



# MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

ABN: 41003 864 891

KNOWLEDGE IS LIGHT & WORK IS WORSHIP

[www.mfis.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mfis.nsw.edu.au)

## INFORMATION UPDATE

### FROM THE BOARD OF MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

Thursday 1 April 2021

Assalamualaikum

#### Results of the Survey of Parents

The Board thanks parents who participated in the survey. The independent company that conducted the survey, VCPS Schools, reported to the Board last Thursday. A total of 795 parents (44% of the 1822 parents to whom it was sent) responded. VCPS reports that this is an excellent response for a parent survey.

Board members are reviewing the survey report to identify its important messages, decide how best to share the findings and, importantly, decide the actions the Board will take from the findings. This will be done as quickly as possible.

Some important early insights from the survey include:

- 91% of parents agreed that 'All students must act in accordance with the key values of care and compassion, respect for themselves and others, responsibility, honesty, perseverance and self-discipline'.
- 90% agreed that 'Every student should strive to achieve their personal best academically, physically, emotionally, socially, religiously, morally and vocationally'.
- 88% agreed that 'All students of MFIS should receive an education that inspires them to achieve their full potential, embrace the future and make positive contributions to the community'.
- 83% agreed that 'I would like more opportunities to hear about what is planned for the school directly from the Board'.
- 81% agreed that 'This school is a safe place for my child'.
- 79% agreed that 'I feel like my child belongs at this school'.
- These responses are consistent with the survey company's findings from its surveys of parents at other schools across Australia.
- The responses were more positive than those from a similar survey at MFIS in 2015.

Preliminary analysis indicates very encouraging feedback and confirmation of matters where further work and improvements are needed. More later.

#### Letter to the Minister

In the previous Board Update, I reported that we had received advice from the NSW Minister for Education that she had decided to require the School to repay \$11,065,584.69. The repayment would be made by reducing the financial assistance from the State Government to the School by \$2,213,116 per annum for five years.

The Board has met to carefully consider the consequences of what it views as a very unfair decision.

The Board is satisfied that the School will continue to operate and provide a quality education to your children and all students.

The Board resolved to write back to the Minister to ask her to reconsider her decision. We will keep you updated with developments.

#### **Review of the operations of the Parents Advisory Committee**

Towards the end of 2020, the Board decided that it was timely to review the operations of the Parents Advisory Committee (PAC).

That review was conducted by a team consisting of Board members Fayez Moussa and Dr Fariha Dib and two independents, Ms Dalya Ayoub and Sheikh Ahmad Abdo. The panel were assisted by the School's Director of Professional Practice and Innovation, Kelli Cato.

The Board thanks current and former PAC members for participating in the review.

The Board understands how important it is that it communicates effectively with parents, listens to your thoughts and opinions and seeks ways for you and other parents to contribute to the life of the School.

A report has been prepared and Board members are considering the findings to determine how we can enhance communication and involvement of parents.

Jazakallah Khairan for your ongoing support.

Wassalam

**DR JOHN BENNETT**

Chair