

**Ministerial Decision No. 131018/02/30-09-2020 “Election procedure for the elected members of the School Boards of the Medresses of Komotini and Xanthi” (B’ 4369/05-10-2020).**

**Article 1**

**Procedure for the election of the elected members of the School Board**

1. The School Board of the Medresses of Komotini and Xanthi (Medresses of Thrace) shall consist of five (5) members and shall serve a two-year term. The Board shall consist of:
  - a) The competent Mufti as Chairman, together with his deputy, who shall be either a teacher belonging to the staff category 73 or a distinguished member of the Muslim minority with theological knowledge who shall be appointed by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a proposal by the competent Mufti.
  - b) Four (4) parents or guardians of students enrolled in the Medresse, men or women, together with an equal number of alternate members who shall be elected by the parents or guardians of students who have the right to attend the respective Medresse, in accordance with article 4 of the present decision.
  
2.
  - a) For the election of the four (4) elected members and their alternates, the Regional Director of Primary and Secondary Education of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace shall issue a call for elections for each Medresse separately, every two (2) years during the first ten days of October. The call shall be posted on the website of the Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace and on the notice board of the respective Medresse, in order to inform the parents and guardians of its students. The procedure for the election of the members shall be completed within one (1) month from the notification of the call for elections, as provided in the previous subparagraph. Within the same time limit, the ratified lists or the decision provided for in article 3 of the present decision must be submitted to the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs.
  - b) The call for elections shall specify the purpose of the elections, the place and time of their conduct, as well as any other necessary detail.
  - c) Through the call, those wishing to stand as candidates are invited, within five (5) days from its notification on the aforementioned notice board, to submit an application for candidacy to the Director of Secondary Education of the region where the Medresse is located. The application must be accompanied by the following supporting documents: aa) a certificate jointly signed by the Director and the Deputy Director of the respective Medresse, stating i) that the candidate is a parent or guardian of a student attending the Medresse, ii) the full name of the student and iii) the class in which the student is enrolled, bb) a certificate confirming that the candidate is registered in the municipal registers of a municipality within the Regional Units of Xanthi, Rodopi, or Evros. If the candidate has been transferred to the municipal register of another municipality outside the aforementioned regional units, the certificate issued by that municipality must indicate that the transfer originated from a municipality within the above regional units.
  - d) Within three (3) working days from the expiration of the deadline mentioned in the previous subparagraph, the Directors of Secondary Education shall verify the completeness and accuracy of the applications and certificates and shall compile a nominal list of candidates which shall be submitted, together with the applications and certificates, to the Regional

Director of the Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace for approval. Within three (3) working days, the Regional Director shall verify the completeness and accuracy of the applications, certificates, and the nominal list and shall approve it. The approved nominal list of candidates shall be immediately sent to the Directors of the Medresses, who shall post it on the notice board of the Medresse, and it shall also be published on the website of the Regional Directorate.

3. a) Parents or/and guardians of students enrolled in the Medresse have the right to vote.  
b) A parent or guardian may not stand as a candidate for more than one School Board.  
c) A member of the School Board whose child has, for any reason, lost the status of student of the respective Medresse shall be replaced by the first runner-up candidate for the remainder of the Board's term of office.
4. Elections shall be conducted separately for each Medresse.
5. By decision of the Directors of Secondary Education of the Regional Units of Xanthi and Rodopi, a three (3) member Election committee shall be appointed in each Medresse for the conduct of the elections which shall consist of two (2) parents or guardians of students of the respective Medresse, together with their alternates, and the Director or the Deputy Director of the Medresse, who shall also serve as secretary of the Committee.
6. a) The Committee, by its decision shall: aa) determine the date of the elections, the opening and closing hours of the voting process, the venue for the voting, and its proper arrangement within the Medresse bb) ensure the printing of the ballots on white rectangular paper, 20 x 25 centimeters, and the supply of envelopes, which must be uniform and made of white, opaque paper. The Election committee shall use, for the purposes of the electoral procedure only, the official seal of the respective Medresse, which shall be provided by the Director or the Deputy Director of the school so as to stamp the envelopes and ballots.  
b) the Election committee shall keep the following registry books: aa) a book of minutes and bb) a voting protocol register.
7. a) Voting shall take place on the basis of electoral rolls including the full details of both parents or guardians whose children attend the Medresses. Each parent or guardian shall have the right to vote.  
b) The electoral rolls referred to in the previous subparagraph, which shall be jointly compiled by the Director and the Deputy Director of each school, shall be valid only if certified by the Director of Secondary Education of the Regional Units of Xanthi and Rodopi.

