

CIS – OBK School Council	Meeting #2 Agenda
Date:	Tuesday, November 2nd, 2021
Time:	6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Meeting Link:	meet.google.com/ond-ayym-roc
School Council	Aasima Asrar, Zeshan Hyder, Adil Sandhu, Fatima Itani
OBK School representative	Raiha Idrees, Ouasilla Boucharif & Asifa Azmat

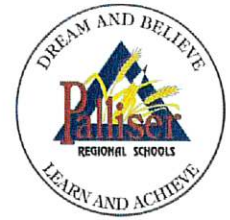
AGENDA

Time	Item Description	Responsible
18:00 – 18:05	1. Call To Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Opening Dua · Summary of Agenda 	Volunteer Chair
18:05 – 18:50	2. Discussion on School Council Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Secretary position? No email received to date. JZKK to sister Fatema for volunteering for now. ○ Email-when email please ○ Subcommittees-Parent Volunteer and OBK Events ○ Fundraising-Bake sale to start? ○ OBK Optional/ required subjects time allocation? ○ Alternative Program fee to support instructors 3. OBK Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Water Well Donation- update ● Online Programs offer letters to students-letter sent. EPIC books NO discount on Bulk subscriptions, if you want, you have to buy a subscription on your own. https://www.getepic.com/ 	Chair Dexter Durfey Principal Chair
18:50 – 18:55	5. Upcoming Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next School Council Meeting December 7th, 2021 @ 6:00 pm 	Chair
18:55 – 18:58	6. Questions / Comments / Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AOB- Any other Business ● Agenda items for the next meeting due by November 29, 2021. 	Chair

18:58 – 19:00	5. Closing Dua	Volunteer
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obkschoolcouncil@pallisersd.ab.ca
225 – 28 Street SE (587) 353-8900 Calgary, AB T2A 5K4

[CIS – OBK School Council Website](#)



OBK School Council Meeting # 2

Date:	Tuesday, November 2, 2021	
Time:	6:20 PM – 7:51 PM	
Place:	Google Meet online	
Participants:	School Council Members and School Parents	
Name	Positions	Email Addresses
Raiha Idress	Principal CIS – OBK Campus	Raiha.idrees@pallisersd.ab.ca
Aasima Asrar	Chair OBK Campus	
Zeshan Hyder	Vice Chair OBK Campus	Zeshanhyder@gmail.com
Adil Sandhu	Treasurer OBK Campus	
Muzaffar	Education Committee Chairperson/ MCC	
Parents		

Minutes:

Meeting commenced at 6:20pm with opening Duaa

Agenda Items Discussed:

- Summary of Agenda

- Secretary/ Aasima

- ___ No one has volunteered to take the secretary position yet. If anyone is interested, please e-mail Ms. Asrar. Fatema Itani will take the meeting minutes until someone takes over the secretary position.
- ___ Please mention your name or your child's name when sending emails so we can reference who the email is coming from.

- Subcommittees/ Aasima

- Volunteer subcommittee: We need one or more individuals to help organize the number of volunteers, timings, and collecting contact information of volunteers.
- Events Subcommittee: We need volunteers to work with staff to see what events we need help with in the school, making posters, and coming up with PowerPoints for students.
- If anyone is interested in helping with the subcommittees, please email the school council.

Email: obkschoolcouncil@pallisersd.ab.ca

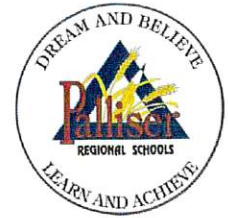
Tel: (587) 353-8900 Fax: (587) 353-8999

<http://site1.obk.calgaryislamicsschool.com.webguideforschools.ca/community/school-council2>

225 – 28th Street SE

Calgary, AB

T2A 5K4



● **Upcoming Events**

- Everactive Schools: We need help with fundraising, technical support, parent volunteers, prepping the gym, equipment, posters. By the next meeting we will have a clearer picture of how many volunteers we need.

