michelle Doyle

Alison Al Maskari

Rubina Shaikh

Jing Yuan

Reem Alshaikh

Jamila Albarami

Nawal Al Rahbi

Yasmin Oshana

Sherna Cooper

Kenza Khayoussef

Tony Karam

Alex Tvaliashvili

Clauss Niazi

Natalia Collado

Bhavana Menon

Jane Sharmaj

Iyu Zhili

Radhika nanani

Inaam Naboulsi

Ekta Pangasa

Pooja Chamadia

Farhat Khan

Diana El Bizri

Amna Haque

Nisreen Doughan

Shanoona Al Barwani

Nadia Queiro

Kamilya Lamki

Mehreen Elahi

Beatriz Valazquez

**Attendees from PTA Executive Committee:**

Lama Samman

Chair

Meeta Khira

Co-Vice Chair Elementary

Bokamoso Kumwenda

Elementary Secretary

Hiba Kamal

Secondary Secretary

Dina Wahib

Elementary New Parent Coordinator

Alaa Mohamed Ali

Secondary New Parent Coordinator

Nandita Shukla

Co-Chair ECE & Elementary Parent Representative

Hend Farouk

Co-Chair ECE & Elementary Parent Representative

Evelyn Hon

Secondary Parent Representative

Laila Al Mawali

Logistics Coordinator

Rund Fanek

Elementary Activities Coordinator

Elaheh Karimi

Secondary Activities Coordinator

**Absentees from PTA Executive Committee:**

Theresa Rabie                      Vice Chair Secondary

Anjum Khan                      Communications Liaison

Paula Colaco                      Treasurer

*Meeting opened at 7.40am*

## **Welcome**

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

## **ABA Faculty:**

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

Sam opened her remarks by informing the meeting that there was a play-based learning parent workshop run by Early Childhood. A parent shared that at the workshop she gained lot of insight into what exactly play-based learning is and how learning is made a part of the process. One of the enhancements that the PYP program has begun to roll out recently has been to be honest about play in early childhood and acknowledging that children in early childhood learn during purposeful and intentional play. The workshop was well attended.

Sam also reminded parents that she will be hosting a coffee morning for the ECE and Elementary parents on the 6 November, in the Middle School Common Room. She will be going over the communication strategies that are currently in place as well as looking for feedback on current methods.

Another event coming up will be an evening parent workshop scheduled for Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November. This workshop will be a follow up on the Play workshop and look at how Inquiry works in the classroom.

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

Kathleen noted that Simon Walker was out on an IB Verification visit this week and that her remarks will cover both the Middle School and the High School.

Adventure Oman:

Grade 7 (MYP2) 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> November – Seaside

Grade 8 (MYP3) 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> December - Omani village

Grade 6 (MYP 1) 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December – Desert

Student-Led Conferences:

These are scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November. Depending on the holiday announcement, Day 2 of the conferences may be on the 25<sup>th</sup> November, after the National Day holidays. SIGN-UP forms will be sent this week.

For MS, the children are doing Reflections; looking at their approaches to learning. Kathleen encouraged parents to read the descriptors to understand what they mean and what they really indicate about their child's learning. She also emphasized the need for children to look beyond the number they get, but also look at the feedback from teachers, so that they can consolidate their learning. The Reflections are to help them assess the things that they are in control of; do they come to school on time and prepared? Are you using your thinking skills? assessing yourself accurately? Etc.

The students will be setting targets for each subject group during the Conferences.

High School report will be live on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November.

18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November - MYP Art Expo.

Santa's Workshop on the 2 December – will include the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, and students will visit the shop in 20-minute time slots.

Kathleen also reminded parents she will be hosting a coffee morning on Wednesday (7<sup>th</sup> November) in the PAC. Parents have been asked to send in their questions through via the Google form sent out in the Newsletter.

### **Simon Taylor – ABA Superintendent**

Simon shared with parents that one of the candidates for the Interim Superintendent position was visiting ABA this week.

Simon thanked Clauss the PTA for the Spooktacular event last weekend and commented that it was a great success.