## **Article 2**

### **Holding of Elections**

1. a) Voters shall attend the polling venue and present themselves before the Election committee, which shall verify their identity and confirm their registration in the electoral roll.  
b) A voter who is not registered in the electoral roll shall not be permitted to vote.  
c) The Election committee shall provide each voter with one (1) envelope bearing the official seal and containing one ballot paper, which shall also bear the seal and the initials of the Chairman.  
d) The voter shall then proceed to the designated voting area and place the ballot paper inside the envelope, after marking a cross next to the candidate of his or her choice.  
e) Then, the voter shall seal the envelope and, upon returning, shall present it to the Election committee and personally place it in the ballot box.

- f) Each voter shall have the right to one (1) preference mark.
2. A voter who is unable to complete the ballot paper may request assistance from the Chairman of the Election committee, who shall provide the necessary assistance.
  3.
    - a) Upon completion of the voting process, the voting protocol shall be closed and signed by all members of the Election committee.
    - b) The Election committee shall then proceed as follows: The Chairman shall remove the envelopes from the ballot box one by one, open them and, after verifying the validity of the ballot paper, present it to the other members and read aloud the preference mark indicated thereon. The four candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected, while the remaining candidates shall be ranked as runners-up in order of votes received. In the event of a tie for the fourth position, the Election committee shall conduct a draw among the tied candidates. The result of the vote shall be posted on the notice board of the respective Medresse.
    - c) The Election committee shall submit to the competent Director of Secondary Education of the Regional Units of Xanthi and Rodopi a list of the elected candidates as well as all runners-up in order of ranking, together with a report including the following information: aa) the number of registered voters, bb) the number of voters who participated, cc) the number of valid ballots dd) the number of invalid ballots.
    - d) The competent Director of Secondary Education of the Regional Units of Xanthi and Rodopi of the Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace shall forward the list, together with his or her recommendation, to the Regional Director of Primary and Secondary Education of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace for ratification. The supporting documents shall be transmitted together with the list. Any objections shall be examined by the Regional Director of Education of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace.
  4. If the number of declared candidates is fewer than eight (8) for each Medresse, or if the elections are not completed or are not held for any reason, the Regional Director of Primary and Secondary Education of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace shall appoint, from among parents and guardians whose children are demonstrably enrolled in the Medresse, the four members and their alternates who shall participate in the School Board of the respective Medresse. The decision shall be issued following a proposal by the competent Director of Secondary Education, in cooperation with the competent Mufti.
  5. The elections shall be deemed valid if more than half of the voters registered in the electoral rolls have participated. Otherwise, the provisions of the preceding paragraph shall apply.
  6. If fewer members than those provided by law are elected, the Regional Director of Primary and Secondary Education of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace shall appoint, from among the parents and guardians whose children are demonstrably enrolled in the Medresse, the remaining members required to complete the formation of the board.

### **Article 3**

#### **Formation of the School Board**

1. The Regional Director of Primary and Secondary Education of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace shall forward the ratified lists or the decision referred to in paragraph 4 of the preceding article to the Directorate of Religious Education and Intefaitth Relations of the General Secretariat for

Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, in order for a ministerial decision to be issued establishing the members of the School Board of each Medresse.

2. The new School Board shall assume its duties on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January of every second year. From the issuance of the Ministerial Decision establishing the new School Board and until it assumes its duties, the outgoing School Board shall only have authority over repairs and maintenance of the buildings in which the Medresses are housed and operate, the payment of rents, the settlement of public utility bills, and the payment of cleaning expenses.

#### **Article 4**

##### **Transitional provision**

1. Upon the first implementation of the present decision, the call for elections referred to in article 1 shall be issued within seven (7) days from the publication of the present decision in the Government Gazette, and the new School Board shall assume its duties upon the publication of the ministerial decision establishing its formation.
2. The School Boards of the Medresses already operating at the time of publication of the present decision shall only have authority over repairs and maintenance of the buildings in which the Medresses are housed and operate, the payment of rents, the settlement of public utility bills, and the payment of cleaning expenses.

This decision shall be published in the Government Gazette.