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**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the  
English School Parents Association (ESPA) held on  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2015 at 18:30 hrs**

**Welcome**

The ESPA Chairman, Mr. Panicos Makariou, welcomed all guests, the Chairwoman of the Board of Management, the Headmaster, the Deputy Headmaster, the Members of the Board, the ESSA representative and all the parents attending the AGM and he commenced the works of the AGM of 2015.

The AGM was postponed by 30 minutes, as per the Constitution, in order to achieve sufficient quorum.

As per the agenda, the Chairwoman of the Board of Management, Mrs. Magda Nicholson, was invited to address the meeting. The following highlights were addressed:

- The school has 1140 students and 160 staff.
- After long negotiations with ESSA, it was agreed that their salaries and COLA will freeze up until the end of 2017.
- ESSA will offer a number of substitution free classes on all subjects and they urge the students to take these lessons.
- A five year strategic plan was prepared by KPMG which will be uploaded on the website.
- An agreement was made with the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) to perform a governance report. A team of 10-12 people will visit, inspect and evaluate the whole school. This report will enable the school to move forward for better directions. The findings of the inspectors will be uploaded on the website.
- The school's portal has been upgraded in order for the channel of communications to become better.
- Additional cameras have been installed on the school's premises and an inspection room has been created.
- The nurses' room has better equipped.
- Up until now the school has offered € 84.187 financial assistance in families due to financial crisis.
- The school is offering scholarships to Y1 students on merit achievements.

- The school has claimed back the Duke of Edinburgh's International award scheme which helps the individual in forming a good independent character outside the school.
- A complaint's procedure has been created for parents to file a complaint through ESPA for further forwarding to the Board or school.
- At the beginning of 2016 the new wing of the school will be constructed. The tenders have been drawn and they are evaluated by the Ministry of Finance.
- Finally the Board of Management' target is to have a closer communication between parents to enlighten more the ongoing activities of the school.

Following on, the Headmaster, Mr. Graeme Garrett, in his speech addressed the AGM and highlighted the following:

- Regular and productive meetings between the Head and Mr Makariou, the Chairman of ESPA, whom he thanked for his time.
- Education is an essential partnership between students, parents and management and the English School is no exception.
- Emphasis on ES strategic role and he wants to make sure that he is keeping the school on the correct tracks.
- Private lessons are enhancing student performance but the results are not always very good. He urge the parents to take advice from professionals as they are spending thousands of Euros each year to educate the staff.
- Very proud of English School students as their last year results were excellent.
- Strict on discipline line this year and he thanked ESPA for its support.
- The work of the Finance Committee of the Board of Management is very hard this year as they have to undertake the difficult task of the 5 year plan from KPMG.
- Looking forward to the forthcoming inspection as it is a very privilege club to belong to. The school has received so far 200 responses from parents who have completed the questionnaire. He urge all parents to fulfill the survey to have a more statistical value.
- Main focus is the quality of education, the spiritual and culture education, the welfare of the students in order to be safe and the suitability of Board of Management and staff.

#### **Approval of Minutes of the AGM of 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2014**

The minutes were approved.

#### **Report by the Chairman of the English School Parents Association (ESPA)**

Dear Honorable Guest, Dear Parents

Over the last Academic year, the ESPA Council worked on the best of our capacity to cooperate, via an open line of communication, with all the stakeholders of the School community to find amicable solutions and share ideas on various issues, for the benefit of the School and the Students.

From the beginning of last academic year, we have aimed and achieved through regular meetings to cooperate with the Board of Management, the Staff, the Parents, the Students and the English School Old Boys and Girls Association (ESOBGA).

This year we have eliminated the barriers between the school communities and managed to work together:

- on educational matters;
- we have put more effort to support the school and our students;
- we have addressed all the parent's concerns brought to us and even more;
- continuously supported the various school events and activities both financially and socially.

The main Educational matters raised this year, concern the languages tuition, curriculum and the options groups with a small number of students to support not so popular subjects.

We have achieved to have the school evaluation starting this year and worked initially with the school inspectors and consultants. On this matter, I urge all of you to support the procedure by completing the questionnaire the inspectors have sent to you.

Addressing the parent's concerns, the main issues addressed relate to the school trips, students safety and insurance, staff performance, anti-discrimination, the school uniform, sports (especially for senior students) and the school premises.

As you already know, the school is organizing a large number of events, many of them with a charity nature. The main ESPA activities for the past year involve:

- Regular meetings with the Headmaster, the Students Council representatives, the Staff Association, the Board of Management and Council Meetings.
- Funding Projects related to Art, Leisure and Sports.
- Sponsorships and Events support:
  - **Autumn 2014**
    - The Mentoring Course sponsorship
    - Economics Department: One World – Film Screening Event
    - Founder's Day
    - Newcomers Parents Cocktail
  - **Winter 2014**
    - Greek Poetry night
    - HACK Cyprus
    - Minister of Finance visit to school
    - English Play
    - Christmas Concert
    - Design and publication of Play Programme.
    - Music Calendar Publication.