#### **Accreditation:**

One of the most important processes we go through is the accreditation process and the IB evaluation. Over the course of this year and into next year, the School will be addressing the recommendations from the CIS Evaluation that took place last year. Committees will reconvene this year to continue work on these recommendations, latest from August. The School has also made a commitment to participate in visits to other schools; much like Simon Walker is visiting a school in Athens, Greece to their IB development. Normally, the principals are away once or twice a year. Simon himself is scheduled to do a school visit next week in Beijing.

Simon explained that these visits are very important in the Professional development of the principals who participate. They experience every part of another IB school and understand it from the ground up, and they see the best practices that others are doing.

Simon also spoke about the New Campus building project. Referring to the communication sent by the Board about the delays of the project and the likelihood that the New Campus will be ready in 2020. The assessment and report by the structural engineers will possibly be ready in a couple of months and the results of these will inform the next steps.

### **Paul Brace – Athletics Director**

Paul thanked the PTA and parents for their support during the MESAC weekend. He noted that it was the first time in a long time that the event felt like a whole school event and the enthusiasm was amazing. The request for housing for visiting students resulted in an overwhelming response from the parent community. There was good feedback from both the hosting parents and the visiting students about what a great experience it was. Some students have even expressed the desire to be invited back to the families they stayed with during the weekend.

In addition to this, ABA managed to win two gold medals, silvers and bronze medals.

JV Volleyball – Gold medal (ABA)

Varsity Volleyball – Gold medal (India)

Golf? – Silver Medal (Abu Dhabi)

Swim Team – Silver Medal (Dubai)

Academic Team – Bronze (Dubai)

Paul acknowledged that it was not only the efforts of the Athletic Department but the community as a whole rallied together to make this season an epic one.

Season 2 started on the 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Paul thanked again the Booster Club and the PTA.

### **Kendra Glider - EC Teacher Representative**

Kendra reported that the children were very excited after the Spooktacular event and were looking forward to the National Day celebrations. The Early Childhood will be celebrating on the 15<sup>th</sup> November with an assembly, but there will also be celebrations on the 18<sup>th</sup> which will involve other parts of the school.

She also shared that in the Elementary, there were many kids and some teachers sick, and encouraged parents to stay healthy.

### **Upcoming Events**

Lama went through the upcoming events on the PTA Calendar –  
The boat trip to Bandar Khirain which will include a BBQ on the beach and snorkeling. Sign-up forms are on the website.

We are still looking for musicians for the upcoming ONE BEAT, ONE HEART, ONE ABA Winter Fest. Sound and video clips to be sent to Hend. We are looking forward to a great celebration of music.

Omani National Day pop up shop will run from the 11-15 November. We're looking forward to big celebrations for National Day with a parade, a visit from Ahmad Al Harthy and cultural displays of dance, poetry music.

More information will be sent out through the HRPs.

### **Booster Club**

Vanessa started by echoing Paul Brace's sentiments of thanks for the great parent support at the start of the 2018 sports program.

She went over the events the Booster Club has had over the past eight weeks. There is more to come. The next event will be the Sport Gear Sale. Parents are asked to donate their gently used sports gear that's no longer needed to the Booster Club. This gear will be sold and the proceeds will be given back and used in support of the Sports program.

New merchandise – Spirit Wear

Next pop up shop will be on Wednesday morning. Feedback is always welcome.

Vanessa announced that all the money made from the fundraising, the popup shops etc. is given back to the Vipers program. This year the Booster Club has been able to deliver most of the pledges to the Athletics Program. The Sports bags are on route to Muscat.

Items delivered:

250 – custom design training shirts to the MSSL program

130 custom water bottles to the MPSL program

Vanessa shared the Booster Club financial report.



Final Finance:

12,740.452 OMR

## Event Financial Reports

Flea Market and Bake Sale – Held November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018

<u>Event 2 - November Flea Market</u>	OMR Credit	OMR Debit	OMR BALANCE
Tables (38)	266.000		266.000
Rails (3)	30.000		30.000
Tickets	106.400		106.400
Bake Sale	46.400		46.400
Ice Cubes (3kg)		4.400	(4.400)
Juices+Vimto		8.415	(8.415)
Slushy	23.100		23.100
PTA table	13.500		13.500
<b>Total</b>	<b>485.400</b>	<b>12.815</b>	<b>472.585</b>

