



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2017 - 2018 AISA AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE RECIPIENT
OMNIA EL ZEIN**

Superintendent's Message

Annual General Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2018

Venue: KAS Quad

Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Attendance:

Mohamed Omer, Abdelrahman Elmahdi, Dr. Mario Samaan, Amin Elmaghrabi, Salma Mustafa, Steve Alexander KAS Board Members, KAS admin staff, several teachers and teaching assistants

Approximately 60 parents

Agenda:

1. Welcome - Mr. Alexander – KAS Superintendent

The Superintendent welcomed everyone and went through the agenda for the meeting. Parents were asked to collect voting ballots at the check in table. Admin officers would collect the ballots and count them during the presentations. Only parents present are allowed to vote. There is no proxy voting (voting for others) allowed.

2. Candidate Speeches

Ahmed Osama Osman (not in attendance) Mrs. Osman spoke for her husband

Mubarak Ali Ibrahim (not in attendance) the Superintendent spoke of Mr. Mubarak's service on the Board

Ynske Vandormael – spoke on her behalf

Murat Isen (not in attendance) the Superintendent spoke about Mr. Isen

Ihab Ayoub – spoke on his behalf

Mohib Faig – spoke on his behalf

3. Board Speech – Mohamed Omer, Board Vice-President, spoke on behalf of the Board. Mr. Omer highlighted the work the Board has done this year. He focused on the high quality education, student success, pointed out that KAS students had received the prestigious AISA Award for excellence two years in a row. Mr. Omer explained the pro-active work the Board is doing with upgrading facilities. Mr. Omer thanked the excellent teachers and staff working at KAS. He explained that the Board hires the Superintendent and the Superintendent is responsible for operating the school. He told the audience that the Board is 100% in support of the Superintendent. Mr. Omer thanked the present Board and the candidates willing to serve on the Board.

4. SPACIT Update – The Superintendent reviewed the recent update moving our strategic plan to cover the years 2017-21. The Superintendent explained that the SPACIT plan will be posted on the KAS website for all to access. Highlights from the 4 parts:

- Uniqueness Part 1 – Marketing the KAS brand needs significant development. We need to use our unique school qualities to attract more students.
- Facilities Part 2 – Cafeteria/Multi-Purpose complex expected to be completed mid-year next school year.
- IT Technology Part 3 Technology Infrastructure upgrade will be finished by the start of the next school year. \$180,000 capital fund investment includes 20 new computers for the lab.
- Student Services Support Part 4 – Hired new Special Needs Coordinator for next year. Use of quality testing – MAP and WIDA gives staff a better diagnosis of important skill levels and language abilities. This helps us meet the individual needs of students.

5. Board Treasurer's Report – Superintendent (for the Board Treasurer) The Superintendent explained that the present school year will finish with a \$189,000 surplus. However the 2018-19 school year budget will have a \$472,000 deficit to start the year. The Superintendent explained this is due to primarily 2 factors: 1. The Board felt it is necessary due to economic concerns at present in Sudan not to raise tuition next year. 2. The high rise in current inflation costs will contribute to a high deficit next year.

The Board and Superintendent/Staff will work pro-actively on marketing KAS to increase enrollment and look for ways to reduce costs. We will focus on attracting other income where possible.

6. Announcement of Election Results – Congratulations to the following parents who were elected to serve 2 year board terms starting in August, 2018: Ihab Ayoub, Mubarak Ali Ibrahim, Ynske Vandormael, and Murat Isen.

7. Question and Answer period – Several questions were asked by parents in regards to admissions, tuition reductions, transparent communication to parents, suggestions to offer money to students for school trips. The Superintendent encouraged parents to visit him at school anytime to discuss their concerns and issues related to the school. Parents were also encouraged to access the KAS Constitution, By-Laws, and Policy Manual that is up to date and available on the KAS website.

The meeting ended at 8 pm.

Steve Alexander KAS Superintendent

Saying of the Week

Hob Nobbing with people implies keeping their company or associating with them. This expression is the perfect example of how, as the English language progresses, word corruption often occurs. Originally the phrase used was 'hab nab' which was shortened from the Old English word 'habban', meaning 'to have', and 'nabban', meaning 'not to have'. This expression then took on the meaning of 'to give and take' in the context of drinks. But in 1811 the Oxford English Dictionary tells us that in the corner of an open fireplace there was usually a small ledge called a hob, which was used to warm cold beer or wine. The table this was then served upon was called a 'nob', suggesting that 'hob and nobbing' was a term for sharing drinks. By 1961 Charles Dickens had used the phrase in his novel Great Expectations and it passed over into wider use as a term for associating with someone.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department

Letter from the Middle & High School Principal



- Seeks to understand, appreciate and promote African cultures
- Demonstrates, by example, the concept of service to the human family
- Promotes a school environment that is characterized by a sense of hospitality and friendliness, collegiality and community

Last year, out of 74 international schools on the continent, only 11 students were chosen as winners including our very own Fawzia Omer in grade 10!