● **OBK Update/ Raiha**

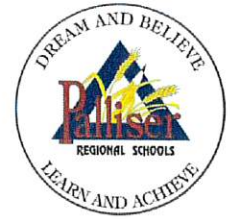
- Well donation: We contacted the organization and have requested a well to be dug in Malawi which will cost \$13,400 USD. It is a deep well run by solar power, 65-100 m deep. It is a cement based tower structure holding tanks 10000 liters in total. The pump pushes water into the tanks. It will take 6 months to build. The cost will be \$16,000+ CAN. We are working to transfer the money. We will get back to you with the exact number. Once payments are made, a letter will be sent to parents. The left-over money will be kept for next Ramadan.
- Raiha postponed the rest of her update to give the floor to Brother Muzaffar to talk about the fees.

● **Alternative Program Fee/ Muzaffar**

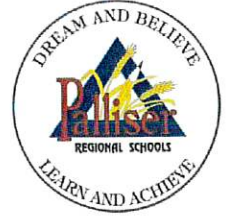
- He welcomes the new council.
- When we started our fee was high and was reduced when we joined Palliser. It was called "society fee" and was then changed to "alternative program fee". It's just a difference of name.
- We are paying for all of the Tahfeeth program/staff and some staff at AJ.
- We also pay for capital expenses and major repairs on the buildings.
- We are expecting \$2M in revenue which has been categorized for tahfeeth program, executive director, HVAC \$1.6M.
- We have renovated the gyms at AJ and OBK, put a staircase and fence at OBK, and established classrooms in the tower.
- Lots of work needs to be done. We are looking to add another school to our campuses. We have more students than what we should be accommodating.
- Being a parent at CIS is a privilege not a right. We went with the public system to get better staff we can keep. Before there was a lot of turnover because we couldn't afford to pay.
- This year there will be no donation receipts. All money will be collected by Palliser. \$1400 for the first child, and \$1200 for siblings. Few parents refused to pay. This created a negative image of our community.
- We are the least costly alternate program across the country.

● **Questions**

- Question/ Parent: Why shouldn't each campus have their own account?



- Answer/ Muzaffar: These are two campuses of one school, just like CBE has many schools and they use the funding where it is needed. So, it is not two separate schools, but one school with two campuses.
- Question/ Parent: How are some parents refusing to pay creating a problem for all of us? What does that mean?
- Answer/ Muzaffar: We were helping some parents that were having difficulty in paying. Now Palliser is collecting the fees and we cannot do that. If money is not paid, Palliser will take action, maybe deregistering students, maybe sending them to collections agencies. They are looking at their options.
- Question/ Parent: What happened to the \$10M collected during the past five years? We don't know anything about it. Parents don't mind paying, but they have lost trust in the organization. Parents should be informed of these fees before registration. How is \$380,000 being paid for an executive director when we didn't have one for most of the time during the past five years?
- Answer/ Muzaffar: In 2015 Muzaffar took over the school board and the contract was signed with Palliser. He was there until the contract was signed and he was not involved in anything until Sept 2019 when the new MCC was elected. From that time, they are still trying to find where the money is. They found about 50 different accounts opened here and there by MCC. Nobody was questioning the MCC. The money was spent very loosely which we cannot account for. We are still working on that. It will take time. \$1.5M is sitting in the capital project account which was secured from the money for the Remington project. The act says the Board may charge an alternative program fee. It does not say it has to be in consultation with parents.
- Parent: The handbook clearly says that parents have to be informed before registration.
- Answer/ Muzaffar: This is not something new. When people register, they know there is a fee. This is a private school, an alternative school in the public system. It is not a right to attend this school. Parents have a right to send their children to a public school. As MCC we are trying to get a forensic audit of where all that money went during the previous years. We cannot answer all these questions right now.
- Question/ Parent: How is the \$200 we paid for re-registration going to be discounted in school cash? Are we still getting the 15% credit we were promised last year because of Covid? If a highschool student only attended one semester, do they pay full tuition?
- Answer/ Muzaffar: If they paid full last year, they would get the credit. A generic email was sent out to everyone.
- Answer/ Raiha: Admin is working with MCC to adjust separate accounts with the discounts that need to be applied. Email Raiha with the discounts that apply to you, and it will be forwarded to the accountant and adjusted. Talk to Principal Ramy for the high school fee.
- Question/ Parent: How is OBK money being used at AJ? We are paying the fees to get the



benefit in return, not other parents' benefit.

