

## **PARENT – GOVERNOR MEETING – 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2008**

Questions raised by Parents:

### **Question 1**

- Is Doha College going to move or remain on current site?
- Security Issue – Requires that Security improve measures at the gate.

Is Doha College going to move or remain on the current site?

In September of last year we formed a new Strategy committee on the board to review on the options available to the College over the short and medium term. Since then we have been active in investigating our options and we are confident that before the next academic year we will be in a position to share our initial findings with our parent body.

### **Option 1 Remain On Site**

We are very fortunate to have a very supportive landlord who is very keen for us to stay on the site and understands our needs to expand and improve the facilities to offer our children a centre of excellence in which they can grow and develop. We are working very closely with our landlord and are confident we will be in a position soon to outline his proposal for staying on the site.

### **Option 2 Move To A New Site**

In addition to speaking to our landlord we have been approached by the Government to submit our requirements for a new site which we have duly done and we are now awaiting some feedback on what the government can offer in the way of land and financial assistance.

### **Conclusion**

Regardless of the options, the cost of a new or upgraded College is going to be expensive and therefore before we commit ourselves we as a board must ensure we have explored every option and steered the College on the best route possible.

As you can imagine this is not an easy task and we are always looking for knowledgeable volunteers to be co-opted onto the strategy committee to give us professional guidance and advice. If you feel you can assist us in this task we would be happy to hear from you.

## **Question 2**

- Year 5 primary classroom situation – when will the classes be moved back to primary?

I am sure you are aware that the year 5 children have been moved into the main part of the Primary School. We are delighted that this has taken place.

## **Question 3**

- Why have the Portacabins not arrived?
- Why is American School able to put Portacabins in the parking lot?

We realize that it has taken some time to arrange the portacabins and we accept that this is something we need to address in the future. We have, however, managed to get two temporary classes installed with the support of our landlord and parents who work for spacemaker.

## **Question 4**

- Rugby club – concerns over loss of facility.
- Is there a cut off date for the rugby club? When will we take measures and move forward without the rugby club?

Doha College and the Rugby Club are working closely together in the common interest of securing the future of the site. The Rugby Club have several more years to run on the current lease and are seeking an extension. Doha College is taking steps to move forwards to a new site or redevelop the current site as best fits the circumstances.

## **STRATEGY QUESTIONS**

### **PARENT – GOVERNOR EVENING – 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2008**

The Board would like to thank all parents who contributed to the mini workshop held during the Parent – Governor Evening. Below you will find the questions and the answers taken verbatim from the scripts. All input received is valuable and will be considered & reviewed as part of our future planning and strategy. Thank you once again to those parents present who contributed positively to the process.

## **FINANCING**

### **To build a new school will require an estimated 350m QR**

- 1. How do you feel about paying a higher capital charge & school fees?**
- 2. What form of future financing should be employed? (fees, grants, loans)**
- 3. Do you think we should raise substantial donations from Qatar corporate companies?**

- Rising costs – offset against housekeeping?
- What has been done to cut costs?
- Capital charge - yes, but up to a limit – 10% yes 50% no
- Reduction in capital charge for siblings
- Prefer a limited number of students (this comment from personal experience of declining results going from small to large school. 200 to 2500.
- Capital charge & school fees should be looked at.
- Sponsorships
- British Embassy
- Funded like some other schools (Lebanese, French schools) money came from Emiri Diwan
- Introduce difference scales
- Debentures
- Loans 0%
- Corporate sponsorship – donations – entry criteria
- Raising fees is OK
- Company sponsorship for guaranteed places is OK
- Named buildings from funders
- How do ASD raise funds?
- Capital charge circumnavigates 15% CAP.

### **School stakeholders and community**

- 1. What should Doha College represent in the community?**
- 2. How can Doha College continue to improve its links with the community?**

- Utilize Al Sadd football/swimming facilities as alternative to rugby club. (if necessary/in addition)
- Approach (through Barwa) for subsidized teacher accommodation.
- British Curriculum or IB
- PYP – MYP – Who do we cater for?
- Keeping in touch.

- Reach out.
- Offer adult and child evening courses on site.
- Stands in Malls to promote College (particularly Post 16)
- To be “The” school for academic excellence
- Quality education
- Highest delivery of UK education
- IB ? leave to others
- Improve facilities
- More frequent testing

### **Where next – expansion or status quo?**

- 1. The vision of the college 5 years from now?**
- 2. How big do you think the college should go in terms of student numbers?**
- 3. Should we limit the size of the college?**

- Present location good.
- 1200 max size
- Need the students to expand
- Keep all 3 age ranges
- Primary – expand if facilities are available (another campus nearby?)
- May become impersonal if too big?
- No more than 1500
- Best Education in a safe, enjoyable and challenging environment

### **Educational Priorities**

- 1. The academic standards of the college and ways to improve these?**
- 2. Should we continue to offer primary, secondary and post-16?**
- 3. Subject areas that the college does not cover?**

- Continue Primary, Secondary and Post 16
- Languages – offer more
- Options for languages
- GCSE/A level and basic primary
- Life skills
- Offer IB – just this or can we run both?
- Do we have advanced placement? Should we offer?
- We should have all 3 academic levels. ? leaving primary here and move secondary and post 16.
- We should teach Arabic as an option or as after school lessons.
- Domestic science and cooking
- Extra curricular – music – on website update the activities page
- At American School they get weekly emails on a range of subjects
- Arabic – conversation (primary)
- Continue to be more selective at entrance level
- Focus on core areas
- No problem with size of school as long as academic standards are maintained
- Two schools – economies of school, separate locations, satellite management.
- Professional qualifications

- Look at 2 sites – new one for post 16?
- Court demographic data & forecasts from embassy/local Gov.
- Rebrand post 16 – 6<sup>th</sup> form coll.
- Adult learning – earning money from non sport.
- Publish staff development program
- Consider using technique like “kumon”
- Keep primary, secondary and post 16
- Sharing facilities/partnership eg Aspire/Qatar foundation
- Hire high quality teachers
- Teachers – parents – children – homework insufficient
- How do we support children that are struggling?
- Offer staff development
- Cut primary and focus with local organisations

### **Issues and performance**

- 1. What does Doha College do well?**
- 2. What are the greatest issues facing the college?**
- 3. What are the risks facing the school?**
- 4. The pending loss of the rugby club facility?**
- 5. Improving environmental awareness?**

- Teaching – extra curricular activities
- Space, DRFC. Planned & pro active maintenance
- Risk – competition from better/newer schools
- Loss of sports facilities – DRFC
- Environmental awareness – poor

### **Parent contribution**

- 1. What can you contribute now to ensure the future of Doha College?**
- 2. How can you, as parents, help Doha College to improve?**

- Footbridge across Al Bustan Street
- Expertise Group – key knowledge to complete individual tasks
- Contact parents – ie. We need help with.....
- Swimming pool temp is too cold. Where is the cover?
- Check on chemical balance as children have rashes
- Should put these questions on the website and invite parents to submit comments.
- Petition to Diwan from parents
- Parents with influence get involved
- Corporate sponsorship
- 4 terms – but impacts on curriculum
- Support board & teachers
- Communicate back