



ABU DHABI

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Monday 29th November 2021

Zoom Webinar

The Hon. Secretary, Ms Reema Traynor, welcomed all in attendance at the British School Al Khubairat's Annual General Meeting for 2021. Due to the restrictions in place resulting from the continued COVID-19 pandemic, the decision has been taken by the Board to hold the AGM online once again via Zoom Webinar. It was the hope that the usual face to face AGM format would return in 2022.

The Hon Secretary continued that, due to there being 104 registrations for the AGM, the meeting was not quorate and would therefore dissolve for a short period of approximately 15 minutes. During that time, the Head Boy and Head Girl of Secondary, Aman Fazil and Izzie Darling, would give short video talks on what it meant to be a BSAK student.

Following expiry of the requisite time period, the meeting reconvened and was declared quorate under Paragraph 6 III (ii) of the Constitution.

Ms Traynor continued by relaying a short housekeeping message. For all attendees this evening whether BSAK Parents or not, mics would be muted, and videos switched off throughout. The chat function was also disabled. The vote for Parent Elected Governors would be done by a poll, and voting would be anonymous as in previous face to face AGMs.

The Hon. Secretary informed the attendees that she was joined on the webinar panel by her fellow Governors and the Headmaster

1. Adopt the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2020

The Hon. Secretary asked for the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2020, which had been posted on the School's website and parent portal from the 7th of November 2021, to be adopted by the meeting attendees using the 'raise hands' function on the Zoom Webinar.

No objections were noted from all present and the Hon. Secretary declared them approved.

Proposed: Kellie Kiernan

Seconded: Marc Fooks

Following the adoption of the Minutes, the Hon. Secretary introduced Mr Sean Magee, the Board Chair.

2. Introduction from the Chair – Mr Sean Magee

Good evening BSAK Community,

On behalf of the Board of Governors I would like to formally welcome you to the 2021 Annual General Meeting of The British School Al Khubairat.

I hope that your children are enjoying their time at BSAK and progressing well in their education here.

The School is starting to return to a more normal means of operation. Restrictions remain, but in recent weeks, we have seen additional sporting, cultural and extra-curricular activities return. We hope that further progress can be made in the months ahead.

As we emerge from the pandemic, there is much to feel positive about. The Headmaster will outline recent achievements at the School in his report to follow. Please also refer to the Governor's Annual Report for the 2020-21 Academic Year, which will be distributed to you all after the AGM. The Board continues to work proactively with the School to facilitate continued development, of which you will hear more in the weeks ahead.

I wish to make the following acknowledgements;

To our Staff and Leadership Team – We are blessed with a dedicated and talented teaching and operational staff at BSAK. The passion you put into your work inspires our children to greater development and we are grateful for all that you do. I thank our Headmaster Mark Leppard for his exceptional leadership, dedication and vision for the School.

To our Parents – We thank you for your continued support of BSAK. Ours is an excellent school, committed to supporting your child in their educational journey, their development and wellbeing. We encourage parents to communicate with the School, to provide feedback both positive and negative. This encourages our Staff in their successes and where there is room for improvement, provides much needed visibility to the School, who can assess, adapt and improve where possible.

ADEK – We thank ADEK for its support and guidance through a turbulent time in the pandemic and will continue to invest in and renew our strong working relationship to support all BSAK activities.

Sponsors – We thank His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, our School's sponsor, and the ruling family of Abu Dhabi for their continued support of our School. BSAK was originally established in 1968 on land which the late President His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan generously donated and the School was registered by way of His Highness' Emiri Decree in 1971 which amongst other things donates land to the School in perpetuity.

We thank Her Majesty's Ambassador and the British Embassy with which BSAK has a long association. The Ambassador is the School's Patron and BSAK is now an officially recognised Embassy school which greatly supports our operations.

To my peers on the Board of Governors I thank them for their time volunteered to support the School. This evening we have 2 positions to fill on the board – of which more later.

With that, I thank you for joining us this evening and again thank you for supporting BSAK.

3. Report from the Hon. Treasurer

The Hon. Secretary advised the meeting attendees that the Honorary Treasurer's Report and Audited Financial Statements had been posted on the School website and parent portal for review since Thursday the 18th of November 2021. As the AGM was being held virtually this year, any queries on the Treasurers Report and Audited Financial Statement had been requested in advance. The Hon. Secretary confirmed that no queries on the Honorary Treasurer's Report or Audited Financial Statements had been raised.

The Hon. Secretary proceeded to ask those present to consider and vote on the following resolutions by using the 'raise hands' function on the Zoom Webinar:

1. "That the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2021 be approved and published"

It was noted that nobody opposed the motion, it was passed unanimously.

