

**THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL**
Minutes of the Monthly Board of Directors Meeting
August 16, 2009 at 17h00, ACS Library

Members Present:

Mr. Darryl Robinson, President
Mr. Azad Keval, Vice-President
Mr. Hossam El-Shaffei, Treasurer
Mrs. Susan Razzaz, Prsonnel Chairperson
Mr. Mark Lewis, , Secretary
Mr. Ali Lejlic, Member
Mr. Joseph Hanania, Member

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member:

Others Present:

Mr. Larry McIlvain, Superintendent
Mr. Steve Mancuso, Middle/High School Principal
Ms. Diana O'Leary, Elementary School Principal
Mrs. Diana Rihani, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Hamdi Hamdi, Business Manager

Absent:

Ms. Sandra R. Smith, Ambassador's Representative

17h00min

Parents Open Forum – Mr. Robinson welcomed everyone present to the Board meeting, to the new school year, new School Board and a new Superintendent.

Mr. Robinson briefed those present what the parent open forum was about and asked if there was anything the parents wanted to share.

Parents present asked about the following issues that concern them:

Mrs. Dawn Helbig asked about the enrollment of the school and the Board's vision on the enrollment of the school. Her view of the school that it is primarily a diplomatic school, where the American Embassy employee's children attend. She was asking about the Board's future plans in regards to the American Embassy children whose parents get informed last minute about their post to Jordan and the possibility of not having a place.

Mrs. Gia Hinman had a concern about the school buses. She said that the new bus the school purchased was a replacement of an old one and if there were seats for every student registered for the bus.

Mr. McNamara suggested that the issues that are brought up during the open session be answered before the next board meeting.

Mr. Robinson said that the feedback to the issues brought to the Board will be answered before the next Board meeting. He added that he has met with Mr. McIlvain concerning the agenda which in the future will be posted on the website. They proposed a committee to look at the Bylaws and the demographic of the school, and Board membership seat expansion to represent the third division. (American, Jordanian, and other)

Mr. McIlvain said that he appreciated all the issue brought to the meeting. The vision that Mrs. Helbig brought up is the biggest issue on the Administration and Board's plate. There is no set answer. He has met with Mrs. Bea Cameron from the State Department and talked about the embassy's expansion and its impact on the school

Mr. Mcilvain also affirmed that there will be no student on the buses without a seat built. ACS is getting a new bus soon.

He also added that he met with the IT group at school and they are looking at the website and how to improve it and how to better communicate with parents.

Mrs. Tania Khreino asked about the future of ACS and EMAC.

Mr. McIlvain said ACS is a founding member of the Eastern Mediterranean Activities Conference. The conference is comprised of about 16 schools in the region that participate and compete in a range of athletic, fine and performing art events. Last year three schools; ACS Abu Dhabi, ACS Dubai, and ACS Doha informed EMAC that they would be withdrawing from the league to form their own league with three other schools of similar size. They will withdraw at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. This year's planned events will remain the same.

EMAC will continue without the three schools.

There has been a great deal of discussion with the remaining schools as to what EMAC will "look like" when these schools withdraw at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. As we look to the future, all of the remaining schools, and a few possible additions, are committed to continuing with the high quality and various activities offered in the past.

Mr. Robinson thanked those present for their comments and said that this is a student-centered process, students first. All our discussions have all been to make this a great place for students

Mr. Robinson asked everyone on the Board to introduce himself to the ACO members present.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Robinson asked to approve the August 18, 2009 Consent. Being the first meeting of 2009/10 school year and not having a teacher representative, or sub-committee meetings yet, the August agenda was amended to not include the teacher representative report, financial, C.I.C, or the Personnel Committee reports.

A motion was made and approved by a show of hands of the amended August 2009 Consent Agenda and the May 2009 Board meeting minutes.

3. Committee and School Reports

Report #1: Teacher Representative Report – No Report

Report #2: PTG

Mrs. Leslie Kann said that they are very excited about this school year, people are calling to volunteer. Thursday is the first board meeting and the picnic. Bingo night is planned for September. Spooktacular for October.

Thanks to Kathy Sullivan for welcoming the new teachers and to Kelly Hanania, Volunteer Coordinator who is working on improving communications between parents and teachers.

Mr. Mancuso thanked the PTG, especially Mrs. Sullivan and Mrs. Kann, for helping with the student orientation.

Mr. Robinson also thanked the PTG for their energy and involvement beyond their duties. He thanked them for making it a great school as their participation and involvement makes it a great community.

Report #3: Financial/Capital Improvements - Hossam El-Shaffei

No report.

Report #4: Personnel Committee Report - (Susan Razzaz)

No report.

Report #5: Superintendent's Report - Larry McIlvain

Mr. McIlvain said that so much has happened so far.

- He met with PTG Board
- Thanks to Hamdi for monitoring the building during the summer
- Thanks to Steve and Diana O'Leary for a soft start at ACS
- Met with Board members individually to see their passion and their goals
- Had a full faculty exercise on what we should start doing, stop doing, keep doing and do better to see what our vision is for the next three years.
- Four classrooms on the third floor were built during the summer
- Sports court is almost finished. It is a great addition to the gym.
- Gym floor was refinished
- Girls' locker room is being finished now
- Painting throughout the school
- Mrs. Jean Beyer, curriculum coordinator had two workshope with the teachers on curriculum and differentiation.
- Thanks to Mr. Mike Gohde, MS assistant principal for his hard work especially at this important development time.
- Transition Program - New teachers are thrilled with their housing. They were met them at the airport and were on the bus within one hour. Mrs. Sullivan briefed them at the beginning on Jordan and the Arab World. We will continue to have a transition throughout the year as we will start the report card workshop. The school is up and running. Mr. Mcilvain's great hope is to meet everyone's expectations as he will share his entry plan.
- Enrollment is 524 as of today

4. Other Business -

5.0 Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Board, a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was accepted without vote at 18h00

The next regularly scheduled meetings are:

- Board of Directors, Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 16h00 (Ramadan)
- Work Session, Tuesday, September 15, 2009 after the open session

Personnel Committee: the Wednesday immediately preceding the Board meeting, 5:30

Finance and Capital Improvements: the Sunday immediately preceding the Board meeting, 5:30

Respectfully submitted by Diana Rihani