



# [ABA PTA OPEN MEETING MINUTES]

[3 December 2018]

ABA Parent Teacher Association

Open Meeting Monday

3 December 2018

PTA Room

**Members Present:**

Jhonder Pacheco  
Sherna Cooper  
Reem Alshaikh  
Rebecca Mitchell  
Minita Sampat  
Jinane Helou  
marwa naeim  
Leena Bastaki  
Lamya Al Kiyumi  
Terry Dontis  
Michelle Doyle  
Svetlana Kyryanova  
Maria Eid

**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
Rund Fanek	Elementary Activities Coordinator
Alaa Mohamed Ali	Secondary New Parent Coordinator
Hiba Kamal	Secondary Secretary
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.*

## **ABA Faculty:**

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

Simon began his remarks by reminding parents of the Open Board Meeting coming up on the 4<sup>th</sup> December.

SDC (Strategic Development Committee) meeting was held the previous night and the main item on the agenda was the building project. Structural defects have caused a delay in the Project and an independent external engineer has been contracted to undertake a full review of the structure. The preliminary report was shared at the meeting which revealed that the sports complex was structurally sound and construction to that part of the School could possibly be completed by the beginning of the new year. The report on the main part of the building is yet to be received. There will also be discussions on the repairs needed for the building, as well as the negotiations with the current contractor. Simon is hopeful that these things will be addressed within the next two months and the project can continue.

Simon also shared that a road leading to the School will be built and construction will begin by the beginning of March.

Simon encouraged parents to read the newsletter and to sign up on social media.

### **Simon Walker – High School Principal**

Last week was the TOK presentation for parents which sought to explain why the Theory of Knowledge, a unique component of the IB DP, was so important.

Over the weekend, ABA Hosted DP students, Grade 12 student English oral exams and Computer Science assessments.

Grade 11 and 12 did their assessments. These are new Adaptive Assessments facilitated by Durham University; these assessments help to give the individual student profile as well as the cohort profile which is helpful to identify student needs and appropriate courses. The data will not be shared with parents this time around but looked at internally to assess if the information is useful and whether or not to use the Adaptive Assessments again.

Heads of departments are currently conducting “walk-throughs”. This means they are sitting in lessons and using the reflective learning principles to get feedback on lessons.

TEDx is on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December. It will be held in the Drama Court.

Simon encouraged parents to get their Winter Fest tickets

Grade 10 are working hard on their personal projects and presentations are next week.

January – mock exams for Grade 12 beginning on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Due to the eAssessments, there are more students taking exams this year, 75 students will be taking online exams in the gym during this period. The purpose for the Grade 10 exams is to get them accustomed to taking exams and getting them ready to sit exams and all that entails.

Lama brought a query from a Middle School parent about what to expect in High School as the Middle School kids transition to the higher grades. She asked if any orientation was scheduled. Simon assured that there will be orientation for these parents introducing them to the MYP program, assessments etc.

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

Kathleen began by thanking the PTA for the hard work and efforts put in for both the National Day celebrations and the Santa’s Workshop which included the 6<sup>th</sup> graders this year. Kathleen did ask for the PTA to consider including the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders because there was a lot of interest from other grades and they too would love the opportunity to shop for their loved ones.

Kathleen reported that the Grade 7 Adventure Oman went very well and the evaluations are still in process. And will be useful in improving the program for next year. The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade trip has had to be postponed due to renovations at the camp. It is a hope that the trip will be scheduled in the next few months while the weather is still cool. An update will be given the first week back from the Winter Break.

The scheduled Coffee Morning will be postponed to allow time for more questions to come in. it will be rescheduled for the first Wednesday after the break.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade have their Sports day on the 12<sup>th</sup> December; the Grade 10s organized the event. The student-led conferences were a great success.

Kathleen encouraged parents to consider moving from asking their children the content of their learning to asking about what they are learning and why they are learning that.

Simon remarked on Kathleen’s report by sharing from the accreditation visit he did two weeks ago. He shared that the school he visited had reflections of the local culture throughout the

school; artifacts, colors, furniture etc. Simon asked the PTA to consider using some of the funds to represent local Omani culture around the school.

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

Sam seconded that and noted that as a diverse community, we are brought together by the country we find ourselves in and this will be a good way to celebrate our host country.

