

Minutes of the second meeting of the Board
of Governors of the English Secondary School
for Boys in the Lebanon, held at the British
Council in Beirut on the 13th of September
1956.

Present:

Dr. Joseph Hitti	(Chairman)
Mr. R.M. Tesh	(Secretary)
Dr. Fouad Boustani	
Mr. T.W. Morray	
Mr. A.J. Catoni	
Mr. A. McQueen	
Mr. Ghassan Tuéni	
Mr. W.F. Crawford C.M.G., O.B.E.	
His Excellency Hamid Bey Franjeh	(Hon. Legal Adviser)

The Chairman welcomed the new members to the Board.

2. The minutes of the last meeting were approved without comment.

Matters arising from last meeting

3. His Excellency Hamid Bey Franjeh reported that the Ministry of the Interior had not yet communicated its formal approval of the Articles of Constitution. The Board agreed to ask the Secretary to take this up with the Ministry.

4. His Excellency Hamid Bey Franjeh reported that the owners of the enclave had reverted to their original demand of £Leb.59000. The Board agreed to authorise Maitre Nassib Boulos to agree to this price if necessary.

5. The Board agreed to ask the Secretary to arrange a meeting between the interested parties to register the sale of Judge Talia's land and to complete the purchase before September 20.

6. In Sheikh Najib Alamuddin's absence item 6 of the agenda was held over.

7. The Secretary reported that in addition to the members present, His Excellency President Chamoun had nominated Jamil Bey Mikkaoui and His Excellency the British Ambassador had nominated Dean Farid Hanania, to be members of the Board.

8. The Board noted Working Paper No.11.

Secretarial Assistance for the Board

9. Mr. Morray reported that Mr. Edwards, accountant on the British Council staff, might be willing to give his services free. The board agreed

- (a) to authorise Mr. Morray to approach Mr. Edwards;
- (b) to authorise the Secretary to negotiate a suitable settlement with Mr. Smithers.

Finance/.....

Finance

10. The Board noted Working Paper No.7. They agreed to ask the Secretary and Mr. McQueen to arrange for the conversion of the sterling held in the Appeal Account to Lebanese Pounds.

Committee Structure

11. The Board considered Working Paper No.10. It was agreed

- (a) that in principle the committee structure there proposed should be adopted to begin with;
- (b) that the Educational Policy Committee should comprise Dr. Boustani, Dean Hanania, Mr. Morray and Mr. Tu'ni, and the Building Committee should comprise Sheikh Najib Alamuddin, Chairman, Mr. Catoni, Mr. Crawford and Mr. McQueen together with a representative from the Educational Policy Committee, to be nominated by that committee. No nominations were for the time being proposed for the Appeal Committee. The Secretary was to attend Committee meetings ex-officio.

Appointment of Headmaster

12. The Board considered Working Paper No.12 and also Working Paper No.13, in a general discussion on educational policy.

13. It was clear to the Board that the appointment of the headmaster, the age of admission of boys and the school curriculum were closely inter-related. It would be necessary to seek a headmaster at the earliest possible opportunity; but in order to enlist a really good man it would also be necessary to give him certain assurances about his powers, the nature of the school and the school curriculum. As for the latter, it was agreed that the whole object of the Association was to set up a school of the English Public School type. There arose however the problem raised by His Excellency President Chamoun at the first meeting of the Board, of where the pupils were to be drawn from, giving particularly the need for them to start with an adequate knowledge of English. To start with very young boys would go beyond the bounds of an English public school as such and also beyond the limits of finance in prospect. It would also create difficulties over the search for a headmaster. There were probably enough boys of 10 and 11 in existing Lebanese schools who had sufficient English to enter the first form of a Public School. On the other hand the door should as far as possible be open to boys whose education up to that age had been entirely in Arabic and French. It was suggested that a brief transition stage might be the answer to this problem. A further means of ensuring an adequate knowledge of English among boys entering the school at this age would be to

advertise/.....

advertise well in advance to invite applications from prospective pupils, whose parents would presumably take their own steps to have their boys taught English.

14. As for the curriculum, however, a school of the English Public School type could of course only function on the basis of the English methods of education; which in turn demanded the acceptance of the examinations and certificates which were designed to test this type of education. It would be necessary therefore as an early stage to get official approval of the "equivalence" for the purposes of higher education in the Lebanon. There would remain the problem of transition for boys who came to the School from schools where different systems were followed.

15. These points and others of a general nature were referred to the Educational Policy Committee, which was asked to go into the question of primary education in the Lebanon, the drafting of an advertisement for a headmaster, preparation of background information for applicants for the post, etc. Mr. Morray was asked to call a meeting of the Committee as early as possible.

Any other business

16. Dr. Hitti promised a fuller report of the question of water supply referred to in paragraph 5(e) of the minutes of the previous meeting.

Date of next meeting

17. It was agreed that next meeting should be held on October 10 unless the Board were convened before that by the Chairman.