



MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

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INFORMATION UPDATE

FROM THE INTERIM BOARD OF MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

Assalamualiakum

Friday 8 April 2016

Last night (Thursday), your Interim Board met to discuss progress towards securing the future of Malek Fahd Islamic School (MFIS).

First, we assure our students, parents, staff and supporters that the School will be able to continue to operate throughout Term 2, regardless of the outcome of any public funding decisions. I am sure you will agree that this is great news and gives everyone greater certainty as we head into the school holiday period.

Second, and after very careful consideration, your Interim Board has decided that the so-called 'Plan B' we will now follow is to re-register the School as an existing entity. This approach is, in our view, the one that has the best chance of securing Malek Fahd's long-term future. To this end, the Interim Board will use the next few weeks to work with the Federal Government. We believe that our re-registration approach has a strong chance of success and is, therefore, appropriate to pursue.

It is too early to put a precise timeframe on how long this will take. In the background, of course, our application to the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal to seek continuation of public funding will continue. We will keep you informed throughout. We already have made progress in meeting the Commonwealth's necessarily strict requirements around funding, governance, independence and accountability. But we still have a long way to go and we will be working hard during Term 2 to address outstanding issues and, ultimately, satisfy the Commonwealth that funding should be restored.

To help us with these tasks, I'm pleased to report that we have appointed a new Interim Board member who brings vast experience and ability in support of our ongoing work and re-registration plan. He is Dr John Bennett, an Adjunct Professor at the School of Education at the University of NSW.

Until he retired from the position in 2009, John was Chief Executive of the Office of the Board of Studies NSW. I am sure you will agree that his appointment lends further credibility to our rebuilding and confidence for the long-term. You can read more about John by visiting <https://education.arts.unsw.edu.au/about-us/people/john-bennett/>

Last night, parents also met and established an Interim Parents and Friends group that will provide feedback and input to the Interim Board over coming months. We are advised that the following parents were elected: Kamal Mahmud, Farah Assafiri, Naseem Hawashin, Ahmed Youssef, Hesham Mourad and Fariha Dib Kak. I thank the Crisis Committee on behalf of all parents for its support and commitment in putting the interests of students and staff first at all times in these difficult circumstances. We look forward to liaising and working with the Interim Parents & Friends and will meet them early next week.

In other news, the School has engaged a provider of Employee Assistance Programs to provide professional 24-hour counselling services for all staff. Contact details for this service, which is available immediately, are being given to staff today.

Your Interim Board will continue to work hard over the school holiday break to advance the re-registration plans. We will, of course, post any updates on the School website (click on the Interim Board button). As always, if you have any questions, please email them to interimboard@mfis.nsw.edu.au.

We wish every student, parent and staff member a restful holiday break and we look forward to seeing everyone back for the beginning of Term 2 as we continue to build a long-term future for this wonderful school.

Wassalam

MIRIAM SILVA

Chairman, Interim Board