Proposed: Tracy de Ridder

Seconded: Angela Blake

2. "That the auditors KPMG be appointed as the School auditors for the academic year ending 31st August 2022".

It was noted that nobody opposed the motion, it was passed unanimously.

Proposed: Mutas Zeidan

Seconded: Gareth Jones

4. Ballot for Parent Elected Governors

The Hon. Secretary explained that there were 2 vacancies for Parent Elected Governors this year and 6 candidates putting themselves forward for the roles. Each candidate introduced themselves in a short video:-

- Seth Amofo
- Sam Carter
- Marc Fooks
- Faisal Raja
- Basheer Tharayil
- Martin Weeks

The Hon. Secretary thanked the candidates for their video submissions and explained that a Poll would shortly be launched to allow the parents in attendance to vote for their preferred candidates.

She reminded the meeting attendees that only BSAK parents could vote for Candidates and asked that any attendees who were not parents at the School to refrain from voting. Each parent could only vote for a maximum of 2 candidates as that was how many vacancies there were on the Board.

The Poll was launched and closed after 30 seconds. Whilst the votes were being ratified by the Clerk, the Hon. Secretary introduced the Headmaster, Mr Mark Leppard, for his report.

5. Report from the Head – Mark Leppard MBE

Good evening BSAK Community and welcome to the School's AGM.

As well as a constitutional necessity, we all believe that it is important to have this opportunity to meet face-to-face. In the UK, it is no longer mandated but we firmly believe in the importance of offering such an opportunity. Unfortunately, once again, being in the same room this year is just not possible. The easy thing to have done would be to simply circulate the Annual Report but as a Board and School we wholeheartedly believe we should still hold a live AGM as it is important to us all. The more our Community is involved in the School, the better we all understand one another, and we can work together to ensure we provide our Students with the very best opportunities we can. Nothing else, and I genuinely mean nothing else, is acceptable.

At this point, it is important to acknowledge my Senior Leadership Team who support me as Headmaster to ensure that we deliver a successful academic program and that the non-academic areas also support this.

Heads of Schools; Elaine Rawlings & Teresa Woulfe,

Deputy Heads; John Foster, Nigel Davis, Pete Collings & Ellie Edgar,

Assistant Heads; Jo Bailey, Charlotte McDowell, Sam Walter, Nichola Cooper, Alistair Thompson, Gareth Jones & Rafeef Kadhum.

I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank this amazing team for their dedication and hard work that they demonstrate on a daily basis to ensure our holistic education provision is nothing but outstanding. Their selfless commitment through the pandemic and returning the School to close to normal has been phenomenal.

I also want to acknowledge and thank our Board of Governors under the leadership of Chair, Sean Magee. They play a role of critical friend and I never feel unsupported. Their focus is clear – are we doing the very best for each BSAK child. This in fact is the focus throughout the School.

The 2020/21 Academic Year was extremely challenging, and I hope I have managed to capture it in my contribution to the Annual Report. Despite the global pandemic I believe, even with all the challenges faced, it was still a very successful year. Writing a speech for tonight was an opportunity to reflect on the year and celebrate all we have achieved and also challenge ourselves to see if we can do things even better. There is a great deal to be extremely proud of at BSAK for the 2020/21 Academic Year and it is important, particularly when we are faced with so many changes in parameters, that we do reflect on the many positives that sometimes we may have forgotten.

BSAK is an exceptional School that offers a first-class holistic education. The cornerstone of this holistic education is our academic provision. Despite the many disruptions, our academic outcomes were once again first-class throughout the entire school. I'd now like to share with you a high-level summary of Students' achievements academically. I deliberately stated high level as in the School we have the tools and expertise to drill down from the Key Stage data through year and class groups down to individual students. The ability to do this means we can be proactive rather than reactive and also approach each child's academic provision on an individual basis. I'd like to point out that all our data from Key Stage 1 through to Year 13 is triangulated using internal teacher assessment as well as extensive external tools that are UK nationally standardised. These are also the systems ADEK use in their inspections, and we share all of our data with them.

Key Stage 1 data highlights our superb foundation and very little impact from the hybrid learning journey. The picture in Key Stage 2 is very positive and shows a consistent picture over the past 3 years. There was a dip in practical subjects such as Science in 2020 which we think was mainly due to a lack of access, but this has recovered in 2021. However, overall, at the 'Meeting' 3 and above and 4 and above, we are in a strong

position compared to all schools in the UK and when I say all schools, this includes both state and independent schools. Key Stage 3 paints an equally positive picture with 94% of our cohort meeting 4 and above compared to 75% in the UK and 35% attaining 7 and above compared to 25% in the UK.

