



GRANADA ISLAMIC SCHOOL

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Educating young Muslims for life

Board of Directors

Alma Soto
Board Chair

Date: Nov 4th, 2018 at 10:00am to 2:00pm

Maha Dahbour
Vice Chair

Attendees:

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

Khadiga Elhaddad
Secretary

Admins: Osman Khan, and Lian Jeeawoody (First two hours).

Magdi AbdelRahman
Treasurer

Absentees: No one.

Administration

Osman Khan
Principal

Topic 1: Admins WASC Presentation and discussion:

Lian Jeeawoody
Vice Principal

Lian presented to the board the WASC Plan for 2016-22:

- The school is currently preparing for WASC mid-cycle visit in March 2019.
- By mid January, all the Wasc work should be done.
- By February 4th, admins will put all the work together and submit it.
- The mid-cycle visit will be in March.

Discussion after admins presentation:

General Challenges face school admins while preparing for WASC plan:

- More time and effort needed to analyse TerraNova results and get concrete data out of it.
- How to integrate the SIP (School Improvement Plan) that was made in 2016-17 in our current WASC plan.
- The challenge of recruiting/hiring good candidates.
- Lack of year long students assessment program, we depend mainly on TerraNova which comes only at the end of the year.

The Islamic Education:

- We need a new coordinator, as Sr Samia is overloaded with Arabic & IS.
- We mainly teach 'I love islam' curriculum as the main islamic program in the school.
- While 'I love is Islam' covers many topics, it doesn't build the islamic foundation our students need, and it lacks the interactive part(no projects or hand-on activity).
- Granada needs more interactive and relevant programs that meet school goals and students needs.

- Teachers should have islamic background, school shouldn't hire people without solid Islamic knowledge.
- We need to review our policies to make sure they are all aligned with our IS needs and goals.

Quran:

- It's a fact that many of our students attend after school Quran programs, they mainly go because they look for higher level than what the school currently offers.
- This means we need to raise the bar for our Quran program, and build higher level curriculums.
- The goals of our Quran program should be reviewed and communicated to all Quran teachers and to parents. The results of the program should meet the needs of the parents and should integrate with the goals of the IS curriculum.
- We have reading, memorization, and understanding Quran in the school, and we need to balance between the three of them.

PE (Physical Education):

The Standards of GIS PE program should be reviewed to assure they meet the National PE standards, this is very important to ensure the safety of our students at all grades.

Topic 2: Board Discussion:

The board agreed that:

- One of our main tasks is to follow up with admins to make sure they implement the plan correctly.
- We need to support the principal and push the bar for him, listen to the challenges that faces him, and work with him to overcome them.
- Najeeb offered to help admins in analysing TerraNova data and any other useful data, to get the most out of it.

The governance part in the WASC action plan in mainly belongs to the board, We started reviewing it to make sure we are on the right direction implementing the WASC plan:

For policies:

Policies committee is working on reviewing the whole doc, update it, share it with admins and make it available to public.

The process of updating the policies and procedures manual in mentioned in the policies, this also will be reviewed and updated if needed.

For involving more stakeholders in the assessment and planning process:

We agreed to organize board meetings with staff & parents, in addition to sending well-prepared surveys that give concrete feedback from parents and staff regarding the long-term plan of the school.

Najeeb offered to prepare survey once we have the first version of the plan.

For our long-term plan:

The old plan was based on MCA 2.0 expansion, as this plan didn't work and we moved to MCA 3.0, our long term plan should be completely updated.

To set a plan, we need to get all the historical data that used to set the old plan, and we also need all the data related to the 3.0 building. While setting this long term plan, the financial plan should be set too.

The strategic planning committee along with the treasure are working on this.

For the marketing plan:

Fundraising committee is working with the business development coordinator and the principal to set our short-term marketing plan.

For security:

The school invested a lot in 2016 to improve our security system (we have 36 cameras inside and outside the building, real-time monitoring screens at principal and VP offices, all school doors are always locked, etc).

We need to get feedback from admins regarding the current level of security and check if more work is needed.

For school Cleanliness:

The school philosophy in cleanliness should be changed, and Sr Ameerah is working on this. Students should care about the school cleanliness and help in the cleaning process. This philosophy should be adopted by all the students and also by other schools/programs run at the MCA. every person at the MCA should feel the responsibility of keeping the place clean all the time.

For facility plan:

MCA BoT is working now to upgrade all the outside area (playground and soccer field) and the cost will be paid by a donor.

We need to look for renovating our bathrooms. Atef will be working on this and we will check our budget to cover this renovation project (We may fundraise for it).