Our MS & HS teachers were very excited to nominate one of our students again this year. After a long discussion, we decided to nominate one of our high school students who has demonstrated all of these qualities. It was then AISA's decision whether or not our KAS student would win the award. We are proud to announce that our nominee was selected.

Omnia El Zein in Gr. 12 is the recipient of the 2017-2018 AISA Award for Excellence.

Susan Boutros
Middle & High School Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

KAS is a part of a learning community called AISA - Association of International Schools in Africa. AISA currently has a membership of 76 schools across 34 countries. Together, these schools serve approximately 27,000 students supported by over 3,000 teachers.

Each year, AISA asks schools to nominate a student for the AISA Award for Excellence. Nominees for this award must uphold the following values:

- Embraces a world view which celebrates human unity and diversity

Beatrice

Women in Elizabethan Society were little more than possessions whose function it was to produce heirs. Their status and lot in life was very much to be seen and not heard. However, Shakespeare created a number of leading ladies who through their drive, ambition and intelligence demand to be heard. One such lady is Beatrice in "Much Ado About Nothing." Beatrice is intelligent, feisty, hard-headed, and quite frankly, a lady you don't mess with. What is more; she can hold her own in a witty and sarcastic double entendre word exchange with the leading man Benedict. Beatrice like many of Shakespeare's ladies ended playing the role expected of them and succumbing to social pressure by getting married and compromising. Nevertheless, they demonstrate strength and are to be admired.

A few years ago I saw the same strength of character in one of my middle school students, Omnia. She could be

difficult to deal with, awkward, headstrong, rebellious, but feisty, intelligent with a mind of her own. From the get go it was clear that she had passion and enthusiasm for drama. Coupled with this; natural acting ability, great intonation, and the rare ability to see other interpretations, and other ways of approaching and doing time-honored lines from Shakespeare. Like Beatrice, Omnia demands to be heard and has emerged demonstrating strength and character. She has blossomed into an outstanding student and a mature young lady. Two years ago, Omnia played Beatrice in "Much Ado About Nothing." Her rendition was nothing less than amazing. So whether she likes it or not, she will always be: 'My dear Lady Disdain' and a rare parrot teacher and I'll always end with a jade's trick, she knows me of old. In short, she will always be Beatrice! Congratulations Beatrice!

Michael Metcalf
Language Arts Teacher

Tribute to Omnia



Omnia has been an active and responsible leader of her class throughout her high school years, yet during her senior year she has elevated this positive role beyond just her classmates by extending her influence to the entire Khartoum American School community.

Omnia has established herself as a role model and mentor for many of the freshman and middle school students at KAS. During a secondary school wide Knowledge Bowl event, Omnia spent part of her lunch break speaking with a 7th grader in her team to make sure that he was included and able to help the team participate. He really perked up and was a positive member of the group as a result. In Drama, Omnia paired up with a 9th grade ELL student and worked with her to help her learn her lines and participate in the preparation for the play. The student has since blossomed as a result of the confidence she gained as a result of Omnia's mentoring. Omnia didn't do this for a grade or for teacher recognition, she has already been accepted to college, she has does this to better the younger students around her.

In Model United Nations, Omnia was elected as the Secretary General of our multi-school KASMUN conference. While KASMUN is a student-led conference, there has always been an element of teacher support and input. This year, thanks to Omnia's leadership, KASMUN has been virtually solely student run. Omnia met with the business officer, school superintendent, and organized the students into councils on her own initiative, and has helped lead and expand the after school MUN session to students new to MUN where they can hone in their skills before the conference. Omnia

not only handled the logistics of the conference professionally and expertly she was able to get the whole high school to buy into MUN as a result. She even convinced several middle school students to give up part of their weekend to help volunteer for the event. To make the conference less Eurocentric, she added more African nations to the list of country delegations, and gave some of our stronger students African countries, in order to insure that African nations are represented justly.

Omnia volunteers her time to help teach our Sudanese workers English. She helps bridge the cultural and linguistic gaps by translating phrases from English to Arabic and puts some of the American textbook examples into context by comparing them to Sudanese or other African models. She does this after soccer practice in the middle of the week. Omnia is so active in the school community, she rarely will leave campus until 2 or 3 hours after school has officially ended.

Omnia is invariably the unofficial student ambassador for bringing up issues between the faculty and students-from being the student volunteered to speak for the class when asking a teacher for an extension on an assignment or on the flipside, the student teachers go to have the students buy into a new policy or unit. She commands the respect of both parties.

These and countless other examples highlight Omnia's commitment to our school, her community, and Africa as a whole.

Owen McMullen
MS/HS Social Studies