Spooktacular – held November 1<sup>st</sup> 2018

*These are projected numbers. Paula will present official report.*

- **Total tickets sold – 514**
- **Estimated Net Income from the Event : approx. 1200 OMR**
  - Trick-or-Treat = 809
  - Pumpkin Carving Contest = 83 (thanks to a donation of the pumpkins)

- Coupon Sales = 130
- Food and Beverage = 194
  
- Expenses: less than 500 Omani Rials

Goulish Games

<b>Total Raised</b>	<b>432.500</b>
• Teens Giving Back raised	<b>25.200</b>
• Students Against Prejudice raised	<b>39.200</b>
• Tanzania Club raised	<b>9.800</b>
• Lenders of Monetary Assistance raised	<b>56.000</b>
• Amnesty raised	<b>69.400</b>
• Student Council raised	<b>232.900</b>
• Not-so Scary Spooky House –	<b>88.400</b>
• Haunted House –	<b>144.500</b>

Lama thanked Evelyn and Clauss for leading these events and presented them with a small gift.

**Tuesday Talks and Travels updates - CPR Class**

The first CPR class had nine ladies registered and trained over two days. These ladies were presented with their certificates from the American Heart Association.

**Fund Requests**

**Fund Request from Grade 1 – update**

Dear ABA Community,

I thought you'd like to read about a student-led project and it's success:

Each week, Grade 1 students would come in from recess with complaints about (Drama Court) playground shenanigans. Often times, complaints went something like this, "And then the 2nd graders wouldn't..." or "This 2nd grade boy wasn't..." Collectively, the Grade 1 teachers couldn't take it anymore. So, after a lunch recess tirade, their frazzled educators used our weekly Community Time session to ask one simple question: What do you want to **do** about it?

With a little help from me, a group of 10 boys contacted the PTA to request funds for outside toys because, "There are not enough toys and then we sometimes get lonely [read: bored]" Tashin said. While Hamza added, "...if there are not enough toys for kids to play they will fight and argue." So, after a lot of thinking and working, their appeal was presented in the 27 September newsletter.

But things took a different turn when an envelope appeared on my desk one morning:

"I read your request for funds in the newsletter and wanted to tell you that I think you are amazing! You needed something and went out and found a way to get it. Children who don't give up & find solutions to a problem, grow up to be amazing adults. Don't change! Also, don't forget to thank your teacher for supporting you!"

With that generous contribution, the Grade 1 teachers purchased 80 balls, 24 hopper balls, 12 badminton sets, flying disks, hula hoops, pom-poms, and more! (And we *still* have money left over.) But the learning didn't stop there.

A group of Grade 1 students gave up their recess sessions for a week to come up with rules, label toys, pump up equipment, and organize a storage container.

At last Thursday's Community Time session, the first-grade students celebrated all they had accomplished as a community. They signed a thank you note for their generous benefactor and enjoyed a HUGE play time. This week, the students began sharing the toys with the Grade 2 students who play on the Drama Court and every toy has made its way back to the classrooms for safekeeping.

It's taken us over 5 weeks to get to this point in time, but the student's sense of **empathy** and **collaborative agency** has inspired them to take **action**. Well done Grade 1... and a heartfelt thank you to our amazing patron! If you want to see some of the students' journey, you should [watch this video](#).

-Angela Langlands, Grade 1 Teacher

## **Fund Request 2 – Artificial Grass**

Request from: Wayne Derrick

Serves: all age groups.

Total Cost: 1980 OMR

Why? Safety in the playground... This could be a joint PTA/ Elementary Student Council project. This would make a huge difference for the students running and playing in this area. (especially football).

**500 OMR** will come from the Student Council.

**1480 OMR** requested from PTA

Approval from Simon Taylor and Kathleen Bowin. Joint use for all age groups

Should not heat up more than concrete but much softer.

Can be removed and reused as and where needed.

2 quotes received. 1980 OMR and 3750 OMR, still looking for a third quote with similar quality.

Work can be completed within one week.

