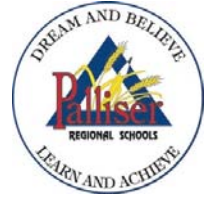


CIS – OBK School Council Meeting #1

Date:	Tuesday, September 25, 2018
Time:	6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Location:	Upper Floor in the open space – OBK Campus 225 – 28 Street SE, Calgary, Alberta, T2A 5K4

Attendees

Names	Positions	Email Addresses
Raiha Idrees	Principal (CIS – OBK)	raiha.idrees@pallisersd.ab.ca
Fatima Sarhan	Vice Principal (CIS – OBK)	fatima.sarhan@pallisersd.ab.ca
Ahlam Sadden	Chairperson	ahlamsadden@hotmail.ca
Bilal Shamoury	Vice Chairperson	shamoury54@hotmail.com
Nada Merhi	Treasurer	nadamerhi@hotmail.com
Moe Abbas	Parent	muman79@hotmail.com
Aziza Abou Hassan	Parent	
Saba Adil	Parent	sabadil27@yahoo.com
Muhammad Adil	Parent	adil_muhammad3@hotmail.com
Youssef Al Tassi	Parent	youssef-tassi@hotmail.com
Samina Ali	Parent	saminahasan5940@gmail.com
Malak Assaf	Parent	malakharb@hotmail.com
Rimsha Bhatti	Parent	rbhat411@gmail.com
Maraes Bokory	Parent	mbokory@gmail.com
Samira Borhot	Parent	sborhot@me.com
Nadia Harati	Parent	harati.jeha@gmail.com
Faisal Hussain	Parent	faisalmhussain@gmail.com
Zeshan Hyder	Parent	zeshanhyder@gmail.com
Medina Kalaf	Parent	queen_nana28@hotmail.com
Zeeshan Khan	Parent	khanzadda@gmail.com
Mohammed Bin Mahfooz	Parent	mahfooz215@hotmail.com



Names	Positions	Email Addresses
Hajar Masri	Parent	hajmas@hotmail.com
Zobaria Masroor	Parent	z_a_masroor@hotmail.com
Hala Miggy	Parent	hhiggy2@hymail.com
Mohamed Osman	Parent	faten-alkadri@gmail.com
Amira Salem	Parent	amtwin1@hotmail.com
Adil Sandhu	Parent	addil@hotmail.com
Aleem Shaukat	Parent	aleem_shaukat@hotmail.com
Rida Bin Slama	Parent	ridaslama1@gmail.com
Rubina Zaman	Parent	rubeenazaman@hotmail.com



Minutes:

Opening Dua at 6:12PM by Youssef Al Tassi

Meeting conducted by Ahlam Sadden (Chairperson – OBK School Council)

Agenda Items Discussed:

- **Role of school council**
- **History of accomplishments from previous year**
- **Principal announcement**
- **Financial/Account update**

Introduction of School Council:

Opening School Council introduction given by Ahlam Sadden. School Council consists of four main executive positions; Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. The voice of the parent body is represented through School Council. The fundamental role of these positions as well as the various sub-committees is to aid and enhance student learning. The positions along with their roles and responsibilities are described below as follows:

- 1. Chairperson:** The chairperson plans meetings and prepares agendas, facilitates school council meetings, acts as a spokesperson for the school council (unless otherwise delegated) and supports the school council. The chairperson serves as the Alberta Schools Council's representative. The chairperson ensures the school board receives an annual report from school council.
- 2. Vice Chairperson:** The vice chairperson assists the chairperson with duties, as assigned, and in the absence of the chairperson, assumes the duties of the chairperson. The vice chairperson is the designated Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA) / Privacy officer of the school council and manages personal information in compliance with PIPA. The vice chairperson assumes responsibility, in consultation with school council, for communicating with fundraising society.



3. **Secretary:** The secretary keeps accurate minutes and records of school council meetings, documents and files all correspondence and communications and keeps an accurate list of names and addresses of school council members in compliance with the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA). The secretary ensures all materials relating to student council including resources (School Council Resource Manual), all meeting minutes and any relevant documents are available to the public in accessible locations in the school.
4. **Treasurer (if required):** The treasurer keeps financial transactions of the school council, reports to the school council and complies with school council and school board policies.

All executive members of the Council must be parents of students attending CIS-OBK and are volunteers without paid positions. Their vote is equal to any other parents' vote; therefore, it is encouraged that all parents attend the meetings in some capacity regardless of being an executive member or not. Many initiatives and key decisions are made during these meetings. We usually meet once a month, on the first Tuesday of the month. If you are unable to attend the meetings you may also find the meeting minutes in the office binder or posted online on the website under School Council. We are currently updating all the minutes online from the previous school year.

Council representatives for 2018-2019

- **Chairperson:** Ahlam Sadden
- **Vice Chairperson:** Nada Merhi
- **Secretary:** Zeshan Hyder
- **Treasurer:** Adil Sandhu

Financial / Account Updates:

Last year, the School Council raised approximately \$12,000 through bake sales, hot lunches and smoothie sales. \$2,000 of that was donated by parents / community members. We spent the funds on the following initiatives and have approximately \$800 left in our account.



