



ABU DHABI

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022**  
**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022**  
**Secondary Auditorium**

Ms Maheen Pfeffer welcomed all in attendance at the British School Al Khubairat's Annual General Meeting for 2022, her first AGM as Honorary Secretary and the first in-person AGM since 2019. The Hon. Secretary acknowledged her fellow Governors, Headmaster and Director of Finance and Operations who were also present at the top table.

The Hon. Secretary continued that, due to there being 65 registrations for the AGM, the meeting was not quorate as it did not have the required 20% of parental attendance and would therefore dissolve for a short period of approximately 30 minutes. During that time, the Head Boy and Head Girl of Secondary, Vinuth Ratnayake and Reem Al Ahbabi, gave short video talks on what it meant to be a BSAK student. Thereafter, Mr Leppard led the School's Vision Roundtable with the AGM attendees.

The Hon. Secretary thanked the Head Boy and Head Girl for their enlightening speeches and all attendees present for their participation in the School's Vision Roundtable. The Hon. Secretary also confirmed that, following expiry of the requisite time period, the meeting was declared quorate under Paragraph 6 III (ii) of the Constitution and the Agenda items could therefore commence.

**1. Adopt the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2021**

The Hon. Secretary asked for the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2021, which had been posted on the School's website and parent portal from Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2022, to be adopted.

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

**Proposed: Elaine Rawlings**

**Seconded: Zaheer Nasser**

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 2022 Annual General Meeting of The British School Al Khubairat and it's great to once again invite you into the school in person.

As we approach 2023, we have plenty to be positive about. Our busy school is fully operating, with classroom restrictions lifted and extra-curricular activities available to allow students the chance to pursue their passions, whether sporting, academic, dramatic, musical or other.

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

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 2021-22 Academic Year, which will be distributed to you all after the AGM.

The Board continues to work proactively with the School to ensure resources are in place to allow the School to continually improve. We greatly look forward to opening the Science & Innovation Building next year to

provide your children with a platform to learn and experiment. This exciting project has been a great focus of the Board in the past few years and to see the building take form and become reality has definitely been the highlight of my tenure as Chair. When complete, the Science & Innovation Building will provide state of the art facilities for our Students to greatly enhance the provision and delivery of STEM subjects in the curriculum. Furthermore, the space created by the vacated classrooms will allow a much-needed refresh and upgrade of current facilities in areas such as the Sixth Form.

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 the ruling family of Abu Dhabi for their continued support and sponsorship of our School and would like to acknowledge the sad passing of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. 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 His Majesty's Ambassador and the British Embassy with which BSAK has a long association. The Ambassador is the School's Patron and BSAK is 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 5 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.

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The Hon. Treasurer thanked the Chair for his speech.

### 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 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2022. The Hon. Secretary advised that The Hon. Treasurer, Headmaster and Director of Finance and Operations were available to answer any questions on the Report and the Financial Statements. After confirming there were no questions, The Hon. Secretary asked those present to consider and vote on the following resolutions:

1. "That the audited financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 be approved and published"

A resolution of the meeting that the audited finance statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 are approved and hereby published.

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

**Proposed: Andrew Smith**  
**Seconded: Zaheer Nasser**

2. "That the auditors KPMG be appointed as the School auditors for the academic year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023".

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

**Proposed: Francis Field**  
**Seconded: Lois Magee**

### 4. Ballot for Parent Elected Governors

The Hon. Secretary explained that there were 5 vacancies for Parent Elected Governors this year and 5 candidates putting themselves forward for the roles. Each candidate introduced themselves in turn with a 3 minute speech. As Muhammad Amin was unavailable to attend the meeting in person, he had submitted a prerecorded speech:-

- Muhammad Amin
- Vincent Gordon
- Nicolas Heard
- Sara Shurrab
- Philippa Wraithmell

The Hon. Secretary thanked the candidates for their speeches and requested that the Parents in attendance complete their ballot paper by voting for up to 5 candidates. She also reminded the Parents that they had to have signed the register to confirm attendance at the AGM in order for their vote to be valid.

Completed ballot papers were collected by the Head Boy/Girl and would be counted by the Clerk prior to the results being announced at the end of the meeting.

Whilst the votes were being ratified, 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 AGM.

As well as a constitutional necessity, we all believe that it is important to have this opportunity to meet face to face and after two years of this evening being online, we are delighted to get back to this format.

The more our community is involved in the School, the better we all understand one another and can work together to ensure we provide our students with the very best opportunities we can. This must always be our primary focus.

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

**Heads of Schools;** Elaine Rawlings, Nigel Davis

**Deputy Heads;** John Foster, Gareth Jones, Pete Collings, Ellie Edgar,

**Assistant Heads;** Charlotte McDowell, Sam Walter, Nichola Cooper, Steve Oakes, Rafeef Kadhum, Jeff Payne and Mike Byrne.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank this amazing team for their dedication and hard work that they continuously demonstrate to ensure our holistic education provision is nothing but exceptional. Their selfless commitment through the pandemic and returning the school to normal, has been phenomenal. Exhausting but phenomenal.

