



## Minutes of Fathers Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011

Attendees: 13 Fathers including School Head Teacher, Mufti Abdullah Sb, & Governors

Mufti Abdullah started the meeting with dua, thanked all who made the effort to attend again and voiced his disappointment at an unfortunately low turnout.

### Recent changes

Shahid Bhai reported the following:

1. All Classrooms now have projectors, however they currently share laptops, Our IT administrator is trying to acquire additional laptops, or network additional PC's
2. Fundraising events such as mums & munchies, sponsored walks, and dads & bikes have been seen as valuable events for parents to get involved in their school and raised significant funds. All collections are re-invested into classroom resources and costs.
3. Year 5 classroom has been constructed; fathers are kindly offering their time and effort to in order to complete renovation. If parents wish to offer their support please contact Shahid Bhai or Mufti Abdullah
4. Miss Griffin (Year 3) and our Reception Teacher will be leaving us this year and re-structuring will take place as new teachers are recruited.

Mufti Abdullah went on to state that he was seriously concerned with the high turnaround of teachers due to low wages. The schools capability to retain and recruit staff is limited by the schools ability to offer the best salaries. Al-Madani Educational Trust have recently stated their wishes to keep fees affordable for all families in the community, and are continuing to cover school debts by controlling wage demands & costs. The School governors feel in order for the school to continue to flourish and provide the best mixture of Islamic & secular education, Al-Ashraf Primary School needs to self sufficient. At this point the floor was opened up for a discussion about school finances.

### School finances

The school continues to run with a large debt, it was projected at the beginning of the 2010/11 school year this would be considerably higher than previous years.

Two suggestions were presented and discussed,

- Raise fees
- Introduce a 1K loan scheme (an option put forward by Al-Madani Educational Trust)

The majority present did not warm to the idea of the loan scheme which would be returned when the child leaves school. If approved approximately. £150K would be raised by the entire school which would be invested in a rental property. The fathers present did not believe the return (6 - 10K annually) was value for money. They felt the idea did not fit well with the educational ethos of the school and envisaged problems with the idea.

Fathers also stated that if the level of teaching was affected by having low paid teachers & high turnover of staff they would seriously consider withdrawing their children from the school.

Fathers requested that a standard fee be set throughout the school (i.e. all years pay the same amount). Although fathers understood that parents may/would have serious problems with higher school fees they felt it was the only way forward to ensure that the best teachers were retained and education standards carried on rising.

All fathers agreed that the school should aim to be self sufficient and not rely on debts being covered by Al-Madani Educational Trust on a regular basis.

Fathers have asked Shahid bhai to set an example fee based on Al-Ashraf Primary School becoming self sufficient for 2011/12 school year. It was indicated in the meeting that the fees could be rise to a minimum of £1300 per annum.

Fathers agreed if the fees are raised significantly, larger discounts to 2nd, 3rd child fees should be applied.

Some fathers felt the school has far too many fundraising events; they would rather have 1 or 2 major events a year, and raise the fees instead.

EVERYONE PRESENT AGREED, A DECISION TO RAISE FEES CANNOT BE DECIDED BY 13 FATHERS; ALL PARENTS NEED TO BE INVOLVED. The school agreed a referendum to be sent out and parents will be requested to ensure they attend a meeting on fees in the new school year; otherwise their views may not be taken into consideration.

#### **AOB**

One father raised the point that he would like to volunteer working with the children but segregation restrictions makes this difficult at times. Chair of Governors agreed to look into this.

- Sports day – Thank you to all organisers, participants and congratulations to the dad who won the Fathers race.
- Help required for Yr 5 and School IT over the summer holidays – please volunteer
- Please provide ideas / help in improving the playground.
- H&S – Councillor Mr Sajid Patel visited the school to look at drop off/pick up & parking issues.
- Please support the school with this years sponsored fast event over Ramdhan Holidays

The meeting was concluded with a thank you to all attendees and dua.

Jaza Khalla Khair

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