



MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

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INFORMATION UPDATE

FROM THE INTERIM BOARD OF MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

Assalamualiakum

Friday, 6 May 2016

Following last week's favourable Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) decision that suspends the Federal Government's cessation of public funding until our appeal is heard, your Interim Board is now working on two important tasks.

First, we are continuing down the path of re-registering MFIS and making good progress on resolving the many issues that this process will throw up. For example, we have now engaged a real estate agency to conduct a comprehensive review of existing rental agreements covering our sites, we have issued the tender process for new school auditors and we have provided the State and Federal governments with our new bank account details for payment of funds. This week, we also met with officials from the Independent Education Union, the trade union that represents staff at MFIS, and held productive and collegiate discussions. Our second big task is to prepare thoroughly for the AAT appeal that is due to be heard in approximately three-to-four months' time. As part of this process, we are required to submit a variety of monthly reports to both the Tribunal and the Federal Government, the first of which is due today.

The Board can advise that, subject to no unforeseen issues, if we follow the AAT process correctly, then we will have enough funds for MFIS to continue operating through to at least the end of this school year, a position that we hope will give our school community greater certainty for the short-term. We remain confident about Malek Fahd's long-term prospects. This is reflected in our decision to make a new appointment that will strengthen the credentials of your Interim Board. Mr Jim McDowell, a highly respected business leader and governance expert, has agreed to become the Board's sixth member and work with MFIS to secure our long-term future.

After a 35-year career in the aerospace and defence industries globally, Jim now devotes his efforts to public service in Australia. A passionate supporter of continuing education, Jim is currently Chancellor of the University of South Australia. He is also Chairman of the Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation. In 2011 the Australian Government appointed Jim as chairman of the Australian Apprenticeships for the 21st Century Panel. I am sure you will join me in welcoming him to our school community and joining our other Board members - Br Shamsheer Ali, Mr Martyn Bawden, Dr John Bennett and Mr Geoff Dornan - who have brought to MFIS invaluable financial, educational and administrative expertise.

As always, keep an eye out for future *Information Updates*, which we aim to issue on Fridays or earlier, if there are major developments. All updates also will be posted on the School website (click on the Interim Board button). If you have any questions, please email them to interimboard@mfis.nsw.edu.au.

Wassalam

MIRIAM SILVA

Chairman, Interim Board