



20th September 2020

Chairperson's Report for AGM for the period ending 31st December 2019

Playford College; where a better future is being made.

On behalf of the Playford College Board, it gives me great pleasure to provide the 2019 Chairperson's Report. I realise we repeat these words each year, but this school year has, again, been extremely busy and very productive.

I have had the privilege of chairing the Board since 2016 and I am delighted to see Playford College develop and progresses so well in many areas.

I would like to start by thanking Playford College Principal Chris Riemann and Deputy Principal Mrs Racha Makki. Strong leadership is the foundation of school success and without Chris and Racha's contributions, dedication and hard work that would not be possible. All the hard work gave dividends through the increased school enrolments, establishing Year 9 in 2019 and the positive image Playford College has established among our community members.

Brother Chris took his job as Principal in 2018 during a very challenging period in Playford College life. Through his wisdom, vision and care, compassion, understanding and patience, he managed to steer Playford College through that difficult period and directed it towards harmony, success and development.

Sister Racha, we are all proud of you. Thank you for all that you do to improve our school. Without your impressive organization, wisdom, hard work, compassion, dedication and incredible passion for the students, Playford College would not be what it is today. Your service to our wider community through the weekly Arabic Language School is highly valued and something you should be proud of. It certainly adds burden to your work and is much appreciated by all of us.

On behalf of the Board, I also would like to thank the Playford College Company for giving us the opportunity to serve our community in SA through this important educational project.

Also, on behalf of School Board, I would like to thank our wonderful teaching staff and Student Support Officers (SSOs). The teaching staff and the SSOs we have at Playford College are of a very high professional and personal standard. They are extraordinary people who are willing to commit to new ideas, enjoy walking that extra mile and endeavour to adapt innovative ways of teaching to ensure our students receive the best in their academic achievement. The same goes to



our non-teaching staff in Admin, Finance and Maintenance who enjoy any extra task allocated to them and provide an essential support and service to our school.

I also would like to thank our Business Manager, Mr Paul Andrejic, for his hard work and contribution in his role at Playford College. Paul managed to establish important financial systems for the school.

To my colleagues on the Playford College Board, I cannot thank you enough for all you have done for our school and community. I would like to thank you all for your support, contribution and enthusiasm. Your attendance at Board meetings and regular contacts via phone, text messages, emails and other means adds to your busy schedules and you were all able to attend to these extra tasks very well.

As we all know there is a significant amount of work that goes into running a newly established and fast-growing school and the School Board is only a small but important component of this. Although for some members, this is the first experience as a Board Director, I am pleased to see everyone rising to the expectation and giving all necessary time and effort to support our young school. It is also pleasing to see Board Directors attending school related professional development activities that were arranged by AISSA.

I am pleased that the Board Directors maintained an excellent relationship among themselves and were able to work together in a very positive and productive way. The school is currently in a strong financial position and we look forward to implementing new projects and initiatives in the future.

I would like to thank Vice Chairman Dr Saad Jaber and Treasurer Mr Syed Asad Naqvi for their roles, contributions and dedication provided to Playford College. I also would like to thank Mr Samuel Tripodi for his new role as Board and Company Secretary. I specifically would like to thank Dr Saad Jaber for allowing us to use the meeting room at Northern Clinic for various school related activities. Such a facility has provided a very convenient venue for Board, Finance Committee and AGM meetings. Much appreciated.

It is worth mentioning some of the changes to the Board in 2019. We were delighted to have Mr Zaigham Lillani as an additional Board Director. The Board benefited from Zaigham's skills and experience in Human Resources and Auditing. It was sad as Zaigham left the Board late in 2019 due to personal reasons. We would like to thank him for his contributions. I also would like to thank Samuel as he has excelled in his new role as Board Secretary.

The Board's role is primarily to work collaboratively with the Principal on matters of a financial and commercial nature. This can include such functions as:

- Planning for the present and future operations of the School
- Progressing and implementation of the Master Plan
- Assisting in the recruitment of staff
- Ensuring that our Islamic faith is taught with the knowledge from the Ahlul Bayt (as)
- Liaising in all matters relating to the financial management of the School
- Advising the Principal with respect to School policy

This is not an exhaustive list but hopefully gives an indication of the type of roles the Board does play.

From another aspect, the Board has worked collaboratively with the School Leadership to achieve the following important milestones.