I also want to acknowledge and thank our Board of Governors under the Leadership of the Chair, Sean Magee. They play the role of critical friend and I never feel unsupported. Their focus is always crystal clear: Are we doing the very best for each BSAK child? This in fact is our focus throughout the school, but important to come from the top.

The 2021-22 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 of the challenges faced, it was a very successful year.

Writing my speech for tonight was an opportunity to reflect on the year, celebrate what we have achieved but also challenge ourselves to see if we could do things even better. There is a great deal to be extremely proud of at BSAK and it is important that we do reflect on the many positives that may be forgotten.

At this stage I think it is important to reflect upon the achievements of the previous year and with the global pandemic I think this is vital as we often forget our achievements when we are in the thick of such a challenge.

BSAK is an exceptional school that offers a first class holistic education. The cornerstones of this holistic education is our academic provision. Despite the disruptions in term 3 our academic outcomes were once again first class throughout the school. I'd now like to share with you a high level summary of our students' academic achievements. I deliberately stated high level as in 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 education on an individual basis.

I must point out that all of our data from KS1 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 the data with them. KS1 data highlights a superb foundation and shows very little impact from a hybrid learning journey over the past two years.

The picture in KS2 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 mainly due to a lack of access, but this has been recovered in 2021.

However, overall at the meeting 3 and above and 4 and above we are in a very strong position compared to all schools in the UK, which includes both state and Independent schools.

Key Stage 3 paints an equally positive picture with 94% of our cohort meeting 4 or above compared to 75% in the UK and 35% attaining 7 and above compared to 25% in the UK.

Last year's GCSE results were exceptional whichever lens you look through. Raw outcomes were superb putting the school on a par with UK Independent and selective schools. These are especially pleasing as they were the first in person public exams the cohort had sat. If we view from a value added perspective, our outcomes on average show the BSAK experience lifts actual grade outcome by over a full grade compared to external predicted outcomes.

Our A level outcomes in general were also impressive although slightly lower than hoped at the A\* grade. This being said, the grades overall were very strong and again the value added analysis shows BSAK students achieved over half a grade higher than external predicted outcomes.

BTEC results once again were sensational with 100% of students achieving at least two A grades if not higher.

EPQ, a further pathway for 6th Form, also produced exceptional grades resulting in lower offers being made to students by many UK universities.

This leads me on to student destinations after A levels. Again, another very positive picture when the feeling was that university places may have been harder to obtain. Basically a BSAK education ensures doors beyond BSAK are open for all pathways for our ambitious students. This is seen through a global perspective, not just UK pathways.

It was wonderful to see our unique and extensive co curricular programme returning. It initially started with small steps as we came out of the pandemic, but now we have 170 co curricular opportunities across the entire school from before school, at lunchtimes and after school and weekends. These opportunities have built on the pre pandemic programme with an even greater academic enrichment programme allowing students to follow this passion beyond the classroom.

Our new state of the art Science and Innovation centre commenced and will be completed next term. This caused some disruptions to current facilities, particularly for our sports provision, but the end result will have a multitude of benefits including science provision, enhanced sports facilities, revamped classrooms, office space, prayer rooms and increased 6th form facilities. Exciting times ahead.

BSAK continues to develop its wellbeing programme for all of its Community. As well as a greater focus through lessons, we have successfully hosted parental workshops and it is a regular item to be discussed at Board and Leadership meetings.

Part of this wellbeing programme includes financial support for families critically impacted through job losses. During the pandemic BSAK introduced a means tested Bursaries scheme and we are delighted this is to remain beyond the pandemic to support individual families through tough times. This is another example of the schools focus upon our Community.

All of these things do not happen by chance. They are a result of the synergy between all parts of our Community and I want to conclude by acknowledging them.

All in all a successful year and I think this is never easy to capture in words, so I would like to share this brief video with you. I hope it gives you an even better understanding of the frequently mentioned BSAK experience.

Thank you to you as parents, for putting your faith in the school and for supporting the journey we have embarked upon.

I want to thank the British Embassy, particularly the Ambassador, His Excellency Patrick Moody and Deputy Ambassador Sophia Brecknell for the amazing support of BSAK, as the only British Embassy school in the UAE.

Our Governors deserve acknowledgement and praise. A voluntary body who give hours to ensure BSAK is the beacon of education recognised locally, regionally and internationally.

Thank you to our brilliant staff who guide, motivate and inspire students daily be that in the classroom or elsewhere within BSAK.

Finally, thank you to our students. Their enthusiasm, thirst for knowledge and openness to learn is just palpable.

Thank you for listening and for your continued support. I am genuinely so proud to be the Headmaster of BSAK, this brilliant school.

#### **6. Result of Ballot**

The Honorary Secretary once again thanked the candidates for standing and confirmed that all 5 candidates had been successfully appointed as Parent Elected Governors and passed on her congratulations to them all.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

The Hon. Secretary advised that no resolutions or formal motions had been put forward and therefore no further voting had to take place. She then opened up the floor to any other business.

**As no further items were raised, the Hon. Secretary thanked everyone for attending and for their continued support and participation in the BSAK Community. The AGM for 2022 was declared closed at 8:30pm.**