

CIS - OBK School Council Meeting # (4)

Date:	Thursday, December 01, 2016
Time:	6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Location:	Upper Floor in the open space - OBK Campus 225 – 28th Street SE, Calgary Alberta
Participants:	School Council Members, Administration, Society Members, School Council Executive Committee.

Attendance

Names	Positions	Email Addresses
Raiha Idrees	Principal CIS – OBK Campus	raiha.idrees@pallisersd.ab.ca
Abdullah Omar	CIS - CEO	omar.a@cislive.ca
Ahlam Sadden	Chairperson	ahlamsadden@hotmail.ca
Nida Aziz	Vice Chair	nida_salman@hotmail.com
Nada Merhi	Treasurer	nadamerhi@hotmail.ca
Huda Birani	Secretary	hbirani_87@hotmail.com
Shafakatallah Syed	Islamic Committee	shafakat@yahoo.com
Anjum Dawood	Volunteer Committee	anjdw@yaho.ca
Nadia Harati	Fundraising Committee	harati.jeha@gmail.com
Leanne Fay	Success Coach - WEP	leannefay@renfreweducation.org
Nick Irving	Grade 4 Teacher	nicholas.irving@pallisersd.ab.ca
Fatema Itani	Islamic Committee	fatema.itani@gmail.com
Youssef Al-Tassi	Islamic Committee	youssef.tassi@hotmail.com

Fatema:

- Opening duaa at @ 6:52 PM.

Ahlam:

- Anjum to discuss various concerns of parents when students share food.

Anjum:

- Kindergarten students can't differentiate between what is halal and non halal. Certain products like cheese and yogurts have non halal items in them and fewer parents are unaware of it. So sharing food is a big concern for these parents who wants to practice halal food guidelines.
- Students are also being awarded with candies and sweet treats which is an unhealthy option.
- Teachers can use other rewarding items like stationary etc.

Raiha:

- Sharing is a good habit that kids practice.
- Some students might have food allergies which students will not know and also not all food items might be halal.
- Nut free policy is in effect in school.
- Collaborate effort to come up with a list of what is acceptable in terms of Halal items.
- Parents should also tell their kids not to share food.
- Agreed to reward students with pencils or erasers or other items along these lines as an alternative rather than unhealthy treats.
- I will also discuss the food sharing concern in my upcoming staff meeting.

Nick:

- Students don't share in the classroom; they tend to share amongst each other at outdoor recess.

Ahlam, Nida and Nick:

- List out items that fall under the category of Zabiha Halal and Non Zabiha/ impermissible, which can be viewed by personnel prior to making purchase for cooking clubs, hot lunches and bake sales etc.

Nadia:

- Mentions a group on Facebook called Free Food Calgary AB, a group that takes donations of unwanted food. All we need to do is post it online.

Ahlam:

- Raiha to discuss Principal's report.

Raiha:

- In November focussing and identifying students who need more education support.

- Security Systems have now been installed, they cover all entrances and parking lot.
- School goals were presented to active superintendent. It was acknowledged in his email that the goals were cohesive and OBK was moving in the right direction.

Raiha:

- Notify parents that children who are spanked will be reported to social services.
- It is obligated bylaw if such incident takes place, the school has to address it otherwise their license can be taken away.
- An email from school will be sent out to the parents after the winter break.

Raiha:

- Confirmed that Alberta curriculum survey was sent out to the teachers and parents.

Nick:

- In order to plan improved classroom lessons and to individualize student's learning, if kids could have access to the tablets then they can work on Raz kids by themselves or with some Educational assistant's help while the teacher can focus on students who are on LLI program or needs more individualize attention.
- Does School Council agree with the tablets initiative and willing to support/fund it?

Ahlam:

- How many tablets are required for this initiative and what kind of tablets and storage capacity are needed?
- School Council can do their research on the tablets as well.

Nick:

- 24 Tablets would be sufficient to start with, android preferably and they don't have to be high end. One's that have storage capacity to run basic apps can easily work.

Raiha:

- School has no money for the purchase of tablets.
- Contacted Palliser for the purchase of tablets and awaiting their response.

Ahlam:

- How often will you run the programs?

Fatema:

- Concerned about too much screen time.

Nick:

- Approximate time spent will be 1-2 days a week for word work.
- Time spent on Raz kids and LLI would be 5 days a week.

Ahlam:

- Is everyone in favor of participating in it?
- School Council has funds available to support the initiative.
- All School Council members voted in favour of this initiative.

Nick:

- Suggested to rotate the tablets and utilize the resources.

Raiha:

- Will check for quotes on tablets.

Nida:

- When are we looking for this program to be implemented?

Raiha:

- Most probably following year.

Nida:

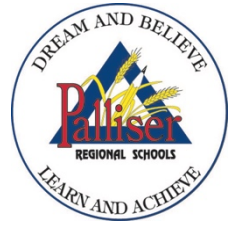
- Any forms or emails regarding PRP?

