

Minutes of the first meeting of the Board of Governors of the English Secondary School for Boys in the Lebanon held at the Palace of His Excellency President Chamoun at 5.30 p.m. on the 5th of September, 1956; and subsequently at the British Council in Beirut.

Present :

His Excellency President Chamoun
" " Mr. G.H. Middleton
" " Saeb Bey Salam
" " Hamid Bey Frangieh
Dr. Joseph Hitti
Dr. Fouad Boustani
Sheikh Najib Alamuddin
Mr. T.W. Morray
Mr. R.M. Tesh

1. In a brief preliminary meeting at the Palace of His Excellency President Chamoun, the trustees gave their blessing to the newly constituted Board of Governors and charged them with the speedy performance of the duties prescribed in the Articles of Constitution of the School. In a brief discussion H.E. Mr. Middleton reported on progress so far made and plans for an appeal for contributions to be issued in the United Kingdom; and His Excellency the President pointed out the problems involved in admitting boys to a public school at the age of 11 without a thorough previous knowledge of English, or acquaintance with the English teaching system, neither of which many existing schools in the Lebanon were equipped to provide. The Board of Governors were invited to consider this problem at an early stage of their deliberations.
2. The Board, together with the Honorary Legal Adviser, Hamid Bey Frangieh, adjourned to the premises of the British Council. The Trustees, His Excellency Mr. G.H. Middleton and His Excellency Saeb Bey Salam, were present for part of the discussions.
3. Dr. Hitti was unanimously elected Chairman ad interim, and Mr. Tesh Secretary ad interim, pending the bringing of the Board to its full numbers and the establishment of rules of procedure.
4. The Board requested Hamid Bey Frangieh to enquire when the récépissé of the Ministry of the Interior would be given to the submission of the Association's articles, and to try to ensure that it was received before the Board's option on the land expired.

Purchase of site

5. Working papers Nos. 3 and 6 were considered. It was agreed:-
 - (a) that the purchase should be completed, by the registration of the property in the Land Department in the name of the Association, as soon as possible (according to the Articles of Constitution, Dr. Hitti would sign the necessary documents);
 - (b) that the area of land referred to in Paragraph 2 of Working Paper No. 3 should be bought before the sale of the main site was registered. Me. Nassib Boulos agreed to negotiate this purchase at the best price obtainable;
 - (c) that the question of taking on new tenants for the next crop season should be considered later but that in any case the tenants should not be the same as those who had hitherto worked the land;

.../(d)

(d) that the architects should be invited to report on the supply of water to the site, as a preparatory to the investigation of supplementary sources of supply;

(e) that an offer of 100 cubic metres daily of drinking water made to the Chairman by M. Rihan was interesting and should be noted.

Hiring of architects

6. Paper No. 2 was considered. It was agreed :-

(a) that the firm of Frank & Dark and Partners (the new title of Farmer and Dark) in partnership with Assem Bey Salam, should be engaged as architects;

(b) that they should also be charged with the supervision of construction;

(c) that Sheikh Najib Alamuddin would draft a letter to be sent by the Chairman to the architects setting out their terms of reference.

7. In discussion it was agreed that the terms would have to be the standard terms laid down by the Royal Institution of British Architects, with any upward adjustment which might be needed in order to ensure in local conditions that supervision was fully adequate; that a time limit should be agreed for the completion of the various stages of the architectural work; and that there should be set up a Building Sub-committee which would have authority to deal with and to instruct the architects.

Public Works (Paper No. 3)

8. The Secretary was instructed to draft a letter to the Trustees in the sense of this working paper.

Nomination of Governors

9. The Board invited His Excellency Mr. Middleton to confer with His Excellency the President and to secure the nomination of the remaining members of the Board in accordance with the Articles of Constitution, as quickly as possible.

Future meetings

10. It was agreed that in principle the full Board should meet on the second Wednesday of each month, and that the next meeting should be held at the British Council on Thursday September 13 at 5 p.m.

September 8, 1956.