

# MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION OF THE BMIS BOARD MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016

## PRESENT

V. Beza	VB	Board Member
V. Frantz	VF	Board Member
G. Bizzaro	GB	Board Member
S. Vikan	SV	Board Member
M. Chilenga	MC	Board Member
N. Steyn	NS	Board Member
M. Mbewe	MM	Board Member
N. Bishop	NB	Director
O. Williams	OW	Secondary Head
J. Johnson	JJ	Primary Head
W. Horea	WH	Business Manager
C. Mead	CM	Secondary Representative
T. Green	TG	School Counsellor
R. Xuereb	RX	Child Protection Officer

## APOLOGIES

D. Pinto	DP	Board Member
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### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 18.37 hrs after confirming the presence of a quorum. NB introduced TG, the School Counsellor and RX, the School's newly appointed Child Protection Officer.

NB explained that the appointment of a Child Protection Officer this year was in an effort to fulfil CIS' explicit recommendations for child protection. Most large organisations such as AISA, CIS, ECIS and IMEC have been doing their bit in terms of child protection after high profile cases have been reported in the international press.

### 2. Agenda

The agenda was presented. GB proposed the adoption of the agenda and VB seconded.

### 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Open Session held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016 were taken as read.

### 4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

### 5. Strategic Issues

#### 5.1 Child Protection

NB highlighted a couple of core standards that relate to child protection under that 2016 Code of Governance. He noted that the school cannot have a recommendation against the CIS core standards.

He explained that since the focus of the meeting was child protection, the idea was that TG and RX should take the Board through the issues of child protection, making sure that the procedures are imbedded with the school.

In their presentations TG and RX highlighted the following:

1. Last year the school started to look at where it is currently and where it is going on the issues of child protection. This process includes going through some of the documents NB brought back from the conference on child protection which he attended in Rome. As a consequence of that, last year the school reinstated the work experience program for year 10 and looked at how to make sure that those work places were safe.

2. The Committee also started putting together contacts of resources in the communities. One such contact is the Area 3 Police where they have a Child Protection Unit under the Victim Support Unit.

NB noted that because BMIS has an open campus, making sure that only authorized people are allowed access into campus is not an easy task. However, the school is planning to fence off the bottom car park so that all pedestrian can access the campus only through a couple of gates where their ID will be checked.

4. In terms of employment:

- People have to be asked specific questions
- Contracts have to be worded in certain ways
- People coming onto campus to render services such as coaches, are now required to bring in a copy of medical as well as police clearance certificates
- Contractors will have to be vetted prior to being awarded jobs

MC provided some useful insights regarding the different definitions of a child under Malawian law. He was asked to confirm the various definitions of a child with particular reference to age of consent and email information to NB. **Action: MC**

TG went further to explain the different forms of child abuse and the different ways in which it can occur.

## **6. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

There were no substantial matters arising from the informational reports.

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 20.11 hrs. The next meeting of the Board of BMIS will be held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 18.30 hrs.

Signed:.....

Date:.....