

## AGM Speech Dr George Saadeh

My few words are like the state of the union address, highlighting key issues that we have addressed in the recent past.

Details on educational matters will be discussed by Dr Tassos and a briefing on our financial position will be presented by our treasurer, Mr. Nauman Ahmed.

I will then open the meeting for discussion, so that you can voice your views, opinions and concerns and together we will plan the future.

Schools like ours are living institutions and dynamic places ever changing and constantly evolving. As schools in general are people inventive, especially in a place like Saudi Arabia, they are subject to student turnover and personnel changes. The latter pose challenges in the area of staff requirements and recruiting issues. As you know by now, after our extensive and laborious process, the list of final candidates was narrowed down to five finalists, all with excellent qualifications, for various reasons the board selected Dr. Tassos Anastasiades as the new Principal to succeed Mr. Spedding who stayed 12 Years at the helm. Since assuming office early this year Dr. Tassos has immersed himself in the various challenges facing the school. Welcome.

Foremost among the concerns are the staffing issues. Whereas in the past, the local community provided most of our staffing needs, this has significantly changed in recent years, especially related to the change of the demography of the expatriate community. This has forced us to look overseas for our staffing requirements with its implications on the procedural efforts and financial implications. Yet, in spite of these challenges we have fortunately managed to remain adequately staffed with qualified and competent teachers. We continue to adhere to our strong belief, that, along with our students our teachers are our most important asset. I take this opportunity to welcome our new members of staff.

The turnover of personnel also affected the administrative staff and the Bursar's office. We have managed to fill those vacant posts, according to a re-organization plan implemented by Dr Tassos. As you know by now, the Board of Governors has taken the strategic decision to introduce Key Stage 4, which will provide a GCSE programme leading to A levels. This is not a new decision. The programme will provide continuing education to your children and will provide an opportunity for families to remain united for an extended period.

The Board has also recently approved the establishment of the special educational needs programme which will decrease the number of students who are declined

admission for various learning need reasons and will also enhance the reputation of the school. Dr Tassos will elaborate more.

As you may be aware the school has a new landlord, The STCC. Our lease contract, previously signed with the Olayan group before the takeover and for a period of 5 years stipulates that there will be no change in the conditions of the content for the duration of the lease. This agreement gives us breathing time to develop a 5 year strategic plan. We are currently negotiating with the new landlord on the feasibility to build new premises above the existing structure to accommodate the new Key Stage 4 programme.

In a few minutes Mr. Nauman Ahmed will brief you about our fiscal status which remains in healthy territory and a sound position due to the Boards prudent fiscal management.

Ladies and Gentlemen, parents and members of staff.

The school, your school, continues to enjoy an enviable excellent reputation, providing excellence in education for the young generation who are the leaders of tomorrow. We continue to emphasize the development of the whole personality of the students, not only when encouraging them to acquire knowledge as a pleasurable pursuit and for its own sake, but through providing programs like the public speaking contest and the poetry recital contest that help to build their self esteem and self confidence. We emphasize the importance of drama and music to nourish the children's souls. Various recreational and extra curricular activities enrich your children's educational experience and the pleasurable pursuit of leisurely habits. We shall continue to strive to provide the warm atmosphere encouraging discipline, emphasizing the importance of moral values and virtuous behavior that will polish the children's characters and develop their leadership potential. In essence we are helping to bring out what is best in a child, thus raising decent and productive leaders of tomorrow.

We pledge to build on previous successes, capture the school's many strengths and with your help and support, maintain the momentum of progress. We shall meet new challenges with dedication and vigor to achieve a constantly evolving vision of excellence at BISAK.

Let us join together to prepare your children to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

Finally, I wish to thank you again, the parents and friends of BISAK through APF and I wish to thank the members of the Board for their unfailing and tireless efforts.