

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF GOVERNORS OF THE ENGLISH SECONDARY SCHOOL
FOR BOYS IN THE LEBANON HELD AT THE BRITISH
COUNCIL ON 27 FEBRUARY 1958.

PRESENT

Dr. Joseph Hitti (Chairman).	
Cheikh Najib Alamuddin	Mr. A. McQueen
Dean Farid Hanania	Mr. T.W. Morray
Mr. I.D. Scott	Mr. Ghassan Tuani

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. A. Irving (Architect).	Mr. R.T. Edwards (Secretary).
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1. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the 5th Meeting were confirmed by the Board.

2. EQUIVALENCE:

The Chairman reported that, although the Lebanese educational authorities appeared to be in favour of the school, they seemed reluctant to grant equivalence between the General Certificate of Education and the Lebanese Baccalaureate before the new school existed. They hoped the school would not expect special privileges, as in that case other schools would also demand them. The education authorities however would be willing to grant equivalence provided certain universities in England reciprocated by granting equivalence to the Lebanese Baccalaureate.

In the discussion which followed it was pointed out that the Ministry of Education was not correct in thinking that any special concessions were being asked for the new school. All that was required was that a General Certificate of Education which showed the holder to have reached the standard needed for admission to British Universities should be officially recognised as equivalent to the Lebanese Baccalaureate, in the same way as the French Baccalaureate is recognised.

It was suggested that the Board should obtain from the Ministry of Education a letter stating their objections, if any, to the Equivalence. It was also suggested that a delegation should call on Mr. Sawayya and eventually it was suggested that the Secretary should send to the Chairman copies of the previous correspondence on this subject with the Ministry and the Chairman would then decide on the composition of the delegation to accompany him to see the Minister.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT IS
RECORDED UNDER ITEM NO. 8(c) OF THESE
MINUTES.

3. CHAIRMAN'S VISIT TO ENGLAND:

Dr. Joseph Hitti stated that during his recent visit to England he saw Mr. Anthony Haigh (Foreign Office) and had a long talk with him concerning school matters. Mr. Haigh stated that he hoped before very long he would have some good news to send to the Ambassador. The Chairman also stated he had seen various officials of the British Council in London and also Sir Russell Brock and he had taken every opportunity to talk about the school with every one he had met.

4. PAYMENT OF ARCHITECT'S BILL:

Cheikh Najib Alamuddin, Chairman of the Building Committee, presented a statement of account for Architects fees for survey, sketch designs and working drawings. It was pointed out that, as there was no technically qualified person on the Building Committee to decide whether the designs and working drawings were adequate or in accordance with the terms of the contract, the Board of Governors might wish to consider this point. Mr. Scott stated he had consulted competent authorities on this particular question and he had been informed that it was the normal practice to accept a reputable firm of Architects' designs and drawings without being checked by another architect. After some discussion concerning the fact that Municipal approval for the designs had not yet been received, authority was given for the account to be paid at once except for the 1%, which however should be paid by end of March 1958; in the meantime the Architects should make every endeavour to get Municipal approval for the designs. The Board recognised that the delay in obtaining Municipal approval of the designs was not entirely the fault of the Architects.

At this stage Mr. McQueen pointed out that a payment on account of previous fees to the Architects of LLeb.24,682 on 29th March 1957 had not been formerly authorised by the Board of Governors. The Board now recorded its approval of this payment.

5. ALTERNATIVE RIGHT-OF-WAY:

It was reported that one of the reasons for the delay in obtaining approval of the architects designs and plans was because an alternative right-of-way had not been agreed with the Municipal authorities; it was agreed that Mr. Morray, as chairman of the Education Committee, should be empowered to decide with the architects an alternative right-of-way to be submitted to the Municipal authorities for approval.

6. APPROVAL OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR BUILDING COMMITTEE:

After some discussion it was agreed that the terms of reference should be as follows:

"To deal with all matters concerning the physical existence of the school, including the site (maintenance, cultivation), the buildings (letting of contracts, supervision of construction, labour relations, authority for payments) and utilities (water supply, roads, electricity supply, telephones, police protection)."

It was pointed out by Mr. Tuoni that all contracts should be signed by the Chairman.

7. APPROVAL OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

After some discussion it was agreed that the terms of reference should be as follows:

1. To make recommendations to the Board of Governors on
 - (i) all aspects of the design and equipment of the school buildings and grounds which may be determined or influenced by educational considerations;
 - (ii) the educational policy of the school, particularly with regard to the curriculum and examinations (after the appointment of the headmaster the Education Committee will be concerned with general supervision only);
 - (iii) the salaries and conditions of service for the headmaster and teaching staff;
 - (iv) the responsibilities and appointment of the headmaster;
 - (v) the responsibilities and appointment of the teaching staff, following the initial recommendations of the headmaster;
 - (vi) the termination of appointment of teaching staff, or other disciplinary action, following initial action taken by the headmaster.
2. To deal with any other matters delegated to the Committee by the Board of Governors."

The Chairman asked Mr. Morray if the Education Committee had any idea concerning the fees that would be charged to students. Mr. Morray stated that during his stay in England in 1957 the British Council had prepared an estimated income and expenditure account covering a 5 year period and he would send the Chairman a copy of these papers.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Expenses of ploughing of land etc.:

Cheikh Najib Alammudin stated he had received a bill from the caretaker of the property for expenses incurred in connection with the ploughing of land etc. totalling LLsb.1,970. Cheikh Najib Alammudin had satisfied himself that this expenditure was reasonable and the Board approved payment.

(b) Letter From London County Council:

The Chairman read a letter which had been received from the London County Council stating they had agreed that Mr. Ferguson should act as Honorary Consultant to the Architects in England in all matters on which they wished to consult him. Mr. Scott stated he would draft a letter to the London County Council thanking them for their co-operation in this matter.

(c) Equivalence:

Dean Hanania emphasised the necessity of obtaining a definite ruling on the question of Equivalence. He stated that it was vitally important for the school that a ruling should be obtained before any further progress is made in connection with the building or before sending out a further appeal for funds, because unless we obtain acceptance of the principle of equivalence it would be impossible to engage staff and the whole idea of a Public School based on English lines would be out of the question. It was finally agreed that a delegation selected by the Chairman should approach the President requesting a definite statement concerning the attitude of the Government towards this particular point. It was suggested that it would be very helpful if the Ambassador would lead such a delegation.

(d) The Secretary was also asked to prepare a statement detailing the unfulfilled promises of assistance that have been made by various Government Departments and officials in connection with the following items:

Water supply of 200 cms per day,
Making-up of approach road,
Establishment of a gendarmerie post,
Bringing electricity and telephone lines to the site.

The Board also want the diversion of the right-of-way to be agreed as soon as possible.