

AAESS

Board of Governors

AAESS Board of Governors 2007/2008 Parent Election - Candidates' Statement

Mr. Matthew Collins, MA
Parent of Nicholas Collins (Year 3)

"My name is Matthew Collins (my son is in Year 3 and he enjoys the school) and I would like to be considered for election as a parent governor. I feel that AAESS has a vital role to play in the Al Ain community providing high quality education for all its pupils. I attend the recent Governor/Parent meeting and listened carefully to the proceedings with interest concern and optimism."

"With over 20 years experience within education I feel that I am well qualified to contribute to the Board of Governors of AAESS. I am trained at Secondary Level UK age range as a teacher with a PGCE from Bristol University and I have a Masters Degree in Educational Management. I am also a parent of children who are in Secondary and University Education in the UK."

"I work for a leading UK based educational provider in Al Ain, and I have 8 years experience as a Headmaster in the UK independent sector. This experience means that I am well acquainted with both school improvement and the workings of Governing Bodies, (including those with a Junior and Senior School) and I understand the expectations of the customers – you the parents and most importantly the needs of the children."

"I believe that the Governing Body should guide and support the efficient running of the school, led by the professional teachers within it."

"It should provide checks and balances in a transparent manner, it is there to;

- Ensure high standards of educational attainment
- Ensure that targets are set for pupil achievement
- Ensure that the curriculum is balanced and broadly based, meeting the needs of all the pupils – where every child matters.
- Ensure accurate reporting on pupils achievement against UK and international norms
- To be accountable for the conduct of the school and its promotion and placement within the community
- Manage the school's budget effectively for substantiality, development and growth
- Participate in the recruitment, development and retention of high quality staff
- Ensure that the Health and Safety procedures are fit for purpose
- Support the school through Educational inspections
- Help develop and ratify the School Development/Strategic Plan ensuring agreement with the Vision for the school led by the Principal and Senior Leadership Team
- Monitor its successful implementation.

What can I offer? Approachability, a love of learning and guidance with a smile."

Dr. Raj R. Rai
Parent of Binod Rai (Year 11)

"I have a strong academic and teaching background. I have a Master's Degree and a Ph.D in Education from two outstanding US Universities, as well as I have taught in different countries including Nepal, USA and UAE. I am very keen to have an understanding of the private school system in the UAE.

" Being a Board of Governor, I could contribute to the Board taking on two role. (1) As an educator, by sharing my knowledge and experience in the field of Education. (2) As a parent by sharing parental concern regarding children education and the school environment.

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Ms. Marylou Rushforth

Parent of James Rushfort (Year 11) and Jack Rushforth (Year 9)

"I have had two boys at AAESS for the three years that we have lived in Al Ain. I would relish the opportunity to be more involved in the decision making at the school which has seen great instability in management, high staff turnover and a general decline in standards over that period. One of my aims would be to bring about the end of low staff morale by ensuring that the senior management of the school is in qualified and educated hands, by valuing the teaching staff and rewarding them accordingly and by ensuring contracts are in place and teachers feel secure in their positions. Once teachers are secure they can concentrate on their main aim of educating our children, something that all parents yearn for. I want to be a voice or the parent community on the board, so that the board and the SMT will be well informed of parents' views and wishes at all times. I have been involved in various committees since my children started school, I am strong minded and will voice opinions whether favorable or not. I want to make a difference here; I want AAESS to be a good school for our children, for the staff and for the community as a whole. I want to hear positive comments about the school instead of the negative things I hear now and I want that to happen by the changing the way the school is managed. The focus needs to be education led, what is best for the school as a whole and not about unilateral decision making. We as parents, and more crucially as customers, can only make a difference by standing up and making our voice heard and I would very much like to be given the opportunity to be the parents' voice on the board."