Anjum:

- No forms have been received

Nida:

- Usually when there is no deadline no forms are received.
- Also forms can be downloaded from website and school can send out a reminder.
- Free lunch option is available for students.
- ASLP (Alberta School Lunch Pilot Program) was introduced by Racheal Notley in some schools and schools who have signed up would be eligible for free lunches for their students.



- 3 Million allocated to school's Lunch Pilot program and would expand in the near future.
- Palliser also offers a program called "School Cash Online":
<https://www.schoolcashionline.com> where money can be collected online on behalf of our school's bake sales, field trips etc.
- Easier for school to collect online rather than through student's agendas.

Ahlam:

- Under Alberta Education certain numbers of hours are taught.

Anjum:

- It has to be 950 hours. Concerned if the school is meeting the required number of teaching hours and if there are more than required PD days.
- Also our school holidays don't match with other CBE Schools and it causes problems in planning family vacations for parents who have kids in different school boards.

Ahlam:

- We cannot compare our PD days with other CBE schools.

Raiha:

- By Alberta Education all schools must complete 950 hours.
- Under Alberta guide of education, it defines our instructional hours.
- Recess is not included in this time.
- Kindergarten has half days i.e. 425 educational hours should be met.
- It is important to know that our school calendar falls under Alberta Education rather than CBE since they both are a separate entity.
- Our School holidays and PD days don't have to be in sync with CBE holidays and PD days.
- Parents can relay this concern to Palliser or Alberta Education if they like to. School has limitations and we receive a calendar where all the statutory holidays and winter, summer breaks are already marked when it comes to us.

Ahlam:

- Inquired about Arabic Language Objective.

Raiha:

- Looking to re assess the whole Arabic studies objective. Shaikh Hassan is working on it.

Ahlam:

- Nida and I had a meeting with the Education Committee and they mentioned that the Islamic resources and books are good but the method of teaching is not up to par.
- Asked Dr. Omar if we have any one visit us to do this evaluation?
- Asked Dr. Omar what should be the next step and his recommendation on this subject.

Dr. Omar:

- We had invited a brother from Edmonton to assess our Arabic curriculum. We need to have a reassessment again.
- Every teacher has to have one objective and that is to teach Islam.
- Everyone will have an opinion on the objective.
- We need to see what the curriculum is first and then define the objective accordingly.

Nida:

- What is the outcome of Arabic Language when a child graduates from the school, what level of Arabic can he/she speak?

Fatema:

- Objective of learning Arabic is to understand Quran.
- Suggested a great online Arabic course called Bayyinah.
- 8 blocks everything falls into Islamic. This is what we want. Arabic doesn't do that.
- Learning the Arabic language in order to be able to speak it is not a concern for me.
- What is important for me is my kids be able to read the Qur'an with proper Tajweed rules and understand it.

Nida:

- It will be miss information for parents if they do not know the outcome of learning Arabic Language whether it be to understand Qur'an or be able to speak it.
- Need to define our objective as to why we are offering Arabic language.
- Find out what parents want through a survey.

Nada:

- Introduced the Ihsan Education online certificate program.
- Last year it was an issue sending the Islamic department for Professional Development.

Ahlam:

- May be allocate some Budget for Islamic/Arabic Department towards the Ihsan Program.
- Too costly to send the entire Arabic department for training. Subscribing them to this online Program can eliminate the travel cost and more teachers can have access to the program.
- One of the other option can be to get a teacher to come to Calgary for training.

Raiha:

- Submitting a professional development plan which includes guest speakers would help in defining Islamic studies curriculum.
- More planning would be needed to set a goal for our students.

Leanne:

- Introducing herself that she has been working with WEP (Wellness Empowerment Program) in schools over 8 years.
- Few programs she has worked on are: 7 habits program, mental health, coping with general stress etc.
- Mentions strategies where kids be able to sit and focus while learning.
- Connecting families through WEP programs.
- Attends health committee meetings and working on having a healthy vending machine option.
- Wants to collaborate with the School Council on the vending machine.
- Engage students to be involved in healthy food habits.

Nida:

- Asked Nada if she has consulted with Hannah Bryant on the vending machine?

Nada:

- Discussed vending machine purchase with Hannah Bryant.
- Grant of \$400 from Palliser is available towards health initiatives.
- Awaiting approval of Vending Machine from Palliser.
- Can also purchase a used vending machine from Kijiji etc. and stock it with healthy items.
- Profits can go towards health and sports committee and future School Council initiatives.

Ahlam:

- Stressed about insufficient washroom hygiene.
- Kids aren't performing wudu properly.

- Cleanliness is lacking in the washrooms.
- Other ways to motivate students to make better wudu could be by introducing CIS hygiene water bottles?
- School Council looked and discussed various Wudu/ hygiene options in an offline meeting.
- Bidet installation could also be one of the the solution to the problem.
- All of these options could be abused.

