



July 16th, 2026

THE SPANISH SCHOOL OF ABU DHABI
Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Third Parent Council Meeting – Academic Year 2025–2026

Date: Thursday, July 2, 2026

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Location: Meeting Room – First Floor

Chair: Mrs. Eva Sánchez Castillo, Principal

Attendees

- Parent Council Representatives
- Members of the Senior Leadership Team

Apologies

As recorded.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks
2. Principal's Report
 - Term 3 Updates
 - Parent Satisfaction Survey Results
3. Action Plan for the 2026–2027 School Year
 - ADEK Strategic Priorities
 - Enrollment Projections
 - Human Resources
 - Facilities
 - Strategic Priorities
4. Parent Questions and Discussion
5. Closing Remarks

Supporting Documentation

The following presentations were shared during the meeting and are attached to these minutes as supporting documents:

- **Parent Survey Results 2025–2026**
- **Term 3 Updates & Action Plan 2026–2027**

These presentations provide the detailed data, charts, and supporting information referenced throughout these minutes.

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Principal welcomed the Parent Council representatives and thanked them for their continued collaboration, constructive feedback, and commitment throughout the academic year.



She acknowledged that the 2025–2026 school year had presented several significant challenges, including ongoing school improvement initiatives, operational demands associated with continued growth, and the impact of recent regional events on the school community. Despite these circumstances, she highlighted the resilience demonstrated by students, families, faculty, and staff and expressed her appreciation for the positive partnership maintained with the Parent Council.

2. Principal's Report

2.1 Leadership Transition

Discussion

The Principal informed the Parent Council that she will be leaving The Spanish School of Abu Dhabi during the first term of the 2026–2027 school year for personal and family reasons. She explained that this was a personal decision that had been made and formally communicated to the School Board several months ago.

Key Information Presented

- The recruitment process for a new Principal is currently underway under the direction of the School Board.
- Families will receive official communication once the appointment has been finalized.
- A structured transition plan has been developed to ensure continuity of leadership, school operations, and strategic initiatives.
- The Principal will remain fully engaged during the transition period to support the incoming Principal and ensure an orderly handover.

The Principal reflected on her four years leading the school, expressing gratitude for the trust and support received from families, students, faculty, staff, the School Board, and the wider community. She also thanked families for the many messages of appreciation received following the announcement of her departure.

2.2 Term 3 School Update

Discussion

The Principal presented a summary of the school's progress during Term 3 and highlighted the key initiatives implemented throughout the academic year. Detailed information is provided in the accompanying **Term 3 Updates & Action Plan 2026–2027** presentation.

Key Highlights

The Parent Council was informed of progress in several strategic areas, including:

- Continued implementation of the School Development Plan.
- Strengthening instructional leadership through regular classroom walkthroughs and coaching cycles.
- Improved curriculum planning, mapping, and vertical alignment across grade levels.
- Expansion of STEAM and Project-Based Learning initiatives.



- Increased use of assessment data, including MAP Growth, to guide instructional planning and targeted interventions.
- Continued implementation of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to better meet individual student needs.
- Ongoing collaboration with DIWAN Educational Affairs to strengthen Arabic language instruction, National Identity, and Ministry of Education curriculum implementation.

The Principal emphasized that these initiatives are part of a long-term strategy to strengthen instructional quality, improve student outcomes, and ensure consistency across all grade levels.

2.3 Teacher Evaluation and Professional Growth

Discussion

The Principal presented an overview of the school's teacher evaluation framework, emphasizing that teacher performance is assessed through multiple sources of evidence rather than isolated classroom observations.

Key Information Presented

The evaluation framework includes:

- Formal classroom observations.
- Regular instructional walkthroughs conducted by Senior Leadership and Middle Leaders.
- Lesson planning and curriculum quality assurance.
- Student achievement and progress data.
- Internal and external assessment results, including MAP Growth.
- Professional responsibilities, contributions to school improvement and integration in school culture.
- Professional development participation.
- Teacher self-reflection and self-evaluation.
- Individual coaching, feedback meetings, and improvement plans where appropriate.

The Principal explained that the evaluation process is collaborative and evidence-based, ensuring fairness, consistency, and continuous professional growth while maintaining high expectations for instructional quality.

3. Parent Satisfaction Survey

Discussion

The Principal presented a summary of the Parent Satisfaction Survey conducted during the academic year. Due to time limitations, the meeting focused on the key findings, while the complete presentation was shared with Parent Council representatives and is attached to these minutes.

Survey Overview

- Responses were received from **39 families**, representing approximately **16.7%** of enrolled families.



- While participation remains relatively modest, response rates are consistent with previous years and provide valuable qualitative feedback for school improvement planning.
- The Principal emphasized that the survey is confidential but not anonymous, enabling the school to provide follow-up where appropriate and analyze trends more effectively.

Key Strengths Identified

Overall feedback remained positive, with families particularly recognizing:

- The professionalism, commitment, and accessibility of the teaching staff.
- Individualized support provided to students.
- A welcoming, caring, and inclusive school environment.
- The Spanish curriculum and multilingual educational model.
- Strong relationships between families and staff.
- Student well-being and pastoral care.

Areas for Continued Improvement

The Principal also shared the principal themes identified through parent feedback, including:

- Greater consistency in instructional practices across grade levels.
- Continued strengthening of classroom management and student behavior expectations.
- Improved communication regarding student progress and academic expectations.
- Increased differentiation to support students with varying learning needs.
- Continued enhancement of extracurricular opportunities and school facilities.
- Greater consistency in curriculum implementation and assessment practices.

