

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEMBERS MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023 AT 16H00 AT  
SAFA COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	L. KHATIB	(CHAIRPERSON) (PROPRIETOR)	(LK)
	S. MERCHANT	(PROPRIETOR)	(SM)
	L. FRIDD	(PRINCIPAL)	(LF)
	M. DAVIES	(HEADTEACHER SECONDARY)	(MD)
	J. HUDSON	(HEADTEACHER PRIMARY)	(JH)
	Z. HARRINGTON	(PRINCIPAL SAFA BRITISH SCHOOL)	(ZH)
	L. MCGEEVER	(HEADTEACHER PRIMARY SAFA BRITISH SCHHOL)	(LM)
	M. AL HAMRI	(EMIRATI PARENT)	(MAH)
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	M. ASHTON	(DEPUTY HEADTEACHER MIDDLE SCHOOL)	(MA)
	TO. GREGORY	(COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA ADVISOR)	(TOG)
	TR. GREGORY	(PARENT AND PARENT LIAISON)	(TRG)
<b>MINUTES:</b>	L. LE GRANGE	(PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO PRINCIPAL)	(LLG)

The meeting was convened at 16h00.

Apologies were received from TOG, TRG and MA.

## **1. WELCOME**

LF welcomed and thanked everyone present.

LF stated that JH would leave the meeting early due to a parent's webinar happening that evening.

## **2. Principal's Report**

LF began a brief overview of the reports which were circulated at the meeting.

### **2.1 Admissions Update**

LF stated that the 2023-2024 academic year number move 2200 to 2420.

The Year 5 parents had already been sent their intentions for the 2024-2025 academic year moving into Year 7. The numbers have reflected that we would retain 91% of our current Year 5 students. Parent tours will be arranged within the first few months for those that are unsure.

FS intentions have also been sent out for the 2024-2025 academic year. Siblings of current students have been encouraged to submit their applications. This has gone very well.

### **2.2 Staffing Update**

A very small number of staff leaving at the end of this year, most relocating and a small number that have not had their contracts renewed. LF requested that members of the Board assist us with completing exit interviews with outgoing staff.

### 2.3 Sport Update

Our sporting teams have grown not only in number but in size. Our teams have performed well across the board with many moving up divisions. Details of successes are detailed in the board reports circulated.

### 2.4 Music, Drama and Performing Arts Update

Our first large scale secondary production in the form of *Grease The Musical* went exceptionally well. Sold 900 tickets across the two nights.

*Matilda The Musical*, our first large scale primary production, opens next week for two nights. The tickets are sold out.

Currently the auditorium chair mechanism for chairs being pulled back or laid out is not working. Our maintenance team are working to resolve the issue.

### 2.5 School Development Plan

LF stated that the SDP had been updated for the new academic year to reflect the climate change agenda.

She also mentioned that there had been significant improvements in Teaching and Learning with the addition of our new Assistant Principal, Paul Dallyn. The appointment of Oliver Lukeman as Assistant Principal for Arabic and Islamic and Secondary Assessment has also had a very real impact with staff embracing the data. This area has improved substantially and has seen the implementation of moderation days for staff and Quran competitions for the students.

### 2.6 National Parameter Update

LF informed the Board that the assessments should all be completed by the end of the week. Thus far Year 4 to Year 10 students have all achieved outstanding results and have improved on the dips from last year.

PIRLS assessments have been outstanding too. SCs has come out higher than Dubai standard British schools.

### 2.7 Wellbeing

Wellbeing leaders for the 2023-2024 academic year have already been appointed and are already working on initiatives to drive wellbeing through the school. We have revised our approach, reviewed our policies and procedures to ensure we attain a VERY HIGH judgement.

We have also implemented a student wellbeing platform called Komodo, staff are able to access this to check in our students. This is already very successful. Comments from parents and students are reflected in the circulated reports.

### 2.8 Child Protection

Currently our “monitoring” numbers have increased. This is due to the growing numbers of divorce cases amongst families. This makes up the majority of our numbers. The next highest number is due to social media and the content students are accessing online. Lastly the smaller numbers are made of students who self-harm and have thoughts of self-harm. Our team support parents, staff and students. The numbers have increased since COVID-19.

### 2.9 Inclusion

Inclusion numbers have been included in the reports circulated.

### 2.10 Sustainability Update

Sustainability Leads for 2023-2024 have been appointed with TOG being the leading Board Member.

### 2.11 Community Events

We have had an overwhelming response from parents who have expressed their sincere thanks for the reinstatement of community events after COVID-19. The Spring Fayre went off exceptionally well this year, to mention only one event in the large number that have taken place.

