Minutes of the Open Session of the BMIS Board meeting held on 26th March 2019

Present:

G. Bizzaro	GB	Chairman
E. Moyo	EM	Board Member
M. Nambiar	MN	Board Member
S. Stapleton	SS	Board Member
K. Bosscher	KB	Board Member
N. Bishop	NB	Director
J. Johnson	JJ	Primary Head
O.Williams	OW	Secondary Head
W. Horea	WH	Business Manager

Apologies

M. Pickard MP Board Member
B. Bijl BB Board Member

Absent

C. Kapyepye CK Board Member

Observers

Mr Guido Cornella Parent
Mr Martin Van de Reep Parent
Mr Jeffrey Goveia Parent

Time	Agenda Item	Minutes
6.37 (5)	Welcome	GB welcomed all present. He extended a special welcome to KB who was attending her first Board meeting after being co-opted to take over J. Lebede's term until the next elections cycle. NB then introduced everyone in the meeting and congratulated GB for being elected Chair of the Board.
6.42 (7)	Approval of Agenda and minutes of previous meeting	Agenda was presented and adopted unanimously. Agenda was then shared with three parents present.

		GB proposed and SS seconded the approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Open Session held on 26 th February 2019. Minutes were therefore taken as read.
6.49 (5)	Matters arising from previous meeting	
	 Land Ownership 	During the last Board meeting WH was asked to write the letter stating that Mr Price had sold the land to BMIS and get him to sign it so that transfer of ownership can then be done. WH confirmed that this was done and Mr Price signed the letter. He said the school has currently engaged someone who is dealing with the Ministry of Lands. Title Deed should be ready in a few days.
6.54	Director's Report	
(50)	Sub-Committees	With the recent changes to the Board membership Office bearers were appointed to the subcommittees as follows:
		Finance: Gianluca Bizzaro; Bouke Bijl; Express Moyo
		Policy: Mahima Nambiar; Sean Stapleton; Chikondi Kapyepye
		Facilities: Matt Pickard; Karen Bosscher
		Express Moyo was proposed and confirmed as Chair of Finance. It was suggested that since GB was now formally elected as Chair, there was need to have someone step in as Vice Chair. Voting for the position of Vice Chair of the Board would be done digitally.
		Finance committee meeting will take place once BB is back in the country.
		NB informed the Board that Elton Jangale had resigned and there was need for someone to be co-opted to replace him until the next elections. With the AGM roughly planned for April, elections should follow around May. He said if there are any Malawians looking to be co-opted, their applications can be looked at before the elections.
	MoE Engagement	NB reported that having been in steady dialogue with schools in Blantyre, it had been established that the schools face many of the same issues as BMIS does. With

	Parent Association Meeting	the exception of Phoenix, the Blantyre schools are all ex-DSB and there are constant issues of inconsistency of tax levies, TEVET, licences and land issues. As a result, there is a proposition by the other schools that a concerted effort be made to engage with the Ministry of Education. NB therefore asked the Board if, in the board's opinion, this is something the school should do, and whether this is a good time considering that it is only two months before the elections. The consensus among the Board members was that while it was a good initiative, the timing was not ideal. NB reported that he had received an email from a group of parents requesting for a meeting of the whole parents association. The email had two attachments including an invitation to all parents to attend a meeting on 2 nd April to talk about their concerns. The other attachment was a letter asking the school to send out the invitation on their behalf and to provide a venue for the meeting in school. NB explained that after having sought advice on the issue, it should be discussed with the whole Board before approving any such meeting. The Board deliberated on the matter at length and resolved that NB should send out the invitation to parents for the 9 th of April and that no reference should be made to the email correspondence. It was also agreed that meeting will have to be fully managed by the Board. Action: NB to send out the invitation to all parents
7.40 (15)	Head of Primary's Report • MAP Testing	JJ reported that Primary trials through two screening tests had been completed and the results of the small group will be presented at the next Board meeting. The final decision will be made once the whole school has been through the tests. NB added that by the end of this year there needs to be a clear roadmap of the benefits of MAP before any final decisions on whether to drop ISA testing. By term 3 the school will be in a much stronger position to say if the tests are providing meaningful data.
	Primary Art Exhibition	JJ reported that the preparations for the exhibition were going very well. Mentors had been very supportive.
	Risk Assessment	Making reference to a recent incident when there were a couple of injuries in rugby, SS wanted to know whether the school has need for or has liability insurance. WH explained that the school has always had liability insurance covering students and staff. SS asked WH to share it with

		CK and EM for the Board's understanding. Action: WH to send copy of liability insurance to CK and EM
8.06 (17)	Head of Secondary's Report	
	Service Learning	OW reported that Year 11, through their Individuals and Societies class have been helping farmers along the river banks at Kamuzu Dam. They have been buying bamboo seedlings together with Lilongwe Water Board and the Red Cross and are now in the planting phase. He informed the Board that the project, which is a perfect example of service learning, has won a \$2500 prize with AISA to go towards the project.
	• MUN	OW gave a summary of the issues the school experienced with the MUN trip to Dubai this year. Six students were denied visas and that visa applications were handled by outside agencies engaged by the parents. OW noted that it seemed to have been a purely African and Middle Eastern passport issue as these were the nationalities that were affected and this was also the experience of other schools in Africa that were attending the conference. He noted that on reflection there were some issues with communication on the part of the organisers. OW met with the parents of the children who were left behind. Students that came back from the trip were also very supportive of their fellow students. The school offered to host a formal mini MUN with the parents for students to present their work although the parents were unenthusiastic about the idea. Based on this latest trip, and visa problems in years past,
		the school will not be planning to attend future conferences in the Middle East. The school is looking at Rome as an option for next year but getting a Schengen visa is still something that some families would have to deal with. Swaziland may also be looked at as a possibility. On the positive side, the MUN conference in Dubai was a great success this year.
8.23 (1)	Business Manager's report	There were no substantial matters arising from the

		Business Manager's report.
8.40	Date of next meeting	The meeting closed at 8.40 pm. The next meeting will be held on 30 April 2019 at 6.30pm in the School Library.

Signed:	
Date:	