Last year's GCSE and A-Level situation was extremely challenging with another change in how grades were generated. However, I believe that the rigorous process the School created ensured every student achieved a fair and reflective set of exam results. We did have a handful of appeals although less than years when students physically sit exams but only a handful of grades were changed again, less than when students sat exams showing our internal assessment process was exceptionally strong and rigorous. Pre covid, our results were predicted to be up on the previous years, and we see uplifts across the board. In the UK, there were improved results as well, but our results can stand against anyone with 66% at GCSE 7 and above compared to 28% in the UK and 99% at GCSE 4 and above compared to the UK figure of 77%. BSAK's GCSE students have clearly performed exceptionally well.

Our A-Level success is also impressive with 23% of grades A*, 49% A*A, 75% A*B and 91% A*C compared to 19%, 44%, 65% and 87% in the UK. Our BTEC results were outstanding for another year, and it is important to point out that BTEC Assessment was not impacted by Covid. 76% of BTEC results were Distinction* equivalent to A* and 100% were Distinction or above, equivalent to an A or above.

I think it is vitally important to remember that the methods used to assess due to the pandemic were none of the students' choosing and despite the lack of exams, their performance over 2 years of GCSE or A Level is something should all be very proud of. I want to thank all of the BSAK team for their dedicated support from our support staff to our inspirational teachers for these exceptional results. I think you know me well enough by now that we will not stand still but will continue to raise expectations and see improvements in the future.

After BSAK, we have another positive picture with our student destinations. To summarise this, BSAK ensures doors are open for pathways our ambitious and talented students wish to follow, wherever they want to go in the world.

Unfortunately, our co-curricular enrichment programme has been severely impacted and last year, little face to face activities took place. However, we did offer online activities and I am delighted to see activities slowly returning to normal with a closer to full programme next term.

Last year we managed to bring 100% of the students back to school on a daily basis and in a recent global survey of 70 British international schools, we were one of only 3 who lost zero teaching days due to covid. Despite the pandemic, we've continued to drive our wellbeing agenda. We were the first school outside of the UK to achieve the Carnegie Gold Mental Health Award and on top of this we've developed a BSAK wellbeing vision which we will share with you in the new year.

We have supported a number of families to keep their children at BSAK and we have managed to safely keep all students in school with minimum closures. None of this happens by accident but can only take place with the most committed staff. I feel we are fortunate to have these quality individuals at BSAK, both on the teaching and the support sides of the School and I want to personally thank the BSAK team for their commitment, dedication and passion which ensures our students receive the highest quality education we can provide.

As you may have noticed looking at our accounts, over the past few years we have built up a healthy financial reserve. As a not-for-profit school it is important that we regularly make a surplus. This allows the School to invest in the education provision we offer be that through additional staff or improved facilities. In the 50th year of the UAE I am delighted to announce that in the coming days we will be commencing work on a fifth phase of the School which will be a Science and Innovation Centre. There is a significant positive impact of this year long project as it will lead to not only 30 new state of the art science classrooms but also improved

Sixth Form facilities, further upgraded classrooms, additional office space and upgraded sports facilities. This is wonderful news that we wanted to share. Our Governors, Senior Leadership Team and certain key staff have been working hard for the past 18 months to get to this exciting point of the construction programme. More details will follow in the new year.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank you as parents for your continued support. I also want to thank and acknowledge the British Embassy, particularly the Ambassador, His Excellency Patrick Moody and Deputy Ambassador, Sophia Brecknell for their support of BSAK as the only British Embassy school in the UAE. Thank you to our Board of Governors who are all voluntary. Thank you to our Students whose sunny presence lights up BSAK on a daily basis.

I am extremely proud to be the Headmaster of BSAK. I smile every day as I am surrounded by supportive colleagues and parents as well as inspiration students. BSAK really is an amazing school that allows us all to access the BSAK experience and hopefully exceed expectations.

Thank you for listening and genuinely thank you for your continued support.

6. Result of Ballot

The Honorary Secretary once again thanked the 6 candidates for standing and confirmed that Seth Amofo and Faisal Raja had been successfully appointed as Parent Elected Governors and passed on her congratulations to them both.

7. Any Other Business

The Hon. Secretary advised that no resolutions or formal motions had been submitted. However, due to the AGM being held online this year, attendees had been given the opportunity to raise questions with the Board & the Headmaster in advance. Ms Traynor confirmed that no questions had been raised.

The Hon. Secretary thanked everyone for attending and for their participation in the School community. The AGM for 2021 was declared closed at 8:10pm.