Shafakat

- If there is a water tap installed in the washroom stalls it will help in solving this problem.
- Introduce learning sessions to facilitate importance of Tahara.
- Proposed a Wudu competition where kids can put practice into action by teaching them proper wudu etiquette.

Raiha:

- Suggested to open the Tahara Initiative to Akram Joma Campus.
- Suggest to fundraise for this initiative during Ramadan.
- Award the winning team/ students.
- More planning needed for this initiative.

Fatema:

- Students tend to get influenced by friends.

Nida:

- Have discussion with kids and staff on Tahara and to educate them from misusing the washroom facility.

Raiha:

- School population is high and we do not have enough washrooms.

Leanne:

- Grungy germ is a WEP initiative, geared towards kids up to Grade 3 where instructor goes from class to class teaching them the importance of cleanliness.

Nida:

- Some students have trouble reaching faucets.
- A stool would be a solution.

Nada:

- I will purchase the stools for the washrooms.

Dr. Omar

Little kids due to the age factor can sometimes not observe proper hygiene and misuse the washroom facility.

- Suggested to remind the students in the morning arrival to observe proper bathroom hygiene.
- Due to the high volume of washroom usage, Kindergarten – Grade 3 washrooms need more cleaning sessions in a day.
- Include parents in this initiative.

Leanne:

- Akram Jomaa Campus is hosting a workshop on “Healthy Minds” on December 15, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM. No registration or fee required.

Ahlam:

- Planning for Tahajjud night sleep over.
- Gender divided events for boys and girls.
- Teacher Rasha offered support when she heard about the Tahajjud night.
- Day camp can also be another alternative in case parents don’t allow sleepover in school.
- Send out a survey to parents which will decide between day camp or sleepover event.
- Ginger bread masjid cookie competition could be an activity.
- Art canvassing, sports activity, cupcakes decoration, scavenger hunt can be other various options for the event including dinner and breakfast.

Raiha:

- In agreement with all the ideas.

Ahlam:

- Talked to Haseeb if the school is available for us to have the event on the proposed days/ nights.
 - Proposed days can be in the last weekend that follows the winter break, on the Friday and Saturday (December 23rd for girls and December 24th for the boys).
 - Grades 3 and up can attend the event without their parent’s supervision. For Grades 1 and 2 parent supervision will be mandatory.
 - This event will give students the ability to incorporate more Islamic time.
- For cost School Council wants to ask for \$10 per student.

Fatema:

- Likes the idea and appreciated the gender divided event.

Ahlam:

Hopes to see majority of the kids register for the event.

- Volunteers will be needed depending on how many kids register.

Nick:

- Suggested to add food allergy field on the registration forms for the parents.

Raiha:

- The more these events take place, the more parents get comfortable with the whole idea.

Fatema:

- Suggested activities can be in the cafeteria and sleeping can be in the gym.

Ahlam:

- We can call it Tahajjud night or Night at Musalla.
- Brings up funding for Qur'an competition.
- Portion of the fee from this event could go to the Qur'an competition.

Raiha:

- Suggested to form a small committee for Islamic events.
- Shafakat Syed, Fatema Itani and Youssef Tassi are willing to form an Islamic committee.

Nada:

- Want to introduce Cricket which is a very popular sport.
- Working towards forming a team where some staff can get training.
- If it is successful, we can purchase our own indoor equipment.
- If it is too expensive, seek an alternative if parents can come and teach the sport.
- Compare costs associated to the introduction of Cricket and decide accordingly.

Ahlam:

- Gardening idea was discussed with Haseeb and he will make arrangements for watering the plants during summer break.

Raiha:

- Supports the gardening idea.

Ahlam:

- What will the garden be used for?
- Future planning required.
- Friday December 16 will be our upcoming "Halal Chicken Boneless Biryani Hot Lunch".

Nadia:

- Suggested to fundraise for a movie night.
- Fundraising can be done by having a coin drive.
- Each class can have their own coin collecting container/glass/box.
- Have classrooms compete with each other.
- The class that raised highest number of funds can be rewarded.
- Proceeds from the coin drive could go towards sports or any other School Council initiative.

Raiha:

- Suggested to sell chocolates/ popcorn during movie night.

Fatema:

- Suggested an animated movie called 'Bilal', which is a Middle Eastern production to consider for the movie night due to its popularity in the middle east.

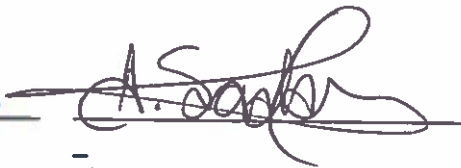
Dr. Omar

- Closing duaa @ 8:51

Minutes Approved by:



Principal
Raiha Idrees



Chairperson
Ahlam Sadden



Secretary
Huda Birani