The Principal explained that these priorities closely align with the school's own internal evaluations, ADEK recommendations, and the School Development Plan for 2026–2027. She further emphasized that the qualitative comments submitted by families are particularly valuable in helping the school identify meaningful opportunities for continuous improvement.

4. Student Well-Being, Behavior, and School Climate

Discussion

The Principal addressed the emotional impact that recent regional events had on many students and explained the school's response to supporting their well-being.

Key Information Presented

The school implemented a range of measures, including:

- Increased pastoral support.
- Opportunities for emotional reflection and expression within the classroom.
- Ongoing monitoring by teachers, counselors, and support staff.
- Individual follow-up with families when appropriate.

The Principal reaffirmed that student well-being remains one of the school's highest priorities.



Behavior management was also discussed. The Principal acknowledged that behavioral concerns have increased in some grade levels and explained that the school will continue strengthening:

- Consistent implementation of the Student Code of Conduct.
- Positive behavior support strategies.
- Restorative practices, when appropriate.
- Clear behavioral expectations across all grade levels.
- Fair, evidence-based disciplinary procedures consistent with school policies.

5. School-Home Communication

Discussion

The Principal reviewed current communication practices and discussed opportunities to further strengthen consistency and transparency in school-home communication.

Key Information Presented

The school will continue to strengthen communication through:

- Regular newsletters.
- Google Classroom.
- Official school communications.
- Parent meetings.
- Improved consistency across departments and grade levels.

Parents were encouraged to communicate concerns directly with the school through established procedures, allowing issues to be addressed promptly, collaboratively, and constructively.

6. Action Plan for the 2026–2027 School Year

The Principal presented the school's strategic priorities for the upcoming school year, referring attendees to the accompanying **Term 3 Updates & Action Plan 2026–2027** presentation for additional detail.

6.1 ADEK Strategic Priorities

The Parent Council received an overview of the strategic priorities recently communicated by ADEK, which will guide planning across all schools during the coming academic year.

Key priorities include:

- Strengthening UAE National Identity.
- Student well-being, inclusion, health, and safety.
- Integration of Artificial Intelligence into teaching and learning.
- Expansion of sports and extracurricular opportunities.
- Continued investment in teacher quality and professional learning.
- Increased use of educational data to drive school improvement.



The Principal also explained that Artificial Intelligence will become a mandatory component of the curriculum beginning in the 2026–2027 school year.

6.2 School Development Priorities

The Principal outlined the school's key improvement priorities for the coming year, including:

- Improving instructional consistency across classrooms.
- Strengthening instructional leadership and coaching.
- Expanding differentiated instruction.
- Enhancing curriculum alignment across grade levels.
- Continuing the implementation of Project-Based Learning.
- Strengthening assessment and intervention systems.
- Increasing collaboration among departments.
- Continuing investment in teacher professional development.
- Further strengthening data-informed instructional practices.

These priorities build upon the progress achieved during the current School Development Plan and align closely with parent feedback and ADEK expectations.

6.3 Enrollment and Human Resources

The Parent Council received an overview of projected enrollment and staffing plans for the upcoming school year. The Principal explained that staffing decisions continue to be reviewed in alignment with projected enrollment and operational requirements.

Parents were informed that:

- Recruitment remains ongoing.
- Several new faculty members will join the school.
- Some current faculty members will be leaving at the end of the school year.
- Official staffing announcements will be shared once all hiring processes have been completed.

The Principal reiterated that individual employment matters remain confidential and therefore cannot be discussed publicly.

6.4 Facilities and Campus Development

The Principal provided an update on current and future facilities projects. Planned improvements include:

- Development of the new covered sports facilities.
- Expansion of learning spaces.
- Additional classrooms.
- Parking and traffic flow improvements.
- Continued enhancement of outdoor recreational areas.

The Parent Council also received an overview of the school's long-term campus expansion plans, including the future development of dedicated secondary and Kindergarten buildings, subject to the relevant approvals and project timelines.



7. Parent Questions and Discussion

An open discussion followed the presentations. Parent Council representatives raised questions regarding:

- Faculty continuity and recruitment.
- Student behavior and discipline.
- School-home communication.
- Student well-being following recent regional events.
- Campus development and facilities.
- Academic expectations and priorities for the coming school year.

The Principal responded to each question, providing clarification where appropriate while reaffirming the school's commitment to transparency, continuous improvement, and maintaining confidentiality regarding individual personnel matters.

8. Agreed Follow-Up Actions

The following actions were confirmed:

- The Parent Survey presentation and the Term 3 Updates & Action Plan presentation will be distributed together with these minutes.
- Parent feedback will continue to inform the final School Development Plan for 2026–2027.
- School-home communication practices will continue to be strengthened across all departments.
- Families will receive formal communication regarding staffing updates and leadership appointments once recruitment processes have been completed.
- The school will continue implementing the strategic initiatives presented during the meeting and will provide periodic updates throughout the 2026–2027 school year.

9. Closing Remarks

The Principal thanked the Parent Council representatives for their continued partnership, thoughtful feedback, and commitment to supporting the school community. She acknowledged the important role the Parent Council plays in strengthening communication between families and the school and expressed her sincere appreciation for the trust and collaboration shown throughout her tenure as Principal.

In closing, she reaffirmed her confidence in the school's future, its leadership team, and the strategic direction that has been established to ensure continued growth, educational excellence, and the well-being of every student

Kind regards,

The School Leadership Team

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