### Fund Request 3 – Community Garden

Request from: Ian White

Serves: Entire Community

Cost: 225 OMR

1. Do you have an approved location for the garden?

**At the moment, there is unused space outside the science rooms/next to the Drama court.**

**After checking with the Superintendent, it looks like we can begin it there.**

**The idea is that is we will set it up in a series of large planters on wheels. This gives us the chance for it to be flexible in terms of arranging it and moving it. This also means it could be moved to the new campus if needed.**

2. We are moving next year, how will funds spent this year benefit the secondary when they move?

**As part of how we are planning it, this also means parts or all of it could be moved to the new campus if needed. The skills and experience that the students, teachers, and parents will take from this will hopefully translate into a second garden in the new campus.**

3. Do you have a quotation and gardener?

**Planters could possibly be built by Kumar (who is willing) and students, teacher, parents etc. I have not included a cost for construction yet, but could do if needed. Garden to be managed by eco groups, committee & school community**

4. How will children be involved in this garden?

**From the beginning - starting with an environmental audit that all the student eco groups are completing, to designing and engineering what the garden may end up looking like. For example, the eco rangers will do some field research at the botanical garden this month to learn about what native plants we could plant and how to take care of them. This will also be part of the long-term strategy for the environment and sustainability committee, with the idea it will form part of the outdoor community and classroom space for the school. In this way, we can also plan who takes care of it and when. The intention is that all the school community will have the opportunity to contribute to it in a meaningful way.**

5. Since filling in your fund request have you done the research necessary to get actual pricing for all the supplies you will need?

**Here is the link to the budget for raw materials. I do need these double-checked, as it is difficult getting reliable prices. However, the project is planned to be scalable so we can be flexible if we need to cut down on materials because of the cost!**

[Green Spaces Budget](#)

#### **Fund Request 4 - Games for Secondary Library**

Request from: Courtney Park                      Serves: all Secondary    Cost: 500 OMR

Why? A collection of board games, card games, etc. to be kept in the secondary library for students before and after school or during breaks. Teachers could also book to use them with classes in the library for special occasions or rewards.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BwyQ7IF4ZZycYi13OWJQLVBJcmxEUEdSeUNza21Xa3prd0w>  
[w](#)

These was a suggestion to initially get locally sourced games as a way to test if these will be well received by students before investing in games sourced outside the country.

One parent pointed out that local prices are more than double than those from outside the country, and it may make better financial sense to get some of these games from outside sources. It was a suggestion to find out from parents travelling from the US or the UK to bring back some of the games and use those to test interest. It would also be advisable to get a few games at a time.

**Resolution:** PTA will give 100 OMR to start with and test.

#### **Fund Request 5 – Misting Fans**

Request from: Cassi Agee                      Serves: Elementary                      Cost: approx. 500 OMR

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BwyQ7IF4ZZycUlprS2FrUGRaSjc5UmczanczU0dVREFHRXRJ>

This is not the first time this fund request has been put forward. In previous years it has been denied because the cons outweighed the pros. It was suggested that this will always be the case and it may be necessary to make a note to mention that misting fans will not be considered for future fund requests.

These were questions about an alternative to these Misting Fans, and if there is sufficient existing infrastructure to support these alternatives. Due to the cost; it will not be something the PTA can get done, but will assist in finding out how the problem can be properly alleviated.

Radikah – offered help with finding alternative options to the misting fans.

#### **Vote**

- Request 2 (Artificial Grass) – 31 votes
- Request 3 (Community Garden) – 24 votes

- Request 4 (Games for Sec Library) – 25 votes
- Request 5 (Misting Fans) – denied, further research will be done to find alternatives

## **Important Dates**

### **Open Meetings:**

Nov 5  
 Dec 3  
 Jan 14  
 Feb 11  
 Mar 11  
 Apr 8  
 May 13- Final Reports  
 May 27- PTA AGM

### **Tuesday Talks and Travels:**

Nov 27  
 Jan 29  
 Feb 19  
 Mar 26  
 Apr 30  
 May 28

### **Events:**

Nov 11-15- National day pop up  
 Nov 18- National day at school  
 Dec 2- Santa's workshop  
 Dec 6- Winter Fest  
 Feb 22- Flea Market  
 Mar 7- Spring Fest  
 April 24- Parent Art  
 April 26- Flea Market  
 May 23- Summer Fest  
 June 10- Teacher Appreciation

### **Next Open Meeting**

3 December 2018

**Meeting adjourned: 08:50**