

English Secondary School for Boys in Lebanon

Minutes of the Eighth Meeting of the Board of Governors held at the British Council on October 7, 1960.

Present:

Dr. Joseph Hitti (Chairman)
Dr. Fouad E. Boustany Mr. A.J. Edden
Dean Farid Hanania Mr. A.J. Catoni
Mr. T.W. Morray

Apologies received from Sheikh Najib Alamuddin

Absent (en voyage):

Mr. Ghassan Tueni Mr. Jamil Mikkawi

1. It was agreed to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the Seventh Meeting held on April 24, 1958, and to consider this Eighth Meeting as informal in view of recent developments.

2. Dr. Hitti reviewed the background of the development of the School project, including Her Majesty's Government's original financial contribution, the local appeal and its results, the purchase of the site and the granting of "Equivalence". Summarising Dr. Hitti stated that the object of this meeting was threefold:

- (a) To seek the views of the Board of Governors on the desirability of continuing with the project. It was agreed unanimously that no effort should be spared to bring about the fulfilment of the scheme.
- (b) Dr. Hitti explained briefly that as a result of a very full examination of the original plans by the Foreign Office of Her Majesty's Government in London and by British Educational experts, certain proposals had emerged which indicated that considerable economies could be made, and he asked the Board's approval to study these economies and, if feasible, accept any modifications.

He then called on Mr. Edden to enlarge on this.

Mr. Edden explained that studies by Educational experts in the United Kingdom had suggested that a school for 270 boarders and 90 day boys could be built for a sum of the order of £400,000, in terms of United Kingdom building costs. If the Board agreed that the project could be scaled down on these lines, subject of course to negotiation with the architects, and if a new appeal could be launched, he was in a position to say that, once contributions from the Middle East had reached a total of £120,000 (equivalent to the sum already contributed by Her Majesty's Government), Her Majesty's Government would be willing to match further Middle East subscriptions £ for £ up to a total of £200,000. That is to say, if a further £120-130,000 were collected in the Middle East a further £80,000 would be forthcoming from H.M.G. This offer would remain open until the end of the

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present United Kingdom financial year, ending April 4, 1961. If for any reason the school were not built, further contributions by H.M.G. under the terms of this offer would be recoverable.

(c) A further appeal for funds would therefore be necessary and it was agreed that such could best be done by a personal approach - a special appeal being made to the original sponsors of the project and appeal.

3. It was agreed that draft letters of appeal should be prepared for the Board's approval:

- (i) to the original sponsors;
- (ii) to original donors;
- (iii) to possible new contributors.

An appeal Sub-Committee would be set up as soon as these drafts were ready.

4. Some discussion took place on the question of keeping His Excellency the President of the Republic as a Trustee and Patron informed of developments and it was agreed that Her Majesty's Ambassador, or his Representative, as a Co-Trustee, should do this as soon as possible.

5. Mr. Edden, drawing attention to the two vacancies on the Board due to the departure of Sir Ferguson Crawford and Mr. A. McQueen, informed the Board that H.M. Ambassador had nominated Mr. Norman Joly and Mr. George Heseldine in their places. The Board expressed satisfaction with these nominations.