



AMERICAN UNITED SCHOOL
KUWAIT

AUS Advisory Board Meeting Agenda

20/03/2018

03:30 pm

Professional Development Room Grey 7

2nd Floor

Members:

Officers:

Mrs. Megan Sofge

Ms. Shaima Salmeen (Present)

Vacant

Mr. Daniel Leritz (Present)

Chairperson

Vice Chair (Schlumberger Representative)

Public Relations Liaison

Secretary

Voting Members:

Sheikha Mariam Mubarak AlSabah

Dr. Suja Aboukhamseen (Present)

Mrs. Amani Abulhasan (Present)

Dr. Nawaf Jandoul AlDousari

Mrs. Usha Narayanan (Present)

Miss Zeina Al-Fulaij (Present)

Mr. Abdulla Al-Kazemi (Present)

Mrs. Lama Albabtain (Present)

Mrs. Molly Jung

Ms. Ansley Thurber-Elbakry

Mr. Leland DuNomes (Present)

Mr. Daniel Leritz (Present)

Elementary Parent

Elementary Parent

Middle School Parent

Middle School Parent

High School Parent

HS Student/ Student Council President

HS Student/ Student Council Vice President

PTSO Representative

U.S. Embassy Representative

Elementary School Teacher Representative

Middle School Teacher Representative

High School Teacher Representative

Committee Chairs

Vacant

Non-Voting Members:

Jennifer J. Beckwith, Ph.D. (Present)

Mrs. Mona Fairley-Nelson (Present)

Michael Winger (Present)

Dr. Craig Ross (Present)

Ms. Brenda Clements (Present)

Ms. Taryn Peirera

Founding Director

Associate Director for Teaching and Learning

Assoc. Director for Educational Tech. and Accountability

High School Principal

Middle School Principal

Elementary Principal

Agenda:

1.) Vote on January Meeting Minutes

Minutes were read and approved

2.) Director and Associate Director's Reports

Dr. Beckwith shared the official statement from CIS confirming our accreditation with CIS and MSA. Kelly Christian from MSA will be hosting a training for select staff and admin to become possible candidates for an accreditation site team. Dr. Beckwith shared with us the steps we are taking for the staff, students and family members of Ms. Coot who suddenly passed away earlier this month.

Ms. Nelson shared her part of the Associate Directors Report.

- AUS hosted its first SAT testing session on March 10, to over 130 students, all from different schools across Kuwait and the GCC.**
- Starting May 11-17, our AUS students will be taking AP exams in US History, Language/Composition, and World History.**
- AUS is also partnering with universities in the states to offer staff members endorsements for their teaching license in areas such as gifted and talented, Instructional Coaching and other areas. Also, AUS staff members can earn graduate degrees through some of these institutions that we are partnering with.**
- Starting in 2018 AUS students across all grade levels will be working on impact projects as part of our global citizenship initiative. Projects ideas are being developed with the intention of them being ready to be assigned to a grade level at the start of 2018-2019 school year.**
- We recognized two of our staff members who have (or will be) presenting aboard at MENA and NCTM. Mr. Kenny Johnson (Math) recently presented at a MENA conference in Dubai, and Ms. Julie Patterson (Reading/Literacy) will be presenting in Washington DC this summer at the NCTM conference.**

Mr. Winger shared his part of the Associate Directors Report.

- The school has amended our Fire Drill to Fire and Earthquake Drill per recommendation from the accreditation team.**
- Administration and Directors had selected 11 staff members to be mentors for our 2018-2019 new hires.**

- Reviewed the ordering and technology cycle for ES, MS and HS. MS is going to Chromebooks starting next year.
- Our staff had the first AUS sponsored staff socializing event at AUS Towers

3.) ES/MS/HS Reports

Ms. Buffurine (representing Ms. Peirera) shared the elementary school report.

- Elementary performed their first musical *A Kid's Life*
- During field day as an extension of National Day, a famous Kuwait Soccer player was brought in for meet and greet with the students. Ms. Buffurine discussed the possibility of Kuwait's first female pilot also visiting the students
- The elementary has a swim team that will compete in regional competitions
- 5th Grade step up (middle school transition) up tentatively scheduled for a date in mid-May.

Ms. Clements shared the Middle School report.

- Middle school is ramping up their intervention efforts in reading. The middle school is following a similar model that yielded positive results with MS math
- Ms. Clements shared an initial global citizenship project our students are doing with another school in Manitoba.
- A proposed Ramadan Scheduled was shared with the group. During Ramadan students will be in school from 9:00-12:45.

Dr. Ross shared the High School report.

- Dr. Ross shared the plan for HS registration for the 2018-2019 school year. Plan is to meet with each student individually during the day. The goal is to have teacher assignments and rosters ready before the end of the school year.
- The HS recently performed an Agatha Christy murder mystery, *And Then There Were None*.
- Art and Theater will be going on the first abroad study trip to London over Spring break.
- The counseling department has been busy with arranging colleges to stop by and visit with students, and INJAZ has held two entrepreneurship workshops at the school for 11th and 9th grade students.

4.) Student Council Representative Report

Student Council representatives Zeina Al-Fulaij and Abdulla Al-Kazemi shared the Student Council Report

- Activities included selling roses to staff and students during the week of Valentine's Day
- STUCO hosted their second karaoke night
- For spirit week staff and students were allowed to dress according to specific themes for each during the week

- The highlight of Spirit Week was the STUCO Raffle. Thanks to the generosity of our local and corporate sponsors for prizes, STUCO raised 346 KD for their organization.

5.) PTSO Report

Sharing the report for PTSO was Ms. Lama Albabtain.

- PTSO shared a comprehensive presentation on all of the activities they have put on since October. Highlighted was their seasonal festivities such as the Haunted House during Halloween and Winter Wonderland. Coming this Spring PTSO will assist in hosting Arts Night as well as Teacher Appreciation Week, and Ramadan Girgian.
- PTSO has started monthly gatherings in the morning called PTSO COFFEE MORNINGS. These gatherings bring AUS staff and parents to address topics ranging from child protection, love of reading, global citizenship and conflict resolution.
- PTSO is encouraging more visitors to their AUS/PTSO website. Traffic is very light at the moment

6.) Committee Reports

NA

7.) Status of new members

NA

8.) Voting on Vacant Board Positions

- How do we get new members?
- New US Embassy Representative for next school year

9.) Discuss Next Steps:

- Specific items to include in AUS Strategic plan
- Preparations for the first graduation class in 2019.
- Filling vacant board positions
- Establishing Committees.

10.) Textbook Adoption Rotation

This was discussed by Ms. Nelson. The school is adopting a new science curriculum for ES and Middle school.

11.) Next Meeting:

- Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 11:30 am.

Things to Consider:

Important Dates to Remember:

Mar 27	Early dismissal at 11:00/Teacher Work Day
Mar 28, 29	Parent Conferences / No Classes for Students
Mar 21, 22	Spring Play "And Then There Were None" O March 21, at 3:30 pm. Dress Rehearsal. O March 22, at 6:00 pm
Mar 31 - Apr 3	London Trip
Apr 1-5	Spring Break- School Closed
Apr 12	The Tempest, performed by the Young Shakespeare Company @ 6:30 p.m.
May 10	Teachers In-Service Day/No Classes
May 16	Ramadan Schedule starts

Official end time: