



Tactiq Transcript for Community Meeting #1

October 12th, 2020 - 3 to 4.30 pm, from PAC through Google Meet

Presentors

Mr Craig Williamson - Head of School
Mr Simon Walker - High School Principal
Ms Kathleen Bowin - Middle School Principal
Ms Sam Cook - Elementary School Principal
Mr Paul Brace - Athletics Director
Ms Michelle Bourne - Booster Club Chair
Ms Lama Samman - PTA Chair (Outgoing) 2019-20
Ms Nandita Shukla - PTA Co Chair (New) 2020-21
Ms Paula Colaco - PTA Co Chair (New) 2020-21
Ms Mehreen Bano Elahi - New Parent Representative
Ms Mariam Andres - PTA Treasurer
Ms Sriparna Chaterjee - Elementary School Parent Representative
Ms Manuela Emmer - Middle School Parent Representative
Ms Li Hong He - High School Parent Representative

List of Attendees appended in the end

Presentation

Lama Samman

Good afternoon, everybody. I'd like to welcome the entire ABA community and everybody that's with us today and all the new parents that have joined ABA. This is the first PTA community meeting of the year. And it's our first online meeting. It's great to have you all here today, and I just want to make sure if everybody can mute their mic. Just make sure you all get a chance to do that. This is really going to be an amazing year. I mean, there are so many new things happening. So many first here happening at ABA and it's pretty exciting for all of us. We have a new head of school that I had the honor of working with over the summer and I can tell you were really lucky to have them Craig Williamson, and there's so many things that are going to start off this year and we're all going to go through a few new experiences, but I think it'll be fun our usual PTA Community meetings happen with by going through the SLT. First and having them update us with what's happening in the different sections. We're going to start off with the head of school today and then go through Simon Walker head of our principal of high school. Then Kathleen from middle school and Sam from elementary Paul our athletic director and then the booster club after which I'll introduce to you the new PTA for the 2020 2021 year

Craig Williamson:

Thank you, Emma. So Lama told me to keep it short and sweet and speak from the heart. So that's what I'm going to do and not be too speechy but I have a couple things that I want to take the opportunity here today to express to you as the community in my thoughts about the PTA in general. My first thing is I want to do is thank those who are on the PTA last year. They may not be stepping up and then this year but the fact that matters their legacy lives on. And all the work in the dedication and the support they've given the school will forever live sort of in the hearts and minds of our entire community and a special shout out as to Lama as she departs our PTA. We'll probably get her back halfway through the year or



something like that in some kind of capacity. But I just like to say thank you because what she said was true. They've reached out to me even prior to my arrival little mon to introduce themselves and to start generating they like to move very quickly..they are constantly sending they are constantly sending emails by way and making sure that I am not they are constantly sending emails by way and making sure that I am not I am not forgetting them and everything that they do which is greatly appreciated. I would like to say congratulations to everybody here who's on stage today and everybody on the PTA who's not able to join us here on stage. I would like to say congratulations to all of you for being elected. Congratulations to that and I think that everyone who voted for you chose very very well. I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the things that I've noticed since I've arrived at the school and some of the things that brought me to the school. I said today in a couple conversations with various people that the strength of ABA lies in its community. It really does if you were to ask me to try and articulate aba's strongest point. It would be that it would be the strength of the people ABA has done an amazing job year after year of investing It would be that it would be the strength of the people ABA has done an amazing job year after year of investing in amazing people and that's where the Hearts are and that's where we're able to be and that's how we're able to be successful. And the PTA is an extension of that. It is easy to say someone else will do it. It's easy to say I'm sure there'll be another parent out there who will step up. But the people who are sitting on stage the people who have run these elections are actually doing it and they're doing it because they take pride in the community and they want what's best for everyone students parents and staff and of course and not of course, but as the head of school, they've shown that love and support and perform my rival as I mentioned before. They've shown and care for the success of the school now, but also where we're going in the future and I want to highlight that this group coming in right now who have been recently elected have taken on an exceptional challenge. They've taken it and they've stepped up and they said I want to volunteer my services to the school, even though I have no idea how we're gonna do this because of covid and being online. So sort of not knowing what it's going to look like. They still put their hand up and said I'm willing to step up and help support this community and this school and all the students and people in it, even though I don't really know what that's going to look like. So my hats are off to you for sort of taking that Plunge. I would like to sort of finish my thought here by also extending a great amount of thanks to how the ptas reached out to me. And as a person has had a school but also to my family they have reached out over the summertime and said Has there is there anything you need as a family to settle into a mon into your life. You're please just let us know. there is there anything you need as a family to settle a mon into your life. You're please just let us know. I've been on this stage for five minutes and I was asked by one of the PTA members. How are you liking Oman? How are you doing here? How is your family going? There's a genuine concern and care for the people that work at this school. When I arrived here, there were offers and boxes of toys left on my doorstep by PTA members and other parents to say here. I know your stuff still in transit, but we can support you and your children as you're going to be in quarantine for two weeks. And is that kind of love and attitude that made our decision to come here in the first place? And it's it's living up to my day one. So again, I just like to say congratulations. in the first place, and it's it's And it's it's living up to my expectations since day one. So again, I just like to say congratulations. in the first place? And it's it's living up to my expectations since day one. So again, I just like to say congratulations. Thank you, and I really in the first place, and it's it's living up to my expectations since day one. So again, I just like to say congratulations. Thank you, and I really look forward to in the first place? And it's it's living up to my expectations since day one. So again, I just like to say congratulations. Thank you, and I really look forward to working with this great and wonderful group of people moving forward this year.

Lama Samman:

Without any further Ado I would like to welcome Mr. Simon Walker aba's High School principal to give you a few of his thoughts and ideas.

Simon Walker:

Thank you very much. Good afternoon, everyone. I was to say nice to see you, but I can only see the people behind me. So hello. We're all ready for Halloween, and we've all got masks on. Very good. So yeah, so it's it's been not just an interesting start to the year. It's been an interesting summer. And first of all my thanks to all the high school high school parents and your sort of continued faith in all of us who



have the privilege to work with your children to teach and work with your teaching what your children with your children particularly during all of these challenging times. I'd also like to thank the high school team in particular and to Denise Barker to guy Essex. The two of them have not had a summer they've basically worked with all the stuff we had to do with the DP exams. We'd some of the best results the students at some of the best results in the school's history in a really really challenging challenging times, including one student who achieved the maximum 45 45 points. So to do that in such difficult challenging times really is something that's worth this worth celebrating. In addition to that we have everybody behind the scenes who decided not to go in the holiday this summer, you know, so so vasu and Andrews JP Mr. Who the horse business administrative team have just kept working through working through the summer as we started to prepare the campus or prepare for continued to prepare for distance learning and then prepare the campus for the return of of children so hats off to all of those people working in the background who often often we don't we don't see the my final thank yous to high school students and These are the guys who have had to adapt. They've had to be flexible. They've had to show resilience. They've had had to show self-management. They've had to take ownership of the learning we've had to be intrinsically motivated. and we've seen all of that through distance learning. and for use parents, I hope you're very very proud of your children. And for me when I talk about the values of education and sort of character character education. We're seeing that in our ABA students through distance learning so a big hats off and values of education and sort of character education. We're seeing that in our ABA students through distance learning so a big hats off and thank you to all the high school students at the moment. We are working as a finalizing the final pieces to ensure we're ready for the return of students to to the campus from November the first and We're ready for the return of students to to the campus from November the first and you've seen the Blended learning plan. I'm sure you've all read all 30 pages of the of the document. And we will continue to give information to your children continue to give information to yourselves to ensure that everybody knows what learning will look like. When you return to to campus. What I will say is that what are approaches in the high school is as the students are a bit older. It's it's a bit easier for us and what we will use is we'll keep using Google meet and students will still access lessons through Google meet and also through Google classroom. And whether a student is in the classroom watching this sort of face-to-face and listening to the teacher in that classroom or whether the student is at home. They will access exactly the same lesson at the same time and they will collaborate with their peers whether it be through Google meeting technology or whether it be face to face in in the classroom. So that's what we're striving to do. That's what our vision is in essence that whether a child whether a student is at home or whether a student is in school. They will make the progress that they're capable of that's what our commitment is to to our high school students. So wishing you all the very best for the Academic Year. Hopefully at some point see you see you in person. If not, we'll see you in Google meeting a virtual coffee morning. Thank you very much everyone.

Kathleen Bowin:

Thank you for that wonderful introduction Mr. Walker. I'm Kathleen Bowen the Middle School principal and I want to thank everybody for being here today. I wish I could see your faces. I feel like I'm in one of my nakash classes with the kids and all their cameras are off. I want to thank the middle school team this year. We started out with a team of 18 teachers and Claire Anthony and Miguel. Barker and we went on our way to support our Middle School students. This has been very challenging for all of us. I'm sure for you mostly for me because I'm missing your children. I wish they could be here but we do try very much to engage them. We have Middle School connects Ms. Connects. We have explanations at the end of everything because we like to yell. in the middle school, this is a very important time because your children are at an age where building relationships and developing their identity is the utmost importance to them and their peer groups. So we try to create these conditions for them to be able to have time with their colleagues along with the teachers and along with working on developing their approaches to learning skills and ultimately learning how to learn this is what's This is what's going to help them be successful during our Middle School connects time on Tuesdays. We've had peace day where we have lots of things that the kids engaged in around. Peace. We have social emotional learning currently. currently. They're working on academic Integrity as well as what we like to call is nikash which is allowed the middle school team myself Miguel Barker the assistant principal and nyp coordinator Claire Anthony our middle school counselor and our Middle school counselor and our Middle School librarian courtney



park to meet with every single coordinator Claire Anthony our middle School librarian courtney park to meet with every single meet with every single school counselor and our Middle School librarian courtney park to meet with every single middle school student for 40 minutes. We've also instituted ASAS or clubs on Tuesdays that is also a part of our MS connects curriculum. teachers are checking in with every student one-on-one if they are in their advisory every two weeks as well as in small groups for their classes. We'd like to remind you that we have alert a website called Ms. Distance learning that we update every Saturday night with the schedule along with the learning engagements the audience for this website is you so I do hope you're checking it. There's a link there for you to add any comments. You would like to give us We've done a teacher survey. We've done a student survey and all of our feedback has been promising and positive. those that want to check in Claire myself take time to meet with any student who reaches out to us. If you think you need help or you would like to talk to us, please don't hesitate to email us. We do have a coffee morning tomorrow and we'd like to invite all of you to be there. It starts at 9:00, and we sent you an email on Thursday. If you don't have the link, please email me. I'll send it to you. It should be a great coffee morning because we're going to be discussing the development of an adolescent. So some of you might have a child you don't recognize anymore. We would like to talk to you about that. We are also excited about Blended or hybrid learning. And we've offered a grade level meetings for you next week on Monday similar to when we did our meet the teacher. I'm sorry our Blended our online learning one where we had sixth grade and seventh grade and eighth grade. You should have had an email and it also has a form for you to submit any questions you would like to ask us. Finally Middle School explorers. That's something that's on the Forefront of all of our kids every meeting I've had with them. They want to know if we're going to do that. We have postponed it. We are hopeful but we're hoping around February or March again. We won't do anything unless it is safe for your children. Thank you again for your support. If you need anything at any time, please do not hesitate to reach out to me and I'd like to introduce my colleague Sam Cook our elementary school principal.

Sam Cook:

Hello, good afternoon. It's very strange feeling to be talking in an empty room. I wish I could see you all. It's so much feels so much. Safer somehow when we're together and I hope that time will come again soon. It's as as Craig said this school is really about about Community. This is I'm now entering my fourth year at the school with my family and The hardest thing about distance learning has been missing the faces the smiles the interactions just knowing that we're all here for each other, but the elementary team I think have worked really hard Just knowing that we're all here for each other, but the elementary team I think have worked really hard at trying to forge Just knowing that we're all here for each other, but the elementary team I think have worked really hard at trying to forge those Just knowing that we're all here for each other, but the elementary team I think have worked really hard at trying to forge those relationships from a But the elementary team I think have worked really hard at worked really hard at trying to forge those relationships from a distance. So every But the elementary team I think have worked really hard at trying to forge those relationships from a distance. So every teacher has tried to meet with every family and really try to those relationships from a distance. So every teacher has tried to meet with every family and really try to get to know them as individuals and then started the online learning program and already next week. It's time for our first set of conferences. So it will be another opportunity for you to talk with the teacher just you and your child and really talk about how your child is doing and what their experiences are. and we have I'd like to tell you about our new leadership team. Semi new. It's wonderful to have Aaron banattuala who has been the Early Childhood assistant principal for some time moving into a role that helps right across the school. helps right across the school. She has a very logical mind she is wrestling with the scheduling some time moving into a role that helps right across the school. She has a very logical mind. She is wrestling with the scheduling that comes with some time moving into a role that She has a very logical mind. She is wrestling with the scheduling that comes with that comes with helps right across the school. She has a very logical mind. She is wrestling with the scheduling that comes with that comes with some time moving into a role that helps right across the school. She has a very logical mind. She is wrestling with the scheduling that comes with Blended learning at the moment and she's also juggling all sorts of other things. She's always available to help you She's always available to help you in any way that she can I'm also really all sorts of other things. can reach out and she will assist you



in any way that she can I'm also really pleased to announce Bronwyn She's always available to help you can reach out and she will assist you in any way that she can I'm also in any way that she can I'm also really pleased to announce Bronwyn matamu as our new can reach out and she will assist you in any way that she can I'm also really pleased to announce Bronwyn matamu as our new You can reach out and she will assist you in any way that she can I'm also you in any way that she can I'm also matamu as our new pyp You can reach out and she will assist you in any way that she can I'm also really pleased to announce Bronwyn matamu as our new pyp coordinator this year and tomorrow will be the perfect time to meet her properly perfect time to meet her properly That is an opportunity to be That is an opportunity to be this year and tomorrow will be the perfect time to meet her properly when we have another coffee morning. introduced to the primary as program. Perhaps you're new to the school Perhaps you're new to the school that is an opportunity to be introduced to the primary as program. Perhaps you're new to the school and to the program when we have another coffee morning. That is an opportunity to be introduced to the primary as program. Perhaps you're new to the school and Perhaps you're new to the school and to the program perhaps you introduced to the primary as program. Perhaps you're new to the school and to the program perhaps you just like a On how the program works and how it differs from a more perhaps traditional approach or perhaps you'd just like to really see bronnies in action and I can assure you she will keep you fully engaged throughout the presentation even though you're at a distance. So it'll be well worth your time joining us that will be at 10 o'clock. So after the Middle School coffee throughout the presentation even though you're at a distance. So it'll be well worth your time joining us that will be at 10 o'clock. So after the Middle School coffee morning in case you have children in both sections. I think that's more or less all I wanted to share. We are of course excited about Blended learning. We hope it will happen. We want your children to be safe though. hard to plan all the logistics around plan all the logistics around having your thought, And we're working extremely hard to plan all the logistics around having your children safely in school with us your children are at home. We will also do our Utmost to ensure that they still feel part of the classroom community and that they get a great learning experience. Thank you all very much. I hope soon it will be an opportunity to see you all in person. But thanks as always for your support. It's really exciting to be getting ready to work with the new PTA last year's PTA were amazing. I'd like to thank Ilima and all the volunteers who work so closely with the elementary team last year and I'm really looking forward to working with the new team and home parents. I know are already stepping up and prepared to again help us build that really strong community. So thank you all and I look forward to seeing you soon. I'm not sure who's next so I won't introduce anyone. working

Paul Brace:

My name is Paul Brace on the athletic director of the school. I mentioned one in my previous speeches a few years ago that often when we finish high school or middle school or Elementary School. We don't really remember the maths tests or how well we did in English test or what we did in ins Etc. Most the memories are coming from what's offered after the after school and the experiences they get in the after-school program. So today I'm just going to highlight what we're currently doing right now for the after school program. I'm just going to start off with the whole school fitness program that we got on offer right now that James and Nadia are running they're running this before school. They get up at 6:30 in the morning and they run a session for an hour before school online which includes five kilometer runs and then a core a course session this happens every day for the high school students. They also then run sessions at a guided workouts swim workouts for people that have a pool or also swim in the Open Water. They also have weekly challenges and they have live workouts that they they offer for middle school and Elementary as well. They use various platforms, which involve seesaw Google classroom and a fitness app, as you can see from the slide. There's 167 students enrolled which is just under 20% of the population at ABA. So fantastic job to Nadia and James that are running this program if anyone's interested in joining this program, you just got to contact the the swimming team at aba.org email If anyone's interested in joining this program, you just got to contact the swimming team at aba.org email and it will be there for you. This goes for the whole school for the after school program what we're offering at the moment at the moment got 15 clubs offered for the elementary school. These are run on a Tuesday to 15 to 245 Kathleen mentioned before what we're doing in the Middle School. It's part of the Middle School connect program for this one. It is compulsory that every Middle School student attends every Middle School teacher is running a club and they offer that every Tuesday from two o'clock to three



o'clock. The high school we are allocated one session on a Thursday due to the doing revision sessions on the other days of the week. They're running 22 clubs in this session, which also includes Cass opportunities for the kids. The most important thing. We look down the bottom of the slides is that when we return to school in November 1st, we will continue ASAS online. The reason is we're going to go through a transition phase where we know that not everyone we probably on campus at that particular time. So we're going to be running this program for another cycle which often goes for four weeks both the elementary and middle school and the high school will continue as normal the days and timings will be confirmed on that as schedules will change as well that we the different pickup and drop-off times. So we need to wait for kids So we need to wait for kids confirmed on that as schedules will change as well that we the different change as well that we the different pickup and drop-off times. So we need to wait for kids to get home to back confirmed on that as schedules will pickup and drop-off times. So we need to wait for kids to get home to back to the change as well that we the different pickup and drop-off times. So we need to wait for kids to get home to back to the families before we can start the ASA program. music At the moment we've done something really new where the pioneers of this we're running virtual music at the moment. We're doing virtual music academic Currently. games. We started off about 44 kids in this program. They don't know fantastic job. We compete every Monday night from five o'clock to seven o'clock. Yes, that's right. That's just like an hour and a half away. We're playing to buy tonight and they're involved in other activities in Olympia that happened during the week as well. I just want to break this down. This is money for students in grade 8 to grade 12 only here involved in the mizak program. If you look at the January to February schedule, we've had the select a few Sports there. So you'll note on the slides. We've got track and field Golf and badminton. The reason they have been put in that section is because social distancing can be adhered to where we do track and field. We've got a lot of space on a 400 meter track where we can maintain two meter distance thing if required as well on a golf course, we've got plenty of room as well. You'll notice on there that they've got two red asterisks highlighted next to those Sports. If we're for some reason we're unable to travel which is going to be highly unlikely that we'll be traveling to a Mesa event. We still can compete with those events virtually. If you look at the other boxes there and the dates, there's always two events every season that we're able to do virtual events for music. So the students will be well and truly occupied throughout the music season from grade 8 to grade 12. You would notice that some of these Sports and events have been switched and their normal scheduling. We all know that swimming happens season one, but currently we do not have a pool that's in operation as does the other mesac schools. The pools are ready. It's just that unfortunately at the moment, we're not able to get into the pool. So that's why the swimming has been moved to third season and track and field has been moved up to season one. Other events that we run off to school other organization that were involved with is mpssl mssl mazak and swim team. There's a lot of acronyms in that so the mpssl has worked for the it's called Muscat primary league, but this is for elementary school. The MSL is for the middle school, which is Middle Muscat secondary Sports league and music, which I just discussed. With all these we're waiting for Ministry approval before we can start training and we can run any organized events when we have this all sorted. We'll communicate this with the community of course, but more importantly the students and hopefully we can start and have the kids back on campus and starting these vital parts of their education. Thank you very much. What I like to do is introduce Michelle Bourne for the booster club.

Michelle Bourne - Booster Club:

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Michelle Boren and I am the chairperson for the Vipers booster club for all those parents new parents. Welcome. The booster club is a voluntary parent committee. We're there to organize fundraising events in order to inspire encourage and support or vipers athletes. where a group of a great team of amazing ladies who are at the heart of all of the sporting action, we work extremely hard, but we have a fantastic time doing so Sorry, we are delighted to be able to offer our parent community and opportunity to come and purchase some of our new vipers merchandise. Along with that we have our new buff, which is an offer. I would like to state that this is no way any protection against covid-19. It is merely spur where we also have or vipers pop sockets. And which a lot of the students will know what this is. I actually didn't know until my son told me. Come in soon. We hope to have the Vipers Pancho tell so keep an eye out in up-and-coming newsletter for when this is available to you. I know that a lot of parents have now been waiting patiently for their vipers hoodies personalized



hoodie. We're now going to offer you the opportunity to come and place an order. However, due to covid-19 restrictions. You will not be allowed to try on any. We will be sending out to the community to fill in an order form and also the measurements and size guidelines will be with it. So we ask that all parents measure their child's fill in the form and when you come to place your order, please bring the form and the exact amount of money for the hoodie. The dates the exact dates and timings of this will be sent out via admin in the coming weeks. We look forward to welcoming you all at our first pop-up shop. However, if you would like to get involved and find out how you can be part of the booster club and what it is that we do then please contact the bistro Club at abaoman.org. Thank you very much. I'd like to pass you now to Llama.

Lama Samman:

All right as my name is Lama. I didn't introduce myself in the beginning. I was a previous PTA chair for the last two years and it is now with great excitement and honor that I present to you the new PTA for the 2020 2021 year These women have come forward they volunteered. We have a limited edition PTA there were seven women that came forward to take on this job to work with the school as well as take on the responsibility of the online learning at home their jobs as well as the PTA so These women are really making some big sacrifices and I am honored to know all of them and have gotten to know all of them over the past few days. And now let me just start by introducing them. We have two of them who are still out of country the first Mehreen. She's the new parent rep. Mehreen if you can just say hello to our parents. See who you are. She's online.

Mehreen Bano Elahi:

Okay. Hi.

Lama Samman:

And the next is Mariam.

Mariam could not be with us today or online. Unfortunately, she just moved here from Abu Dhabi. So we're lucky to have her she has three kids four eight and 10 years old and she will be joining us at the next PTA community meeting, hopefully. Then we have sriparna. Who is our ECE and Elementary rep.

Manuela who is the Middle School rep.

Manuela Alexandre Rodrigues:

Hello.

Lee Hong will be our high school rep.

And then Paula who's in Portugal is co-chairing with Nandita. And they will be chairing for the PTA chair position this year. It's with great honor that I hand you over to Nandita. Your PTA co-chair and I wish them all the best this year and I just want to want to thank the ABA Community for allowing me to serve them for the past four years in different positions as a volunteer. I'm so lucky to be part of this community. It's really an all the best this year, and I just want to thank the ABA Community for allowing me to serve them for the past four years in different positions as a volunteer. I'm so lucky to be part of this community. It's really an honor. Thank you.

Nandita Shukla:

Hi, everyone. As Lama introduced, I am Nandita and I am co-chairing with Paula this year. And before we move on, foremost I would like to thank Lama. She has been a wonderful chair for the past two years. And even before that during ICF there for different events. We have always found her to be there in support and I'm sure we know where she lives so we will be roping her in although she is very skeptical. We know where she lives but before I go ahead I want to say a very big thank you from the new PTA team to Llama. No words can express what she has done and a small token from our end.



Yes. So this is a little something from the community for Lama. Thank you and We're not supposed to hug.

So now taking it forward. I'd like to introduce the team so that they can say a few words about what is close to their heart. And what made them join the PTA. So to start with Mehreen, if you can say a few words.

Mehreen Bano Elahi:

Sure. Thank you for the introduction and the time I am Mehreen Bano and I am going to be your new parent rep. I'm from Pakistan and my background is in law and I'll practice for over 10 years, but these days I follow my passion of Designing and I have a small online presence. Called Banos closet. I've got two girls at ABA in grade two in kg2, and I've been a part of the ab Community now for five years. I've been an active participant in the school events, and I've also quote the eighth grade volleyball team. I've called Oman my home for the last 16 years. And I'm hoping to share my experiences with all the new parents. And as a new parent rep if I can make your transition a little easier I'm there for you. You can reach me through email, or

I'll be hosting a coffee morning sessions virtually, of course, and hopefully we can get to know each other and I can address any queries you may have. Thank you.

Nandita Shukla:

Thank you. I'll start introducing my parent reps. So we have in elementary- sriparna soap. Now if you can take it over and then pass it on to Manuela who is the Middle school rep and then I'll be back with you.

Sriparna Chaterjee:

Hi everybody. Good afternoon. So I am sriparna Chatterjee. I'm from India. I have a son in kg2 and I'm here a ECA and Elementary rep. Anybody any we are looking for hrps, please to get back to me with hrps and HRV volunteers and I would say that I'm very very passionate about animals and I'm very passionate about art and craft. So and I I joined PTA because I want to meet new people. I want to make new friends. So that is what I look forward to working with new people and meeting new people. That is what I'm looking for this PTA new group, and I'm really really looking forward to working with the new principal the elementary principal the new PTA group everybody. Thank you so much, and I would like to pass it on to Manuela.

Manuela Emmer:

Thank you. Yep, very awkward feeling up here looking at this empty Chairs. Hello. My name is Manuela emmer, and I'm your middle school representative. Let me put my glasses on. I think that would help me. So I have joined ABA last year, and I have a daughter in grade 8. I was born into two different cultures so early on I enjoyed observing cultural similarities and differences later on. I grabbed the camera and started capturing those characteristics in images. So if I need to say something about myself, I am passionate about creating images that tell a story. I was a member of my previous school's PTA for six years and I think there is no better way than an international school Community to get involved and to contribute supporting the IB philosophy and cultural exchange of the whole community. So far, I think we all have chosen a very special year to be part of the PTA. So one thing I would really like to say is that we depend on you more than ever to build this community and We need to hear from you. Otherwise, it will be like this looking at empty chairs. And that doesn't make any sense. So Nandita will share our first events that we have planned for you shortly, but for the first online community event, I will be the one receiving your submissions. So this of course will only work if you participate and I'm very much looking forward to see all these images. Thank you, and I will pass on to Li Hong.

Li Hong He:

The head of the school Craig Wilson High School principal Middle School principal Elementary School principal athletic director Paul Booster Club Ms. Michelle Mr. David Mr. JP and PTA new members. Good



afternoon. You are here in PAC as a new school year 2020 21 gets underway in distance learning. I would like to introduce myself to you all. My name is Lee hong. And I'm very glad to join PTA this year as a high school rep. I have two children in ABA one is in grade nine and the other one in grade three as an oversee Chinese Community member in Oman. I have been here nearly 16 years. Oman is like my second Home Country. I'm very lucky to be here as well as part of ABA community. If you ask me, what is close to my heart, I will always said that's my family my son Chang and my daughter. What is my motivation to join PTA? Gives me courage to challenging new things in life I would like to thanks ABA to give me this opportunity to join PTA to work with the other PDA members. It's really excellent feeling. Yeah. I would like to contribute my time my effort my experience as an SME entrepreneur in Oman. I hope my contribution and my effort will be helpful for ABA and helpful for ABA Community. Thank you.

