

THE ENGLISH SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR BOYS
IN THE LEBANON

Minutes of the Twenty-fourth and last meeting of the Board of Governors held at 11 am on 24 October 1973 at the British Embassy.

Present: HE Mr Paul Wright	British Ambassador - Trustee
Dr Joseph Hitti	Chairman
Dr Fuad I Boustany	Governor
Professor Farid Hanania	Governor
Mr Paul Gotch	Hon. Secretary
Mr Alec Stirling	Counsellor, British Embassy
Mr F Gardener	HEM Consul
Mr C Kelley	Manager, British Bank of the
Me. Nassib Boulos	Legal Adviser. Middle East

1. Dr Hitti called the meeting to order, welcoming HE the Ambassador and the other members of the Board to the meeting. This was called as a result of the proposal recorded as Item 6 in the minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting held at the Embassy on 3 September 1973.

2. Me. Nassib Boulos then outlined the problems and his efforts to achieve legalisation of the transfer of the Serjibal land to Brummana High School. This he said had been approved by the Minister of the Interior but more formal action was now required, details of which he had prepared in a document in both Arabic and English. This required the approval and signature of all members of the Board. Dr Hitti asked Me. Boulos to read out the resolutions, in English. These are included in the copy of the documents attached.

3. HE Mr Wright as one of the two Trustees, then thanked Dr Joseph Hitti and his colleagues of the Board of Governors for all the great efforts they had made for so many years to establish the school. A summary of this speech is contained also in the attached document. Mr Wright, however, also paid tribute to the late Mr George Heseldin who had been, he understood, a very active member of the Board. Dr Hitti confirmed this, explaining that Mr Heseldin had never missed a meeting, had always been interested in the project and most generous towards it. He hoped that a letter of sympathy and appreciation of Mr Heseldin's help could be sent to his widow. This was agreed.

4. Dr Hitti stated that the Lebanon deeply regretted the loss of a British school here. Lebanon, he went on, having little to export but the mental expertise of its citizens was proud to receive educational assistance from Great Britain, America and France. He recalled how, as a boy, he had learnt his first English at the small English School at Shemlan. Now English was an international language and since the remaining assets of the proposed school were going to another English school (Brummana High School) this would add to the capital of the Lebanon.

Hitti

Dr Hitti then asked for reassurance on two matters: one, that the moneys resulting from the transfer of the land would remain in the Lebanon, and two, that there were no outstanding taxes to pay. He was reassured on both matters. Brummana High School would assume all costs including legal and transfer fees, in connection with the transfer and receipt of the land. A letter to this effect had been sent by Brummana High School to the Hon. Secretary. (Since received.)

Dr Hitti then thanked His Excellency and all his British colleagues for their work on behalf of the proposed school.

5. Professor Farid Hanania, as an original member who had worked for the Board since its inception, requested leave to comment. Amongst his activities on behalf of the project, had been, for example, two special visits to UK to obtain local equivalence for GCE examinations. He was glad, he said, that an alternative had been found but expressed great disappointment that the original purpose of the school had not been realised. Professor Hanania emphasised the immense work achieved by the original Board members towards the establishment of the school, concluding that this outcome:

"to me is a great disappointment and I wish to express it at our last meeting."

6. Me. Boulos circulated the documents, which he had prepared, for signatures, which were duly signed.

7. HE Mr Wright then said that this meeting was "only a comma, not the end of a chapter, in the cooperation, need I hope, from you in the educational field in this country, and I speak for the British Council, whose particular concern these matters are, that we shall look to you for continued help and advice".

8. Professor Hanania moved that with this meeting the Board of the English Secondary School for Boys in the Lebanon should be dissolved.

9. HE Mr Wright seconded the motion.

The meeting terminated at 11.40 am.

Joseph R. Hitti M.A.