### 2.12 Top School Awards – SCS’s Short listings

LF expressed her pride in our shortlisting for the following awards in the Top Schools Awards:

- School Most Loved By Parents
- Happiest School in the UAE
- Best School in the UAE For Architecture and Design to Inspire Children
- Best School in the UAE for Sport
- Best School in the UAE for POST 16 Education/Sixth Form
- Best School in the UAE for Bursaries, Scholarships and Care For Parents
- Best Principal in the UAE
- Best School in the UAE for Technical and Vocational Stream Education
- Best School in the UAE for Music
- Best British Curriculum School in the UAE
- Best School for Girls and Young Women in the UAE

LF expressed that SCS was exceptionally proud of all of the nominations, especially for Music as this was a priority for this academic year.

## 3. Primary Report

JH began with the overview of Primary Reports which were circulated at the meeting.

### 3.1 Curriculum Updates

JH stated that the focus on curriculum and providing opportunities created much engagement for students. Children were involved with Hook Days which immersed them into the topics they were learning about. This term focused on history.

### 3.2 Curriculum Modifications

Introducing the Jane Considine Writing Scheme from Year 1 in term 3 has already seen a positive impact, especially in the writing of boys.

In Science, the White Rose Scheme of Learning will be introduced for the new academic year. The staff have undergone training and the focus for each year group will be sustainability. This will support staff with planning and delivering lessons in the new year.

FS have held Open Classrooms in phonics order to share best practice and facilitate professional conversations. The feedback was very positive and the staff have already started to implement their learned strategies.

Teaching Assistant has attended PD sessions for Mathematics, English and Inclusion. Middle leaders and teachers looking towards leadership positions in the future delivered the training based on staff voice on areas of each curriculum. English focused on Jan Considine

and Maths focused on the White Rose Schemes. The training was well received and the staff feel empowered and ready to implement new initiatives.

### 3.3 Curriculum Enrichment

This year has seen the return to many competitions and the entering of students in events such as the Year 2 Mathematics Enrichment Competition, The Year 4 to Year 6 Geolympics, UKMT, and the World Scholars Cup etc. SCS primary students performed exceptionally well. Their many achievements have been documented in the circulated reports.

### 3.4 Wellbeing Curriculum

With the implementation of the Wellbeing Matters framework, the pastoral team with the secondary pastoral team, have developed a wellbeing curriculum which will be implemented in the new academic year.

This has included building in transition days/weeks for students:

- Moving from one year group to another
- New children entering SCS
- Year 6 students transitioning into secondary.

This requires much input from staff working with parents to ensure that each class placement is in the next interest of the student. The circulated report outlined the details of the team's efforts.

LK asked how the decision had been reached for the transition activities. JH stated that parents' requests had been taken into account, children's friend groups and teachers' inputs. She stated that we use surveys to make the activities more meaningful. Teachers are then matched to classes.

Komodo has been well and fully implemented. It also offers parent engagement with weekly webinars and transition workshops such as BYOD, Open Days for Reading with Parents at school etc.

### 3.4 Primary Staffing Update

A very small number of staff leaving in the primary phase, with two leaving to promotional posts in other schools, and the remaining leaving Dubai. We have eight new staff joining us, new staff have already been in for CPD sessions, planning afternoons and the upcoming Meet The Teacher event.

### 3.5 Community Events

Our BSME Dance team continues to grow and perform well. The standard is extremely high and this will continue to be a big focus for us as a school.

Music showcases have been extremely successful this year and we will continue these in the years to come.

Our Year 6 graduation and social events went off very well. This included a welcome from the Assistant Headteacher of Key Stage 3, Ms. Laura Osman and the two KS3 Head Prefects into the secondary school.

JH excused herself and departed for the Year 1 BYOD parent meeting with the thanks of the Board.

#### **4. Secondary Report**

MD began with the overview of Secondary Reports which were circulated at the meeting.

##### **4.1 General Highlights**

MD expressed his delight at being shortlisted for

- Best School in the UAE for POST 16 Education/Sixth Form
- Best British Curriculum School in the UAE

##### **4.2 Achievements**

MD went on to list and review some of the secondary school's achievements such as the World Scholars Cup, UKMT results and the introduction of new subjects for GCSE and A-Levels. This included Media Studies, Sociology and BTEC Engineering.

##### **4.3 Results**

MD outlined some of the GCSE results for Further Maths, AS and A2 results for Business, Economics, A-level results for Pure Mathematics, were all very impressive.

##### **4.4 University Offers**

25% of the cohort received offers from received offers from universities within the Russell Spiers Group.