Thank you everyone. I think most of you would know Paula. But there are a lot of new family you may have joined and for them. I'd like to introduce Paula. She is the co-chair. Paula.

Paula Colaco:

Yeah. Hello, good afternoon. I think is there good afternoon here is still good morning. I want to say thank you to all these amazing ladies to join this year to PTA that you already listening. Okay for some people normal for those who don't know me. I have two kids one in one girl in grade nine and one in grade eight. I I have been in ABA for six years. In PTA, I'm for three years. I think for I was always a treasure because my background is a mathematic teacher. For that I was always fascinated with numbers. but this year I will be a co-chair with Nandita because for three years we are working together. and I'm really think we we work very well together. We're making a very good team and now it's a new members. I think we can make something here. It is Crazy here, very strange here. But hopefully we can do something always with the help of the parents. Of course PTA is nothing without a parent around us and I think it's it's what I have to say now to you.

Nandita Shukla:

Thank you, Paula. I'm afraid we don't have Miriam here today. She's our treasurer for the new year. But I know that she's three kids. They are fresh in Oman from Abu Dhabi and the she has kids in elementary middle school and high school. So she is a very good candidate for PTA because then at a time, we have a representative in all the three schools at the same time. To carry on with our presentation for the evening now. while the slides are uploading it is a very different year and as they say when the things are going tough the hard the tough get going. So I hope that we have the tough ones so far. We have proven ourselves be it from the schools and be it an online education or our kids who have really been very sturdy and they have come up and risen to the situation.

So to start this New Year, we have also got a new logo which our school marketing person. Nancy Shears has very kindly designed for us. It's a beautiful logo crisp logo and update from the previous one and I'd like to thank Nancy for that. It's a wonderful logo and henceforth you'll be seeing this logo on all PTA correspondences. This is your new PTA team, Paula, Maryam. Sriparna, Manuela Lee Hong and Mehreen and myself so, you know who to go. in case of Elementary Middle School and High School in terms of if you need you want to volunteer or you have any questions. If we don't have answers we will guide you and we will try to be your best buddies during the year. We have volunteered but now we need more volunteers. Surprisingly this year. We already have got our volunteers for middle school for hrp in high school. We have almost everyone for except for grade 11. but in elementary we are still looking for a lot of hrps we have for four grades, so please do step up. We do need you as the hrps are required. Even if the physical school is not still on, because I think this is a time when it is more crucial for us to be hand holding the families wherever they require so please do step up. We have a lot of experienced hrps who are who I still have to hear from, you have received the emails. Please do step up and write to Sriparna for elementary and ECE.

PTA funds have started with opening balance of 14,000 and 200 and odd omr. Paula might want to speak a little on that. She may want to explain.



Paula Colaco:

For the moment with this it's the balance that we close the PTA from last year. And that is what we have from the close of the last PTA there's amount of money we have.

Nandita Shukla:

so yes, Paula says we have a lot of money, but I think we should be careful because we

Paula Colaco:

No. I didn't say we have a lot of money I said, that's the money that we have to start this year.

Nandita Shukla:

