

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF  
THE ENGLISH SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR BOYS IN THE LEBANON HELD  
AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL ON 28 MARCH 1957.

PRESENT:

	Dr. Joseph Hitti (Chairman)	
Sheikh Naguib Alamuddin.	Dr. Fouad Boustany	
Mr. A. J. Catori	Mr. W. F. Crawford	
Dean Farid Hamnia.	Mr. A. McQueen	
Jamil Bey Mikkaoui	Mr. T. W. Morray	
Mr. I. D. Scott	Mr. Ghassan Tuani	

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. A. Irving	} Architects.	Mr. R. T. Edwards	) Secretary
Mr. Assim Salam			

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the 4th Meeting were confirmed by the Board.

2. ARCHITECTS' PLANS

The recommendations contained in the report of the Building Committee, read and explained by Sheikh Naguib Alamuddin, were approved. Mr. Morray, as Chairman of the Education Committee, reported that his Committee had also approved the Architects' plans.

The Building Committee invited members of the Board to visit the site in due course in order to see different types of wall construction.

3. ARCHITECTS' PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK

Mr. Irving reported on the work which had already been done on the site and gave details of the timetable the Architects proposed to follow for the construction.

Mr. Irving stated that the tenants had not vacated all the dwellings. After some discussion it was agreed that the Chairman of the Board should see Judge Tali'a and Maitre Boulos together in order to discuss this matter as it was the responsibility of Judge Tali'a to arrange for the eviction of the tenants.

THE CHAIRMAN TOOK ACTION ACCORDINGLY ON MONDAY  
1 APRIL. THE RESULT IS RECORDED IN THE MEMORANDUM  
DATED 1 APRIL 1957 ATTACHED TO THESE MINUTES.

The Chairman of the Building Committee asked Mr. Irving if he could now state definitely whether he was in a position to carry out the construction work so that the school could open in October 1958. Mr. Irving replied that if -

- (a) the road leading to the site were made up before the end of May 1957,
- (b) the water supply made available by the end of November 1957, and
- (c) electricity could be brought to the site also by the end of November 1957,

the buildings would be ready for occupation in October 1958.

Further discussion on these items is recorded later in these Minutes.

4. APPROVAL FOR EXPENDITURE

Approval was given by the Board for expenditure as shown on the list attached to the Agenda, i.e.

- (a) for printing of new appeal brochure plus honorarium for designer (LLeb.50 was suggested). LLeb.550
- (b) telegram to Accra: re renewal of Appeal. LLeb.102
- (c) leasing of P.O.Box. LLeb. 27
- (d) initial payment to architects. Sterling Pounds £3,500

5. CONTRACT WITH ARCHITECTS

The form of contract with the Architects was approved as recommended by the Building Committee. It was agreed that the Architects should write a letter accordingly to the Chairman of the Board, one copy of which would be countersigned by the Chairman on behalf of the Board and returned to the Architects.

6. WATER SUPPLY FOR THE SCHOOL

Jamil Bey Mikkaoui reported that he had had discussions with the President of the Republic and the Deir-el-Kamar Municipal authorities. The water would be made available to the School, provided the pipes from the Barouk spring to Deir-el-Kamar were capable of delivering the additional 200 cubic metres per day required by the School. Mr. Makkaoui hoped to have an answer to this question within a day or two; if it was a favourable one Mr. Mikkaoui and Mr. Tueni would jointly arrange with the Ministry of Public Works for the laying of a pipe from Deir-el-Kamar to the School site and, with the assistance of Sheikh Naguib Alamuddin, would endeavour to negotiate a contract for the water supply at nominal rates. If the pipes from Barouk could not deliver the extra supply, the Board would have to reconsider this question.

7. ENTRANCE ROAD TO SCHOOL AND GENDARMERIE POST

The Chairman reported he had spoken to M. Georges Haimari and given him the Architects' plans for the road. It was agreed that Mr. Mikkaoui and Mr. Tueni should ask the Minister of Public Works to deal urgently with this matter so that the road could be made up and fit for heavy traffic by the end of May 1957. The position and site of the gendarmerie post was not discussed.

8. RECRUITMENT OF STAFF

Mr. Murray, Chairman of the Education Committee, reported that the British Council was now ready to advertise in England for a Headmaster. Mr. Scott asked what the position was regarding our request to the Ministry of Education about equivalence for the General Certificate of Education, it was necessary for this matter to be settled before the Headmaster could be appointed. Some discussion took place on this point and it was decided that a deputation consisting of Mr. Murray, Mr. Boustany and Mr. Tueni should wait upon the Minister of Education and ask for his approval. The deputation would present a letter containing this request which would be signed by the Chairman of the Board.

9. APPEAL FOR FUNDS

As various members were obliged to leave the Meeting at this point, it was not possible to discuss this item. The Chairman proposed to discuss it with Mr. Mikkacui, Mr. Tuoni, Sheikh Naguib Alamuddin and Mr. Scott. The Meeting agreed to this procedure.

10. OTHER MATTERS

Mr. McQueen stated he would be leaving the Lebanon shortly on three months' leave. It was agreed that the duties of Hon. Treasurer should be taken over provisionally by Mr. McQueen's successor at the British Bank of the Middle East.

Arrangements for Maintenance of School Site; and  
employment of Maître Nassib Boulos.

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Maître Boulos acted as our lawyer for the first purchase of land. According to a letter from him to Mr. Scott, he charged the School Association no fees, but recouped himself by direct negotiation with the brokers, to the extent of £Leb.5,000.

He also negotiated and drafted the documents relative to the purchase of the second parcel of land, executed the contracts and registered the properties.

Since then he has been the Board's channel of negotiation with the occupants of the second parcel of land, who are permitted by their contract to stay there until August 31, 1957. He has discussed with them various arrangements for the maintenance of the site.

He has now submitted a request for a fee of £Leb.2,000 for these services.

Maintenance:

The olive trees on the site have been pruned. Arrangements for ploughing around them have been held up pending the marking out of the building sites. When this has been done, Maître Boulos has proposed that ploughing should be gone ahead with forthwith.

Arrangements for necessary cutting down of scrub wood have been suspended; as to work already done, the School will pay the cost of the labour employed. Maître Boulos has been commissioned by the Chairman to do this.

Maître Boulos has also been commissioned by the Chairman to engage Aziz Abu Saad, the occupant of the house on the knoll as a salaried employee of the Board to be responsible for protection of the site and for all School property on it.

Relations with present occupants:

The occupants of the first parcel, who should have left at the end of last olive season, have been told that they must leave by April 10. Judge Tali'a, the previous owner, admits responsibility. The Chairman is arranging with the Office of Reconstruction to deliver to these people the building materials which they are claiming before they leave the site.

The extensive blasting which will be inevitable when contractors begin work - say, June 1 - will make the occupancy of the second plot unsafe. It is proposed therefore that in order not to breach the spirit of our contract, the Board should pay these occupants the rent of alternative accommodation in the area for the remainder of the time during which they have the right to occupy their houses.

April 1, 1957.

*Luke*