- Answer/ Muzaffar: AJ has more parents than OBK. We spend more money on OBK because we have a tahfeeth program which costs around \$400,000 which is in addition to the Islamic Studies program. AJ only has an Islamic Studies program. Their need is less than OBK and they make more money because they have more parents. It is for the benefit of OBK to have one pool to spend from. We are one community.
- Question/ Parent: CBE doesn't collect funds from parents. AJ is much bigger and has many issues.
- Answer/ Muzaffar: If an alternative program is offered at a CBE school, parents are charged a fee. CBE gets all the funding according to the number of students. Funds are spent where needed. All the money goes into one pool and funds are used where needed. Palliser does the same. All the school systems work like that. Once we have the numbers, we can show it to parents how although AJ makes more money in fees, more money is being spent on OBK.
- Parent: By the time we see the numbers we will have a new MCC, and they will say we are not responsible for what the previous board did. We have been in this cycle and have not been given answers.
- Brother Muzaffar will try to attend all council meetings to try to answer parents' questions and work with them.
- Question/ Parent: Any idea why parents are so angry why these fees are not being used to their full capacity? The money we are paying is not visible that it is being spent on our school. This is deeply concerning
- Answer/ Muzaffar: I don't think the parents are angry. Only a few didn't want to pay their outstanding balance so they made an issue. Most parents are happy to pay the fees and are doing so. We will have answers to these questions soon. We are working on getting forensic auditors onto the system to figure this all out.
- Question/ Parent: When it comes to fees we are told the two schools are one, but when it comes to other issues like field trips and school supplies, we are told they are two different systems.
- Answer/ Muzaffar: We don't charge for any maintenance. This money is for capital projects and any other major repairs.
- Question/ Parent: When we registered our child we were not told that there would be extra fees.
- Answer/ Muzaffar: Every school charges extra fees for extra programs. This is seen at all schools.
- Question/ Parent: Will there be an external audit for the previous year's fees, and will you make it public. If there was fraud, will legal action take place?
- Answer/ Muzaffar: We are planning to do that. We have already gone after some people

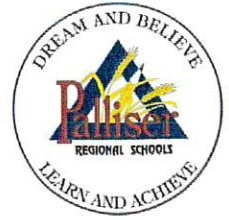


- and have recovered some money. MCC will publish it in its communications very soon.
- Question/ Parent: We paid fees at the MCC office. Will that be acceptable?
 - Answer/ Muzaffar: Yes, wherever you paid, it will be accepted.
 - Question/ Parent: Why haven't we ever seen the \$200 reregistration fee discounted from the fee before? For the past five years I have paid in full and I never got that discount.
 - Answer/ Muzaffar: It should have been discounted. I'm not sure why that was not done for you.
 - Question/ Parent: Why do we have to pay the alternative program fee for high school when there is no Qur'an or Islamic Studies being offered to high school students.
 - Answer/ Muzaffar: I will get that information for the next meeting.
 - Parent: We need to sit down with both campus parents and all MCC and Palliser members so we can resolve this.
 - Question/ Parent: Would you be using our fees to fund a new school? If yes, why?
 - Answer/ Muzaffar: Yes, this fee can be used for that, and we would like to get another campus to relieve the two schools. We probably won't have enough money to do that.
 - Question/ Parent: How is it fair for some parents to be excused from balances up to \$30,000?
 - Answer/ Muzaffar: They are not excused. It is still sitting in their account. They will have to pay or it will go on their credit.
 - Answer/ Raiha: Raiha clarified that a generic email was sent to all parents with the same amount. Administration is coordinating with the MCC accountant to make adjustments for parents who paid the re-registration fee and get discounts, like staff discount and sibling discount. Parents can send her an email of what they have paid, and she is making a document to be able to share this information with the accountant and adjust balances for parents. They will need some time to figure everything out.
 - Question/ Parent: Should we pay online or to the MCC office since online is \$1400.
 - Answer/ Raiha: Pay the first installment online, and the adjustment will be made in the second installment. Even if you overpay, the MCC will reimburse/readjust your account.
 - Raiha's items will be postponed to the next meeting as we are out of time.
 - If you have specific questions for brother Muzaffar, please email him. He will try to attend the next meeting to answer more questions.

● Upcoming Meeting

- ___ Next School Council meeting December 7th, 2021 @ 6:00 pm

CLOSING DUAA at TIME 7:51pm



Minutes Approved by:

Raiha Idrees

Principal
Raiha Idrees

Aasima Asrar

Chairperson
Aasima Asrar

Fatema Itani

Secretary
Fatema Itani