- 1) **New Master Plan:** The School Leadership and the Board engaged a new Architect, Sue Phillips, from NPN Architect to update our school Master Plan. In the revised Master Plan, Sue retained all current school buildings and managed to produce an excellent idea that adds new facilities and buildings progressively with minimal impact on school day to day activities. It is my pleasure to share copies of the Playford College Master Plan.
- 2) **Approval of grants for three important projects in 2019.**
 - a) **Grant for Stage 1 of our Master Plan:** This will enable us to progress our dream with essential projects that will provide Science, Art and Home Economic rooms to our middle and high school student. The school is working towards linking Stage 1 with Stage 2 which will provide us with 7 General Learning Areas on the upper floor.
 - b) Apply for a loan from **South Australia Financial Authority SAFA** to fund Stage 1 and 2 of our Master Plan.
 - c) **Federal Government Safer Community Grant** to provide much needed Security Alarm, PA System, CCTV, Phone system and intercom and school fence.
 - d) **State local Community grants to establish Playground for junior primary school.** I would like to thank School Leadership for planning and assistance in obtaining these important grants.
- 3) **Playford College purchased the school property from its Vendor, The Guidance Holdings (TGH) LTD in December 2019:** This was achieved through a loan from NAB Bank. We are pleased that the school managed to achieve this outcome in such a short period of time. The Board would like to thank community members and Playford College members who contributed to the purchase of the property in 2015 whether via donations or interest free loans. We also would like to thank the TGH LTD Directors for their cooperation in achieving this excellent outcome.

- 4) **Playford College is now a Foundations to Year 12 school:** The School Leadership succeeded in having our application approved by the Educations Standard Board SA. Well done.
- 5) **Engagement with important organizations:** Playford College has been able to engage Flinders University, the Lions Club, the Lutheran Church, Playford City Council, The Lawn Bowling Club in the Elizabeth and Playford area for various activities throughout the school. The Flinders University agreement involves sending their final year students in speech pathology, occupational therapy and social work to come to the school on a regular basis and support students who require assistance in these areas.

In collaboration with the School Leadership and the Property Service Manager, Mr Bryan Dearman, the Board facilitated many exciting projects, events and developments in 2019. Some of our projects have included the following:

- Creating 4 new classrooms by subdividing one of the school's halls. These classrooms are used by Foundation and primary school students.
- Construction of a new girl's toilet which was well received by students and their families.
- Increasing the number of laptops in the computer labs and in the classrooms including 1 to 1 laptop for years 6-9
- Creating specific areas for MiniLit and MacqLit teaching programs
- We have also been addressing maintenance around the school

The Illumination Department: The Illumination department is one of the main pillars of Playford College. We are blessed to have a group of dedicated brothers and sisters in this department including Sheikh Ali Yaqub who joined us in August 2019, Brother Abraham Al-Zubeidi, Sister Shafaq Akbari and Sister Racha Makki.

I would like to thank you all for your hard work, exceptional organization skills, humble attitude and team spirit that made you all excellent educators. There are not enough adjectives in the dictionary to describe you all.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank brother Abraham Al-Zubeidi whose hard work, contribution and enthusiasm was the driving force behind many amazing plans and excellent initiatives particularly in reviewing and updating the Islamic education curriculum. Our College is blessed to have him and we all appreciate the sacrifice he made as he left his home in Melbourne and now resides in Adelaide with the intention to serve our community and students.

The responsibilities of the Illumination dept ranges from enrolment, leading daily prayers, celebrating the important Islamic occasions within the school, visiting various Islamic centres within Adelaide, arranging the yearly Hajj Camp and also providing parenting lectures at school.

The subjects we do are in Illumination are Islamic studies, Qur'an Memorisation and Qur'an Reading. Some of the activities that we had were the Iftar dinner, Hajj Camp, Muharram program



and Unity Day - celebration of Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) birthday. Creating an Islamic library within the school for students to access also commenced.

In August 2019, Sheikh Idrees Ul-Hassan took 12 months leave with short notice. It was sad news, given Sheikh Idrees' role as spiritual leader, both in the school and wider community. The School Board managed to engage Sheikh Ali Yaqub who accepted the invitation to join Playford College part time. We would like to thank him for his efforts and contributions to our school.

The Future: Playford College has been progressing very well and has a very bright future.

The Board and School Leadership are planning to extend Playford College to Year 12. This will be done progressively. Playford College will offer Year 10 in 2020.

Our vision is to have a school that in a few years will be considered a beacon of knowledge and a lighthouse of wisdom in the Elizabeth area. The Playford College Board's short and long-term plans are to have a school that combines academic excellence in addition to nurturing essential traits, such as self-confidence, pride in their background and beliefs, tolerance and integration of our students into their community. Finally, it is pleasing to see that our community members have started to move into Elizabeth and some of the surrounding suburbs. Some members have come from other regions of Adelaide, and others from interstate. All this gives us confidence in the sustainability of Playford College for the future.

And let's all remember that ***Playford College is where a better future is being made.***

Kind regards

Abdul MUSA

Dr Abdul-Razaq Musa
Chairperson
Playford College Board