

The International School of Macao Parents' Association (TISPA)

General Meeting

Tuesday 5th May 2015, 1:30pm

TIS - Conference Room

Minutes

Minutes of last meeting, accepted on-line (no errors noted)

Present

Christie Kelso

Howard Stribbell

Louise Davies

Lorna Elliott

David Spreadbury

Laura Clarke

Mary-Anne Jasinski

Louise Kewley

Kat Scott

Sarah Luvisutto

Peta Houghton

Kylie Sara

Wayney Hsie

Julie Kirkman

Apologies

Trang Dooley

Kath Rose

Head of Schools' Report (Mr Stribbell):

- Report attached. Highlights are as follows:
- Front field development proposal has been finalized by the campus development committee. The recommendation is that the skate park be replaced with an adventure playground structure, climbing net, monkey bars and balance beams and painted games such as hopscotch, etc. They are also recommending that the existing climbing wall be relocated so it can be used during recess. The placement for relocation is being reviewed in order for safety to be ensured. An option would be to place it by the front field for G4-6, with a safety line rule enforcement. It was noted that G4 students feel strongly that the skate park should be kept and they are working on a petition. Mr Stribbell mentioned that he had proposed to have it integrated in the new design of that playground area. Feedback on the relocation of the climbing wall and skateboard ramp would be very welcome and helpful. This work is scheduled to be done this summer.
- Soft flooring and picnic tables will also be added. TIS has found a manufacturer in China that is more affordable than suppliers from Australia, US or Canada. This factory in China has been inspected and products have been used and implemented in Sanya and Cambodia and deemed of very high quality.
- Hsin Chong has donated parts of their admin building at The Parisian, which will be repurposed into a canteen storage area and toilet and change room building.
- The Grade 12 Honourary Graduation will be held on May 22 at 5:30 at the MUST Auditorium and the banquet will be at 7:30 at Macau Tower.
- TISPA funding requests: The school received over 22 requests from teachers and staff members, which have been reviewed for feasibility and maximum student coverage. The goal is to allocate a similar amount per division. The estimated amount available is approximately \$100,000 MOP. The individual items were reviewed as a group and the following items were approved:
 - o 4 DSLR cameras
 - o Floor Mirrors for Kindergarten
 - o Playground Sports Equipment for G4-6
 - o Board Games for G1-3

- More info is being requested for the Art item (Block Press)
- The tentative proposal will be run by the staff to come back to TISPA by next month's meeting for final decision and approval.
- The Secondary Play MacBeth is May 7-9.

Principal's Reports

Elementary (Mary-Anne Jasinski):

- Sports Day was last week and ran smoothly. Kids had a great day. Ms Jasinski mentioned that she heard some feedback from parents that it wasn't what they expected. It was confused with a Sports or Athletics Carnival held in Australia, UK and US, where children compete in different sports or athletics events and earn ribbons or medals for top 3 places. Parents and supporters are usually present and competition is for school houses. The TIS Sports Day is more of a sports fun day for the children and the feedback from them was extremely positive. The Buddy Structure was a big success.
- It was requested that the House Allocations start in Grade 1 instead of Grade 4, as the younger children would love to participate in House activities and competitions. Ms Jasinski mentioned that this was brought up last year and the teachers of G1-3 were not interested in the house structure. Mr Stribbell stated that it will be revisited at the next Leadership Meeting.
- Grade 1-3 Assembly is tomorrow morning and next Wednesday for G4-6.
- Upcoming events: Benefit Concert, Community Day, Poetry Day, Family Sports day (Caritas), Arts Night. A judge (TISPA) for Poetry Day was requested and will be confirmed.
- There was an incident this morning at the Pre-K grade level. A field trip to Park n' Shop was planned and the children were preparing to leave and sent to the bathroom before getting on the bus. The glass Kindergarten doors were still open at this time. A Pre-K student didn't return to his classroom after the bathroom and went out through the glass doors and around to the front of the school where the Kiss n' Ride doors were also still open. He proceeded to exit through those doors into the parking lot in search of the bus. A parent found him and brought him back into the school. The obvious concern is that the various different doors were not locked and the security guard was already making his rounds. An immediate response to this has been implemented: Magnetic locks will be implemented on both sides of the Kindergarten glass doors (Button to exit, not Code). Security guard will monitor the doors to ensure they remain closed and the rounds schedule will be changed so that the guard doesn't leave the Kindergarten area until after 9am. Parents, staff members and High School students are urged to always lock the doors behind them and signs will be posted by the doors as well.
- It was mentioned that some of the construction workers from the nearby sites come through the grounds and hang around, some stop for a smoke. Ms Jasinski is aware of this and people are often questioned or asked to leave.

Secondary (David Spreadbury):

- TIS is hosting a basketball competition this weekend.
- Course selection is completed for G9-11.
- Graduation is in 3 weeks. Mr Spreadbury confirmed that TISPA is contributing the graduation gift (\$4,000). The Valedictorian application and selection is in progress and a decision will be

made by the end of the week. Other academic and citizenship awards will also be presented.

- A General Awards Assembly will be held in June, which recognizes the top Maths and Science students.
- G6-7 have their Grade Swap Day coming up.

Treasurer's Report (Lorna Elliott):

Account Balance: MOP \$129,759

Petty Cash: Mop \$48,635

Last Popcorn earned MOP \$3,793

Events Report:

- **Sports Day**

Upcoming events:

- **Basketball Tournament** – May 8 (Popcorn and Drinks)
- **Dress Down Day** - May 29th (Popcorn)
- **Community Day (May 16)** TISPA BBQ & Drinks, Aussie sausage sizzle and burgers. Volunteers confirmed. (Kylie for BBQ, Sarah/Lorna for drinks)
- **Family Sports Day (May 30th)** – Caritas
- **Arts Night (June 4th)** - MPR
- **TIS Alumni Event** - June 12th (TISPA BBQ)
- **Other upcoming events**

General Business:

- Review and final decision on TISPA Funding Requests at next General Meeting.
- New Popcorn machine was purchased for \$700.
- New TISPA BBQ

Next meeting: June 2, 2015 – 1:30 pm, Conference Room