



GRANADA ISLAMIC SCHOOL

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Educating young Muslims for life

Board of Directors

Alma Soto
Board Chair

Date: September 27th, 2018 at 6:30pm

Maha Dahbour
Vice Chair

Attendees:

Board members: Alma Soto, Khadiga Elhaddad, Maha Dahbour, Magdy Abdelrahman, Atef Ibrahim, Tariq Ali, and Najeeb Hashimi.

Admins: Osman Khan.

Khadiga Elhaddad
Secretary

Magdi AbdelRahman
Treasurer

Absentees: No one.

Administration

Osman Khan
Principal

Topic 1: Approve last meeting minutes:

8/30 meeting minutes got approved by all members.

Lian Jeeawoody
Vice Principal

Topic 2: Principal Report

- **Common Core Implementation:**
 - In deployment for 5 years at GIS.
 - NGSS standards are new for this year and implementation has already begun.
 - New teachers are being trained by Department Head Coordinators.
- **Professional Development:**
 - Teachers need training and assistance in implementation in research based discipline programs that align with 21st century methods and methodologies.
 - The school holds sixteen hour Positive Discipline professional staff development program (training is in two sessions, 9/4 and 11/12), conducted by Julie Catherine Iraninejad of the Positive Discipline Association.
- **High School Programs/Course:**
 - WASC observational visit to accredit 12th grade took place 9/26.
 - Dr. Wael is working on dual program logistics and programmatic related needs(his plan should be ready by November).
 - Current Classes are all A-G approved.
- **Classroom Observations & Teacher Evals:**
 - Department Head Coordinators (DHC) to focus mainly on mentoring and coaching other teachers but not to evaluate them.
 - Admin holds weekly meetings with Department Head Coordinators to follow up with them.
 - Evaluation should not be connected to job security, because this connection creates fear and anxiety culture between teachers.

- Evaluation needs to incorporate new instructional and discipline strategies.
- DHC won't evaluate, only the principal and the vice principal.
- Walkthrough checklist created and incorporates Kagan based instructional strategies as well as Positive Disc. criteria
- Admins Walkthrough will be three times a year. First one tbd after next week's staff meeting.
- **Islamic Studies & Arabic:**
 - we need different approach to faith in the early grades. Change needs to be less ritual-centric and more God and contemplation centric.
 - Quran classes need more resources.
 - The principal studies 'Contemplation with Annoos', a program that helps children in the younger grades to build and develop moral character, and teach them how to establish God consciousness.
 - Islamic studies classes more project based, specially for older grades.
- **Academic Excellence/Benchmark/Program Improvement & Student Achievement:**
 - We need to train our teachers how to effectively take the data from the Terra Nova test results and use it as a way to drive our teaching and learning.
 - We don't have reading and math assessment programs that give quarterly feedback relating to the reading and math levels of the students.
 - Admins recommends Investing in a school-wide math and reading program such as STAR Math and STAR Reading.
 - Another critical measure of assessing student growth is MAP Testing, which measures what students know and informs what they're ready to learn next.
 - Admins will report to the board how much this will cost the school and the best dates to start these programs.
- **Communications:**
 - Principal is working to create active blog on website rather than emails
 - Newsletter once a month
- **Principal requests:**
 - He stresses on the need for a new admin, to alleviate the burden on Principal to deal with daily behavior issues and help dealing with visionary goals.
 - He also mentioned the need for Counselling program, and he studies what Khalil Center can offer us.

The board is waiting for more details regarding:

- The STAR program in reading and in Math
- TerraNova series of tests
- MAP testing

We need to know the cost of implementing them, how easy for our teachers to use them, the time needed for these tests, and any other needed details.

The principal will send these details before the coming board meeting.

GIS board met with br. Mohamed Ali from Tycho insurance services to present better plan than can cost the school less and offer better service to our employees.
Magdy, the treasurer, will meet him one more time to make sure this new plan is better than what we currently have. The goal is to offer to our employees better service and to save money for the school.
Our current plan will end by the end of October.

Topic 4: Strategic planning for the school:

- Atef (the chair of the strategic planning committee), mentioned that strategic planning should be implemented into Two tiers:
 - before any other committee starts to plan, the whole board should set a clear visionary plan for the future of the school.
 - After this vision is clear, other committees can take this plan and move forward with the details.
- To be able to set a right plan, we should:
 - use the WASC report and WASC self study as the main resources.
 - involve school admins in the planning process.
- Alma mentioned that there is WASC Webinar on Oct 17 12 to 2:00, all board members are highly encouraged to attend, to understand WASC.
- Right after this webinar we should have a meeting with our admins, to present to us GIS WASC report with all the details.
- After this meeting we should be ready to set the future plan of the school.

Topic 5: New members orientation/training:

Alma mentioned that next Thursday Oct 4th, will be the orientation for the new board members. All members are encouraged to attend.