- **Winter 2015**
  - MEDIMUM
  - We Care We Help Event
  - Religious Department event
  - Psychology Event
  - Retiring ESPA Council and Board Members Working Dinner
  - Spring Gala Concert (Music Department) & Year 1 Event
  - Friendship and Bullying event
  - “Acid Rain Team” Sponsorship
  - New Canteen Furniture
  
- **Spring 2015**
  - Rock Night
  - Economics Department Competition Sponsors
  - School Hall Back Stage Works
  - Armenian Week with a Poetry Evening and Exhibition
  - School Inspector Working Dinner (ESOBGA)
  
- **Summer 2015**
  - London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF)
  - Graduation Ceremony Sponsors
  - Top Mathematics Achievement Award
  - Publication of Leavers’ Yearbook
  - Leavers’ Dance

I want at this stage to emphasize that EVENTS, DO require a lot of effort from many people. Of course, the primary objective of events is to bring the school community members together and thus attendance is a key success factor, both for the social aspect but also the financial aspect of the events. Most of the proceeds are returned back to the students and the school.

Finally, it is with great regret that I am bringing to your attention for once more, the unnecessary and unjustified attacks in daily newspapers and social media about the school and our association.

It seems there are continuous efforts from a group of people, and sadly many of them are not parents nor do they relate to our school, who challenge the democratic procedures of the school and try to influence, in a negative manner, the decision making processes.

We are strongly against of all such criticism; we have been and will always focus on our work and carry on for the benefit of the school and the students.

We can assure you that *all* the students and teachers have peaceful relationships at the school with no significant issues. The parents, and mostly people outside the school community unfortunately target the school with the only intend to affect these peaceful relations between the community.

It is our role as adults and parents to overcome these issues and guide our children towards their adulthood with their priority on their studies and no other interventions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank personally and on behalf of the ESPA Council the Chairwoman of the Board of management Mrs. Magda Nicholson, the Board Members, the Headmaster Mr. Graeme Garrett, the Deputy Headmaster Dr. Chris Mavrommatis, the ESSA Chairman Mr. Stelios Theodosiou, the ESSA Committee members, the teachers and staff members who collaborated with us on various matters, the Students Council but especially the Head Girl Ms. Myrto Kolokasidou and the Head Boy, Mr. Yiannis Pantelides and also this year's Head Girl Ms. Yiolandi Maou and Head Boy Mr. Onat Attaman, all our sponsors and supporters.

Special thanks to my fellow Council Members and our Secretary, Mrs. Monika Kontopoulou, for their voluntary work and efforts.

Thank you.

### **Accounts and Auditors' Report**

The Treasurer of the ESPA Council, Mr. Marios Anastasiou, presented the Financial Statements of the Association for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 which were also posted on the ESPA's website.

A representative of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) was present at the AGM who informed the participants that the financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis and he confirmed that they give a true and fair view of the accounting records presented.

The Chairman commented that they have managed to keep a surplus on the accounts with the contributions of the parents, the teachers and the students. He specifically thanked the students who helped ESPA organize events and assist in the funding of school projects and charity events.

As there were no questions, the Financial Statements were approved. Special thanks were expressed to PWC, for auditing the accounts free of charge and for their continuous support through all these years.

### **Nomination and re-appointment of Auditors**

It was approved that PWC will audit the accounts for next year.

### **Elections**

The Chairman mentioned that the Constitution requires for a Registrar committee of 4 members, to be formed, for the election procedures. The members volunteered to comprise the election committee are: Mr. Artemis Artemiou, Mr. Elie Salame, Mr. Christoforos Stylianides and Mr. Markellos Lymbouris.

The Chairman informed everybody that 1/3 of the Council, 5 members, are replaced every year. They have received 13 nominated members as candidates. The 13 members nominated in alphabetical order are:

1. Alpay Becky (Y4)
2. Anastasiou Marios (Y6)

3. Athanasiades Anastasios (Y4)
4. Berberoglu Berna (Y3)
5. Christodoulidou-Assariotis Anastasia (Y5)
6. Economides Loizos (Y5 & Y7)
7. Eleftheriou-Charalambous Marilena (Y1)
8. Hare Karl (Y2)
9. Matsis Alkis (Y2 & Y4)
10. Nacouzi Pavlos (Y3 & Y7)
11. Nicolaides Paola (Y3 x2 & Y7 x2)
12. Papacharalambous Charis (Y2)
13. Psaras Kyriacos (Y1)

Since the above candidates were present, the Chairman called each of the candidate for a very short presentation of themselves to the parents' body.

They have proceeded with the elections and the proposed candidates took the following votes:

1.	Alpay Becky	61 votes
2.	Anastasiou Marios	102 votes
3.	Athanasiades Anastasios	118 votes
4.	Berberoglu Berna	63 votes
5.	Christodoulidou-Assariotis Anastasia	32 votes
6.	Economides Loizos	98 votes
7.	Eleftheriou-Charalambous Marilena	19 votes
8.	Hare Karl	65 votes
9.	Matsis Alkis	60 votes
10.	Nacouzi Pavlos	73 votes
11.	Nicolaides Paola	71 votes
12.	Papacharalambous Charis	68 votes
13.	Psaras Kyriacos	65 votes

Based on the above elections, the five new members of the ESPA Council are:

1. Athanasiades Anastasios
2. Anastasiou Marios
3. Economides Loizos
4. Nacouzi Pavlos
5. Nicolaides Paola

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending the AGM and the meeting was adjourned.



Panicos Makariou  
ESPA Chairman



Paola Nicolaides  
ESPA Vice Chairperson