History of Accomplishments from previous year:

- Purchase of Islamic library cart (filled with Islamic content books)
- Professional development for Islamic Staff (Musleh Khan from Toronto)
- School Shoe Shelves
- Purchase of 2 iPads as awards for the Quran competition
- Duckling eggs (learning about life cycle for Grade 1 Students)
- \$500 down payment towards inline skating for the 2018 – 2019 school year
- Purchase of school popcorn machine & and blender for smoothie sales
- Sports day free lunch for all students and volunteers
- \$200 paid towards Zakat on behalf of all OBK parents

Principal's Update:

The Principle updates have been postponed to the next council meeting taking place Tuesday, October 2, 2018 due to time restrictions.

Topics of discussion:

Jummah / Friday Prayer:

In previous years, the Muslim Council of Calgary has held Friday prayers, open to the public in the school gymnasium during school hours. Last year the decision was made to cancel public Friday prayers due to safety concerns. Over the summer, the Society advertised the reopening of public community prayers in the gymnasium during school hours to begin on Friday, September 7, 2018. The School Council is not in support of such a decision, reasons are highlighted below:

- Community members and public are able to enter and exit the building during school hours and the safety concerns are still present.
- Classes on the main level are put on lock down for the duration of the Friday khutbah (sermon) & prayer.
- During prayer, the main floor washrooms are off limits; the whole school is subject to use the washrooms located on the lower level.
- During the prayer, parking becomes chaotic. This makes it difficult for emergency vehicles to access the school, should the need arise.
- Students have less time for prayer and khutbah.
- The school gym cannot be used during the time of prayer.



After lengthy discussion and debate, all/majority of parents voiced their concerns. Parents present made it clear that the decision to reinstate Public / Community Jummah (Friday) prayer is strongly opposed. Members of society suggested that Fridays can be reduced to half days, so that students are not present in the building and safety is not compromised. The Council also opposes this decision for reasons highlighted below:

- 12:25 dismissals will conflict with prayer, parking lot becomes hazardous.
- As holidays generally fall on a Monday, there are fewer Mondays in the school calendar, which results in less school being missed as opposed to Friday. (School hours may have to be extended Monday – Thursday to accumulate the required amount of instructional time).
- Students will miss the opportunity to pray together in the school and older students will miss the opportunity to prepare and deliver the khutbah.
- Professional development for teachers generally occurs after dismissal on Mondays and the staff would normally participate in Jummah prayer which may conflict with their professional development on those half days.

According to ATA (Alberta Teachers' Association) the school calendar cannot be changed without a 90 day notice. Education is funded by the province and it is required to accumulate 950 hours of instructional time by the Alberta mandate. An agreement between Palliser and MCC states that the school cannot be used for public use during the hours of 7:45AM to 3:30PM. School Council will be meeting with MCC and Palliser to further find a common ground to the Friday / Jummah prayer. The parent body will be updated in the upcoming meetings as to any changes that will take place. For parents that have questions or concerns, you are more than welcome to email the School Council or voice your concerns in the upcoming meetings. Those who wish to voice their concerns to the Society can also do so by forwarding their concerns to MCC via email (chairman@yycmuslims.ca)

After school pick-up procedures:

In past years, students were seated in the gymnasium and parents were able to enter the school gymnasium to pick up their child / children.

Some parents were staying in the gymnasium having lengthy conversations while siblings were left to run around the gymnasium freely. Parents were also picking up a large group of children whose own parents were waiting in the parking lot or at the playground. In some cases a few parents were interfering and questioning other children.



For these reasons this method of pickup was halted and a new method was proposed, in which parents lined up outside the gymnasium doors and had their children's names called over a microphone by an assigned staff member. The child / children would then exit the gym using the opposite door and be collected by their parent. This method helped staff become familiar with the parents of students and ensured less undesired contact between parents and students. Teachers felt they were not being respected while being asked to call the said student. (In one case a parent asked one of the teachers for a "double double" rather than the student's name.) The lack of respect and complaints that the process was time consuming was brought to the principal's attention.

A new method of pick-up has been placed for this year. The new method consists of parents entering the building and picking children up from their classroom. This method is being preferred by some parents and staff because the students are in a classroom which is a calmer setting, allowing them time to read or have small conversation with their classmates as opposed to the gymnasium being rather chaotic and noisy. It has however sparked some concern. Parents with smaller children and / or car seats find it difficult to maneuver up and down the stairs. There is a concern for the safety of younger children going up and down the stairs in such a congested setting as well. Parents feel that younger siblings are being pushed around while others may be in a hurry to collect their children. There is also a concern that the environment will become more hazardous with winter approaching and stairs being wet and slippery.

All matters will be taken into consideration. A suggestion was made to have it be a tiered system in which KG and Grade 1 students are collected from their class since they are on the main floor. In addition, Grades 2 – 5 could be picked up from the gymnasium while the older students (Grades 6 – 9) could leave on their own and possibly take their younger siblings. The only issue was the safety of older siblings taking the younger ones outside and not paying attention to traffic etc. This would have to be something parents are responsible for whether they feel comfortable enough letting the older students take their siblings out or not. There was mention of possibly sending a survey to parents.



The principal said she would consult with the staff to see if this suggestion would be welcomed. This topic will be revisited in the coming meeting. Anyone with other ideas on how to better the pickup method; are encouraged to email the School Council.

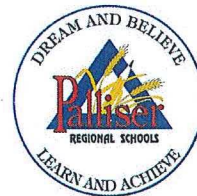
Closing Dua at 7:38pm by Bilal.

Minutes Approved by:

Principal
Raiha Idrees

Chairperson
Ahlam Sadden


Secretary
Nadia Herati (temporary)

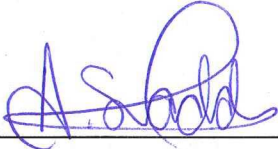


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