

Chairman of the Board of Governors

Erdal Sezen

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Dear Members of the BISI Community,

The Board of Governors and I are fully aware of the concerns you all have regarding security at both of our campuses in the face of the increased threat of terrorism that currently exists in Istanbul. Please let me assure you that we do fully share your concerns.

Over the last few weeks we have undergone several security inspections by the Heads of Security representing consulates and companies who have children in the school. On Tuesday evening, myself, the Board Members and the Senior Leadership Team of the school met in an Extraordinary Board Meeting to discuss what security measures we could put into place to allay fears and make the campuses more secure for all members of our community.

Publishing too much detail regarding improvements to security could prove to be counter-productive whilst not publishing enough may lead to increased concern. In broad terms then, the Board have taken the decision to improve our security in the following ways:

1. A Security Manager will be hired to take responsibility for all security matters at the school.
2. There will be an increased surveillance presence outside both campuses.
3. The perimeter fencing will be improved and topped with razor wire at both campuses.
4. There will be double 'mousetrap' security gates erected at the Zekeriyakoy Campus with shopping mall style x-ray and metal detecting equipment between the gates.
5. There will be an improved and strengthened double 'mousetrap' entry system installed at the City Campus.
6. Improvements will be made inside the buildings to create 'safe-haven' lock down areas.
7. The bus times at the Zekeriyakoy Campus will be slightly staggered to allow for safer exit from the campus.
8. The Senior Leadership Team will update the Crisis Action Plan for Intruders and write new lock down procedures to take the 'safe-haven' lock down areas into account.

The Board of Governors are currently seeking contractors and costings for the above and have given themselves eight days in which to make a final decision on these matters. There will be a follow-up meeting next week and it is hoped that construction will begin immediately. We would very much like to have the new security measures in place when you return from the half-term holiday. However, I am sure you will appreciate that this timeframe may be somewhat too ambitious for the construction projects, but once work has started it will go ahead until it is completed.

I would like to thank you all for all the support you give to the school in these difficult times.

Yours faithfully

Erdal Sezen

Chairman of the Board of Governors

