

**MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL** 

ABN: 41003 864 891

**KNOWLEDGE IS LIGHT & WORK IS WORSHIP** 

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# **BOARD UPDATE**

## INFORMATION UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

6 February 2023

Assalamualaikum

On behalf of the Board, I would like to welcome back all our staff, students and families for the new school year. We are excited to see the transformation of the School take effect as we implement the many initiatives associated with the Niyyah Project.

### **Resignation of Board Members**

I am sad to announce that two of our long serving board members have decided to move on. Yasin Mohammad and Miriam Silva AM both served the School tirelessly during their appointment.

Yasin joined the board in 2017 and played a pivotal role in establishing the boards' IT Committee. Over the years in his role as Chair of this committee, he oversaw the total refurbishment and modernisation of the School's network and IT facilities, and provided advice to School management regarding IT related issues.

Miriam was the first Chair of the board after the entire previous board resigned in 2016. She joined at a time when the School was facing a plethora of issues related to governance and was under threat of losing government funding. Through her hard work and tenacity, Miriam built a team of experts to serve as the interim board, and once the immediate issues had been resolved, began to rebuild the board with members from our local community. Her wealth of experience in board roles was a boon to many new board members, including myself. Our School, and our community, may never be able to repay the debt of gratitude that we owe her.

### **Appointment of New Members**

I am excited to announce that the board has recruited new members who will provide their skills and expertise to school.

Mohammed Alomari is an existing member of the board's finance sub-committee. He has over 15 years' experience in the financial services industry and currently serves as a senior manager with AMP Limited. Working directly with Clevel executives, Mohammad leads his organisations' risk working group and is the central coordination and compliance point for the finance department.

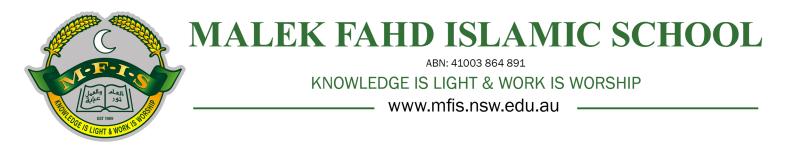
Greg Anderson is an existing member of the board's property sub-committee and has been sharing his expertise in the development and execution of the master plans at Beaumont Hills, Hoxton Park and Greenacre campuses. With 25 years of experience in the education sector, Greg served as the bursar at PLC Sydney and oversaw the project management of several new buildings and school facilities.

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Aynur Simsirel is the former Chair of Islamic Schools Australia, and is currently Principal Consultant with the Independent Schools of Victoria organisation (the equivalent of the AISNSW in Victoria). She had previously served as a Principal at Ilim College for six years. Her experience in school governance, and the design and delivery of staff training programs will assist the School in its renewal program.

#### **Court Case**

You may remember that early 2021 the NSW Minister for Education decided that Malek Fahd Islamic School was to repay more than \$11 million in NSW State public funding. This was the total amount of money the NSW Government paid to the school in 2014 and 2015. The Minister took this decision after deciding that the School operated for profit in 2014 and 2015 under a previous Board and administration.

Following the Minister's decision, the Board took legal advice and decided to appeal to the Supreme Court of NSW. In September last year, the Supreme Court ruled against our appeal.

The Supreme Court ruling does not change anything that has already been put in place. It simply means that we will continue to repay the money by way of reduced NSW State funding until 2026.

The board has considered this judgement, and on advice of its legal team, has decided to lodge another appeal.

As far as students, staff and parents are concerned, it continues to be 'school as usual'. The current Board continues to ensure the School operates in a proper manner. Our focus will always remain on providing a quality education for all students.

Jazakallahu khairun for your ongoing support.

Wassalam

Fayez Moussa Chair Malek Fahd Islamic School

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