Students have received offers from most of their first choices and scholarships offers have been received from University of Loughborough, University of Stirling, University of Birmingham, Dubai, AUS and Heriot Watt. In addition all students eligible for Home Fee Status in the UK have been successful in their bid.

Netherlands remains very popular with several of our students receiving offers.

ZH asked about the popularity of the Netherlands. MD stated that the quality of education, student life is good and the affordable fees were a draw especially for international students. Courses are offered in English. This encourages their own students to stay and not leave for alternative universities abroad. The only drawback is accommodation as it is scarce especially for boys in their first year. Most families find the UK exorbitant.

MD went on to state that a number of students are applying for paternal Irish passports as this often helps with applications. Home Fees status is achievable and our Universities and Careers Advisor is very knowledgeable on this aspect as well as helping students receive their first choice.

A long discussion then ensued about fees for universities across the globe.

##### **4.5 University and Careers Expo**

This event went off very smoothly and was well attended. This event grows year on year.

##### **4.6 International Trips**

There are seven international trips next year, among these are ski trips, art, history etc.

##### **4.7 LAMDA Qualifications**

This has been introduced for the first time this year and students have performed exceptionally well.

##### **4.8 Numbers Through Secondary School**

The large year groups are now moving through the primary school and into the secondary school seeing numbers reach almost 200 students in a year group. The top smaller numbered year groups are starting to phase out of the school.

#### 4.9 Assessment

With the appointment of Oliver Lukeman as the Assistant Principal of Secondary Assessment we have already seen the through-school iTrack platform start to take hold. We will move away from Go-4-Schools.

#### 4.10 Key Stage 3 Update

All updates are outlined in the circulated reports.

Among the highlights are the early entries for MFL and Maths. This has also resulted in SCS becoming a centre for external candidates to write their GCSEs and A-Levels.

Year 9 students will be joining us in the Hope Building next week. They will undertake tours and their assessments during their time with us so they are ready for their transition into Key Stage 4.

#### 4.11 Key Stage 4 Update

All updates are outlined in the circulated reports.

To highlight the maths results of 85% of students' achieving 9-6 is massive for SCS.

The focus has been on Year 9 with their option choices. This has included numerous trawls, student and parent appointments, careers advice sessions with the counsellor, parents meetings etc.

Spring break and summer school continued this year for our exam cohorts and we believe this will reflect in the results.

Year 10 enjoyed their experience at CAP.

Work Experience for Year 10 will take place in the week of 19-23 June 2023. The build-up has included CV writing workshops, applying and interviewing for positions as well as securing their own placements.

Year 10 and Year 12 tours take place every Wednesday and are essentially personalised tours.

#### 4.12 Key Stage 5 Update

We have been fortunate to receive a number of visits from visiting professors and universities. We have welcomed universities in to speak with parents and students to ensure the relationship is a good one. Many webinars have been shared with parents already, this will continue.

A number of social elements have been included this year such as a camping trip, golf days, trips to restaurants etc. This ensures we encapsulate the student as a whole.

Head Prefect interviews commence on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2023. This year has seen a large number of applications.

LK asked how many students attend Year 12 and then leave and do not continue into Year 13 and what the reasons were for this.

MD explained that students might prefer to head straight into university and undertake an undergraduate course in the area they wish to study. This will mean that they would do a four year course and not a three year.

Our next push is to start profiling students who have left SCS and document how they have progressed since their time with us.

#### 4.13 Plans for Next Year

MD stated that there were plans to introduce magazines, green scenes, studio etc. at SCS next year.

### 5. Teaching and Learning Report

LF began with the overview of this report which was circulated at the meeting.

#### 5.1 Staffing Change

Cherene Green will leave us to take up a post as a Deputy Headteacher in a school in Abu Dhabi.

Paul Dallyn has been appointed the Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning.

#### 5.2 Curriculum Alignments

The primary curriculum has been aligned with the secondary. HOD's are liaising with primary staff to implement and ensure through school cohesion.

#### 4.3 Safa 6

Implementing the Safa 6 across the school should be evident in every lesson of each teacher at SCS. These are:

- Resources
- Monitoring
- Questioning
- Assessment Data
- Engagement
- Language

LK requested that the Board meet Paul Dallyn.

LF explained that the format of Board meetings would change in the future as the staff responsible for certain day to day activities would present their responsibilities at the meetings. LF stated that Paul Dallyn had been a great addition to the team

LF thanked JH and MD for their snapshots of their reports. The board members were thanked for their support and resources throughout the year.

LF mentioned that JH would be on maternity leave from October 2023 and that she would be taking on the Head of Primary role in the interim.

The meeting concluded at 16h53.