yes, that's true. So coming to events. Everyone was wondering what we would be doing with events or would they just get canceled? But then we had some very good ideas from the new team and then we also thought that why not do it if it's a different year. We do our events differently. So to start with we are coming up with a campaign, which is called Mask-e-teers, all for one. This is an event which is designed around the Ministry of Health Initiative to promote safety and prevention. So based on that what we have come up with is that we want you each one of you to share your safety moments with us. You can be in your mask your family in mask, be as creative as you want to but be safe. Share your pictures with us. You can send in your pictures by the 22nd of October to PTAMRep@abaoman.org. That is Manuela. She'll be getting all the entries. A panel of Judges would be going through the photographs and then we would be coming up with the top three pictures who would be tagged as the MASKeteers of ABA. And we plan to put them up on the website on Facebook and on Instagram and that's where we intend to continue our theme for the year. So whatever we do. We want everyone to be safe. moving on from there We will do Spooktacular but in a different way, it would be a safely spooktacular. We have done trick or treat every year. This year let's click and create. So we have some very nice categories for costume, spooky masketeer or spooky poetry or a spooky music video. You will get to know the categories. We'll be writing to you with details. But this is just to give you a heads up that these two events are coming up. The pictures for Spooktacular are to be sent between 30th of October until first of November. And after the second of November, we'll try and put together and find out our winners from different categories, and then we'll be reaching out to you with the Results. So remember masketeer starts from today. Start clicking. Send us your pictures by the 22nd of October. For Spooktacular you send in your entries from 30th of October until first of November, but start working now because it's poetry and all and get as creative as you can. For the rest of the year considering that the situation is really fluid, what we have done is we do have a tentative list of events that we would like to do. I do not know whether we'll be doing it physically or we'll be doing it virtually or which ways but this is what we have on our list. The first one after Spooktacular would be national day. So that's in November. We are still working out a plan as to how we would like to do that because it's also a 50th national day. So we would like to commemorate that. That Tuesday hikes are almost on. And Lama has very kindly agreed to continue her hikes. So you can continue to join in the WhatsApp group. If you do not have the link to the WhatsApp group just write to us you can write to PTACHair and I'll put you in touch with Lama. Winter festival, Santa's Workshop, Parent art exhibition, a new event which we had planned last year-It is Holi Color Run.

We don't know how it's going to happen. If everything moves in the right direction, if everything is open by then, we would have a physical event. Otherwise, we'll find a way around. our most much popular ICF Ramadan food drive will be on Eid Bazaar flea market and the teachers appreciation, of course. So these are the events and the only reason we have not given you the dates right now is because we just don't know how will be going around it and we'll come to you from time to time with updates and with the details of the events.

These are the community meeting dates. For the new parents, there is one community meeting every month and it's always on a Monday. This one we did it at 3 pm because there are a lot of parents who are still out of Oman. We had some of our members out of Oman. So we wanted to be in a time zone which is



comfortable for everyone. We intend to do the next community meeting on the 9th of November at the same time at 3 pm. And thereafter we will take a call after the winter break as to how and what time do we do the community meetings. The normal time is 7:40 after drop we do them in the PTA room and the that's how it's normally for an hour. And it's the same it's the same way. It is conducted today. We have all our principals speaking. We have the head of school. And Paul is there and Vipers is there and then the PTA presentation happens. So look forward to regular intimations from us. The lack will close the year with the AGM which is right now planned on 31st of May and thereafter. There will be a Handover to the new PTA. Next open meeting is on the 9th of November. As I said, it is at 3 pm on Google meet. And we are taking questions now, so please do send in your questions by via chat. And we can respond to you. Or you can also send an email in case you're not able to send them right now. We are open send in your questions by email to pthair and we'll be happy to answer all your questions. Thank you very much. We look forward to working with you, and we need a lot of volunteers. We need a lot of support. It's a different year and will do a good Balancing Act. Hopefully, thank you very much.

List of Attendees

PTA Chair
Nuria Elahi
Samy Osman
Anindya Putri
Sarah-Luisa Emmer
Clauss Niazi
Simon Walker
Luka Van Schie
Darsh Pawani
Rui Yan Lu
Loay Al Maskari
Stuart Sutton
Miraeri Sampat
Jinane Helou
Manuel Alexandre Rodrigues
Asma Salim Mohamed Al Barwani
Muhammad Muhammad Husni
Albert Matamu
Lamya Al Kiyumi
Zaina Dabbous
Reema Al Awfi
Admin
Hind Al Humaidi
Nancy Shears
Michele Deverell
Josh Chatterjee
Coach Nadia
Ignacio Baratech
Yehia Assaf
Amara Tsang-AlKharusi
Vojin Mihajlov
Ryan Wilmor
Kathleen Bowin
Bronwyn Matamu



Neelmani Bhardwaj
Hunaida Elhassan
Alessia Amato
Rhea El Mohandes
Zirwa Tariq
Nadin Al Chammat
Elisian Gramatikov
Talal Al Ismaili
Leah Pitcher
Dariyana Utegenova
Yuehao Yang
Sai Srujan Chilukoti
Jiaheng Qiao
Vivan Desai
Alex Nicolas Artero
Abdul Rahman Al Kadi
Nawfal Al Mughairi
Adam Loughrey
Sam Cook
Andrews David
Taimur Al Ajmi
Paul Brace
Oscar Vallancey
Saud Al Maamari
Erum Banatwala
Ayisha Pallyvalappil
Markus Klefasz
Abdullah Ghufraan(Khurram)
Mohammed Al Haj Jaafar
Nawal Samosir
Yahya Sulistiono
Alisja Appiah
Daniel Slaby
Marwan Morsy
Teresa Romeu Huidobro