



Amman
31st August, 2021

My dear ABS Community,

It is with great pride and but also with optimism, albeit tinged with some sadness, that I write to announce I shall be stepping down as Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees of the Amman Bacculaureate School. My tenure of 40 years has been both rewarding and often challenging during the years that we have worked together with so many others who are no longer with us, to create a school that is as unique as it is special to us all.

As the time has now come to pass on the baton, it is with joy and confidence that I announce that my daughter, HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan, will take on full responsibility for our beloved school. Sumaya has grown to know the ABS intimately, as a student, a parent, a Class Mother, a member of the Parent-Teacher Association, and, for many years, as my Deputy and Right Hand on the Board.

I must thank the Board of Trustees for their constant support and encouragement over the decades. I am grateful especially to two members who joined me as Founding Board Members, and who leave with me for some well-deserved rest – HE Dr Adnan Badran who has served alongside me for 39 years and Mr Isam Salfiti for 38 years. A third member of that founding board, Mr Mahdi Saifi, will remain to act as Deputy to my daughter, Sumaya.

When the Founders and I first decided to establish an innovative and much-needed school in 1981, we could not have imagined how quickly the ABS would become a pioneer and a trailblazer on the national, regional, and international levels. In those early days, before the ABS became an exclusively International Baccalaureate (IB) institution, we also taught the Tawjihi programme. However, our expanded curriculum, which included so many aspects of an IB education, and so many of our own IB-inspired ideas and innovations, ultimately influenced the 1987 national educational reform project. In many instances, these innovations have been implemented and deployed at a wider level. We went on to work closely with the International Baccalaureate Organization Council of Foundation to develop, pilot and implement an IB syllabus for the History and Culture of the Islamic World, and for teaching and examination of Arabic at Language at the higher 'A' Level. Today, as a result of our collective efforts, these two subject options are offered worldwide.

While some of our founders are sadly no longer with us and others have moved on to pursue diverse and inspiring activities, the school has continued to excel, thanks to the renewing power, passion and dedication of its staff. Our dedicated team continues to enrich the academic life of our country by assisting other schools to adopt and implement IB programmes, and by building and empowering the El Hassan Youth Award, a programme that has helped to instil the values of citizenship, social justice, and love of country and one's community in tens, if not hundreds of thousands of students. Our ABS community has also worked hard to open previously unattainable educational opportunities for many, with the generous support of the Board of Trustees, the Baccalaureate Endowment Fund, and our diversely successful alumni. I am, therefore, both humbled and honoured to say that the school today stands as a rare example of staunchly principled commitment to the provision of an ethical world-class education. The ABS is,

indeed, a bastion of hope, service, and excellence in a region that is so often marked by despair and lack of opportunity.

I have watched with joy as I have proudly celebrated our students who have set out into the world over the years. I know that they have been buoyed by the knowledge, skills and life-lessons that help them to achieve great things for themselves and their communities. Thanks to the ABS, they carry for all of us the torch of progress so that they may fulfil their hopes and ambitions, but also excel in the service of others. For the ABS teaches that personal ambition can only be rewarding when one is mindful of service to country, region, and humanity.

Now, as all good things must come to an end, so too does my time at the ABS. I have no doubt, however, that Sumaya and the Board will uphold the tradition of noting and responding to the needs and desires of our community, while effectively guiding us towards a future that may be uncertain but will most certainly be partly of our making.

In unity the ABS has achieved so much over the past 40 years, and in unity, insh Allah, the ABS may achieve so much more in the years to come.

With warmest regards and best wishes to all,



HRH Princess Sarvath El Hassan



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