



LEARNING WELL, ENJOYING LIFE, EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

SCHOOL CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING HELD ON 6 December 2011 AT MADINAT KHALIFA CAMPUS

Present: Jeannette Verspui, Marietjie Engelbrecht (ME), Elize Rudolph (ER), Nicky Taylor(NT), John Todd, Pauline Markey, Donna Brackstone-Drake, Liz Holloway.
Minutes: Ingy Shaker

Jeannette opened the meeting at 6.00 PM

1. Opening – minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.
2. Introduction of three new parent members:
 - a. Marietjie, Elize and Nicky introduced themselves
 - b. John Todd will take new members on Monday 12th December 2011, at 7:45 am to Madinat Campus to get to know about the school.
 - c. It was agreed to hold a social event for SCG in January 2012 and formally thank Jill and Deon
3. Making a year plan and selecting topics to be discussed:
 - The items should come from the school improvement plan.
 - JT, DB, and PM will set most relevant item better to discuss and will propose topics for future meetings. They will consider which topics the input from parent members is most valid / useful. This selection will be sent out together with sending out the minutes.
 - Update the Arabic improvement plan in the next SCG meeting January 2012
 - Brief update on the Arabic improvement plan of January 2011
P.M: Arabic teaching is different in Qatar so we improved Arabic teaching and tried to change the way of teaching, using coordination between Arabic department, sending teachers to training workshops. This year, first and second language speakers have been split into different classes. This system is monitored and we will review at the end of term what benefit it has had. We have to implement the SEC's standards and scheme of work. The structure of teaching has changed as the native Arabic speakers are asked to achieve higher level rather than non-Arabic speakers, and a similar watch is kept on Islamic studies. The students will be always revising what they learned.
 - JV: students are not capable to speak Arabic although they are good at singing songs in Arabic. Students are enjoying French more. JT: Wait to get a detailed feedback on January.
 - Communications (NT):
 - JV: can we get printed letters also by email?

Compass International School Doha

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- JT: we are trying to manage sending SMS's to parents; we are handling this issue now with Qtel.
 - PM: we can ask the parents if they would like to receive newsletters by mail.
 - JT: 99% of events will be around the parent calendar, and parents to be informed one week ahead.

 - NT: Very positive about all ECAs, and how do they select students for matches?
 - JT: we will be selecting students for each team or match, this is done by the PE staff. We'll look again at the timings for sending out letters
 - NT: is there coordination between Music and PE-teachers on both campuses?
 - JT: Music and PE-teachers are coordinating between each other at both campuses. Music at Compass: we have a choir, music at assemblies and a music school is used as well to improve student skills in Music.

 - JV: Long term planning secondary. Letter of 20 October 2011 about postponing IB Programme, What is the new Plan?
 - JT: We are awaiting feedback from the school board. Once we get the approval we are going to announce it. In the meantime teachers are still getting training to start teaching IB and the school is an IBDP Candidate School.
4. Head of school's report about recent school developments:
- PM: will show the new members around the Rayyan Campus on Thursday 15th December 2011.
 - JT: Are any of the new parents happy to start helping stamping books in the library.
5. Reports of Pauline and Donna
- PM: in every lesson we are assessing students and teachers don't do testing – standardize testing is once a year, but it's not an exam it's all about skills.
6. a. (ME): About the use of the Parent Portal? JT: SMS will help in order to ease communication between parents and school even during summer.
7. b. Secondary trips, when? Where? Presentation?
- Secondary ski trip could be moved to April and will be to Italy instead of Turkey due to an insurance issue.
 - ME: the school trips should be announced as early as they can to be able to plan for vacations.
 - JT: we can't put trips as compulsory. Trips are sometimes expensive but this is due to a range of factors including flights.
- c. Traffic at both campuses (ER):
- ER: At Gharaffa the traffic is very bad, cars park in the road and it is the drivers fault. So she asked if they can just try to do a line where cars can stand in and wait for students. Also to ask a policeman to come and visit sometime.
 - JT: we'll see what we can do about it, probably ask parents if they can use both gates.

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- JV: At Madinat: would it be possible to make the street one way or ask parents to use it as a one-way?
- JT: Street is public. We can ask parents to use the street as one way street. We send out a letter.
- d. NT: School photos are fantastic but very expensive, that's why most of the parents are not buying them
- PM: 5 schools were selected to try this service so parents need to meet with them and discuss. Let's see if we can find a way and we'll let parents know. We'll feed back to the company, but almost 50% of families have purchased photos.

The meeting closed at 7:20 pm.

Next meeting: January 17th , 2012 Gharaffa Campus at 5:30pm.

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