Sam echoed Kathleen’s thanks to the PTA for both the National Day celebrations and the Santa’s Workshop. She mentioned that even some of the adults were happy with the visit from Santa.

Sam spoke about the evening Parent workshop held since the last Open Meeting. This workshop allowed parents to experience what it was like to be a learner in the PYP program. The focus was “how” we learn; in collaboration, conversation and problem solving. The workshop focused on Approaches to Learning, which is a common thread through the IB program. Sam thanked the parents that attended the workshop and highlighted that the World Economic Forum has ranked creativity third in the desirable skills in future employees.

Communication – Seesaw is popular among Elementary Parents and there has been good feedback regarding that method of communication. Sam still encouraged parents to read the Newsletter because it contains important information about the whole school.

The Elementary will be having 3 Sports days in the two weeks before Winter Break. PTA will be providing ice lollies and sliced oranges for the children during the Sports days.

The majority of class parties a scheduled for next week but Sam, assured parents that there will still be learning happening during the festivities. After the Winter Break, the teachers begin putting together report cards which will be out in February.

Sam encouraged parents to keep kids in school until the end of term. The learning that happens in school cannot be recreated and it is important to allow children to finish the term.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

Paula presented the Treasurer's report, noting a balance of 14,952.689 OMR as of December 1st, 2018

#### **The items that are yet to be Settled are (in Omani Rials)**

Mother Tongue Program:	100
Artificial Grass - Fund Request:	1480
Mobile Garden- Fund Request:	250

Initial income from the Winter Fest Bazaar is 200 OMR which is from the sale of 20 Tables.

A detailed report will be presented next Open Meeting.

### **Upcoming Events**

Winter Music Fest – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Lama reminded parents that vendor table registrations were still being accepted until Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> of December and gave some information as to what parents can look forward to during this exciting event – live music, unique hand-crafted gifts, Eid, Diwali and Christmas Grottos, entertainment for both parents and kids, treats and delicious foods.

Tuesday Talks and Travels

CPR Training scheduled for January, 5 spaces remain for this training. Signup is done at the Admin.

Wadi hike and picnic- details to be confirmed closer to the date.

### **Booster Club**

Michelle started by reviewing the activities the Booster Club has had over the past term and noted their success, thanking parents and the community for their continued support.

Michelle reported that the new MSL season 2 Vipers shirts have been handed out as well as the Elementary Vipers water bottles.

Next on the Booster Club calendar is on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December at the High School assembly. The High School kids that participated in MESAC S1 and S2 will receive their kits bags from the Booster Club. The final event of the year will be the Festive Season Pop-up Shop on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December.

Michelle ended her remarks by thanking parents for a great first term and wishing everyone a restful holiday.

Lama encouraged parents to get involved in Booster Club events they are great fun and build community spirit.

### **National Day**

A slide show of National day Photos and videos was presented. Lama reviewed the different activities that were scheduled throughout the School.

School parade, free Mufti, free Omani bread available throughout the day, class activities in the classrooms (ECE and Elementary), Omani buffet for staff all day; food was donated by Omani

parents, Students spelling “ABA OMAN” on the grass pitch, and Ahmad Al Harthy, the Omani racecar driver gave a very relevant and entertaining talk during the Middle School assembly.

A total of 200 OMR was spent in preparation for National Day with a profit of 121 OMR

### Santa’s Workshop

Paula and Nandita presented on the Santa’s Workshop. Paula reported that the kids were happy and really enjoyed shopping for gifts for friends and family. The children enjoyed taking pictures with Santa and even some kids from 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade were eager to take their pictures with Santa. It’s was beautiful to see the Christmas Spirit being kindled in the School. There was great demand for gifts this year, with a great variety. This was largely due to gifts being bought earlier in the year, taking advantage of the various sales.

Unfortunately, by the time the last few classes came to shop, the gifts were depleted. In the past students had a limit to the number of gifts they could buy, but this year this cap was not put in place which resulted in gifts running out by the end of the morning. This problem was sorted out, however, as 150 more gifts were bought to cover the classes that found a shortage of gifts.

Approximate expenditure was 431 OMR and profit was approximately 910 OMR. Which was excellent!

The Shop sold out.

Lama thanked Paula and Nandita and presented them with gifts for organizing the Santa’s Workshop.

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

Lama thanked attendees and closed the meeting.

Next Open meeting: January 14th 7.40 am.