

Minutes

<u>Meeting:</u>	School Consultative Group
<u>Date and Time:</u>	3 rd March 2010
<u>Venue:</u>	Staff Room
<u>Attended by:</u>	Jeannette Verspui, John Todd, Pauline Markey, Hilary Oldham, Jan Leeman, Renu Ballantine, Jill Chomowicz, Deon Ellis
<u>Apologies:</u>	Julian Cottenden
<u>Minutes Taken by:</u>	Hilary Oldham

1. **Opening of the meeting by the Chair.**

John explained that Julian has returned to the UK for medical treatment for a progressive medical condition which has recently worsened. John is now based in Rayyan. There are plans in place to inform and counsel the students if Julian is unable to return to his post.

New member Jill Chomowicz introduced herself and was welcomed to the committee.

Minutes of last meeting agreed.

2. **Al Rayyan Campus News**

There are some positive steps made in the right direction, but it is too early to make it public. The school management has been advised to resubmit their plans and will do so next week. Initially there will be a new block to provide more secondary accommodation (including laboratories), a sport hall and some primary classrooms. The adjacent plot will be grassed. The aim is to have the new building ready for September but offers of places will not be made at this stage. John is not yet ready to make a public announcement about progress at Rayyan.

3. **Head Teacher's Report**

See attached report. Parents continue to be concerned about target setting and assessment. John re-emphasised that high-achieving students are being appropriately challenged by teachers. Assessment for learning takes place termly and enables the teacher to take the appropriate action for each child. In the final term of the year, standardised testing takes place and the results are indicated in the end of year report. Standardised testing enables the parent to see their child's level of attainment relative to other children of the same age worldwide. Reports now include the learning targets and indicate whether the child is beginning, developing or mastering these skills. Parents are informed of their child's level of performance both in the written reports and in the personal consultation.

This term parents are invited to see their child's Presentation of Learning and the school's Open Door policy means that parents may talk to their child's teacher, by appointment, should the need arise. Parents thus have ample opportunity to discuss their child's progress with the teacher.

Jill felt that there was a perception amongst some parents that higher-achieving students are not being pushed enough and also a perception that Compass is a last option school for students who cannot find places elsewhere. The school is performing well but needs to convince the parents of this. This week, Ann McPhee, Director of Learning for WCL, is in school carrying out a termly "quality control" check. John will arrange for a brief meeting to take place tomorrow between Ann McPhee and Jeannette and Deon. John will also write a letter to parents linked to the Development Plan and Review Report of April 2009.

4. School Report Card 2008 - 2009

Jill explained why the parent members of the SCG wanted to look at this because it is a means for parents to compare schools. John did not think that prospective parents are aware of or consult this document.

The view of the SCG parent members about this report was stated in a separate note of Jeannette. It states positive aspects and aspects which possibly needs improvement. Overall Compass' results are very positive. John's report about the School Report Card states in general the same positives and issues to consider.

The consultation for the new report will take place in the next 2 weeks. There are some issues with the way the consultation takes place. Children under 5 years old will not be included, John will not see the questionnaire beforehand, the questionnaire is not accessible to EAL children and to those unable to read. Last year's report stated that the school had left some questions unanswered when this was not the case. There were factual errors and there was no indication of how many parents had returned a completed survey.

While there are issues over the way in which this consultation takes place, it was acknowledged that in the future the School Report Card may come to have more influence with prospective parents and Compass should work to maintain its current good record.

One aspect which could need improvement is the 'proportion of students indicating that they enjoy learning Arabic'. This has already been noticed by the school management and some changes have already been made from September onwards. Further improvement is in process. The survey suggested some dissatisfaction with ECAs and Renu suggested that a questionnaire be sent to parents towards the end of the school year help the school decide if improvements can be made next year. The school acknowledges that the choice of ECAs is restricted for all Dutch students in MP2 and MP3 who have extra classes twice a week. This term, EY1 children have not been part of the ECA programme and EY2 children have been limited to one ECA per week – this was done due to their age and the length of the school day. This has meant that more children have been able to find a place on their first choice activity.

John was recently at a WCL conference which encouraged thinking about what the company's schools do well. We need to move forward on this and to pass the results on to parents. With this in mind, John will write to parents within the next 2 weeks with an update on the School Development Plan.

Action John – letter to parents emphasising the positive aspects of the School Development Plan and the response to last year's School Review.

5. From Parent Representatives:

a. School reports: can all test results be put in the school report? (Deon)

This was answered under item 3. Test results are included in end of year school reports.

b. Rayyan campus: if there is no new building in September 2010, how do two new Year 7 classes fit in the existing building? (Deon)

This was answered under item 2.

c. Is there a stop on taking new students in? (Deon)

Places are currently being offered to new students in EY1 only. This was also addressed under item 2.

6. From Compass Representatives:

Pauline returned on Monday from a training conference in Portugal. See attached report on Learning at Gharaffa.

7. Next meeting

Tuesday 4th May.

Meeting closed at 20.00

Hilary Oldham

3rd March 2010