

The International School of Macao Parents' Association (TISPA)  
General Meeting  
Tuesday, 6th October 2015, 1:30pm  
TIS – Secondary Library  
Agenda

**Present**

|                  |                    |                   |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Howard Stribbell | Christie Kelso     | Connie Johnson    |
| David Spreadbury | Diane O'Keeffe     | Waynie Hsie       |
| Laura Clarke     | Ester Morello      | Phuong Ng         |
| Andrea Dryburgh  | Deb Troendle Scott | Caroline Sauvart  |
| Kat Scott        | Bec Walker         | Judith Cunningham |
| Sarah Luvisutto  | Louise Kewley      |                   |

***Apologies: Peta Houghton, Julie Kirkman, Kath Rose***

**Minutes of last meeting (9th September)**

Distributed on-line. No corrections noted. Accepted as correct.

**Welcome**

**Head of Schools' Report (Howard Stribbell) – See attached**

- TIS was surprised to learn that the DSEJ decided to cancel classes on Monday, October 5th due to the typhoon, as the T3 signal hoisted was being lowered to T1. Mr Stribbell asked the group for feedback on the communication and execution of the phone trees. The communication was inconsistent - some parents received all notifications and some received none. The TIS SMS was sent with a slight delay.
- Mr Stribbell shared the announcement that was made to TIS staff just before the fall break in regards to Mr. Spreadbury retiring at the end of next year. Mr. Spreadbury has been with TIS for 9 years and his wife Yvonne is the Executive Assistant. They will be retiring back to Alberta to spend more time with their grand children. The Board, staff of TIS and TISPA members would like to thank Dave and Yvonne for their dedicated service for all these years. The school is initiating a search for a new Secondary Principal and is asking for feedback from parents for key characteristics and suggestions. TIS is looking for a collaborative approach to finding a suitable replacement. Feedback from staff members and the board is that a key consideration is the knowledge and understanding of the various backgrounds that are present at TIS and the sense of community, which varies tremendously from living in Canada, for example.  
For any input and suggestions, please contact Mr Stribbell directly.
- Before the break, a former TIS staff member passed away and the school held a memorial service to honour Dale McGinnis. It was wonderful to see so many students attend this service and many friends and colleagues shared fond memories of Dale's adventures in and around Macau.
- This year TIS is undergoing a comprehensive school inspection by DSEJ as part of their regular school inspection program. It is a massive undertaking and will require considerable time and support from students, teachers, staff and parents.
- The annual Run of Hope will be held on Sunday, November 8th. All staff, students and parents are encouraged to participate. This year the run/walk will be in Macau around Sai Van Lake, followed by a brunch at the Four Seasons, Cotai. Registration forms are available in the office.

- The annual accountability survey and Alberta accreditation inspection has identified a decreased satisfaction in the level of communication between the school and parents as well as the level of satisfaction parents have in their understanding and influence on their child's education. Several initiatives have already been implemented to improve communication and Mr Stribbell is seeking additional input from TISPA and parents. It was agreed that a sub committee for this initiative would be best and the following volunteers have accepted to form this sub committee: Louise Kewley, Andrea Dryburgh, Kat Scott, Wayne Hsie. For input from a Secondary School parent, TISPA will reach out to Julie Kirkman.

### **Principal's Reports**

#### **Elementary (Mary-Anne Jasinski) - Absent**

- Ms Jasinski is currently on the Year 6 school trip.
- Year 5 students are on their 4-day camp in Hong Kong, returning on Thursday.

#### **Secondary (David Spreadbury)**

- This weekend senior volleyball, cross country, golf and U12 soccer teams will be away and competing.
- The University Fair is being held on Thursday, October 8th and all Grade 9-12 students will have the opportunity to talk to University representatives. Parents are welcome to attend also. An impressive line-up of Universities from around the globe will be represented.
- Last year's standardised testing has been formalised and results will be shared shortly. Mr Spreadbury noted that TIS students continue to meet or exceed all provincial averages in Alberta and the administration is very proud of the students and staff for such an achievement.
- Experience Week proposals are being finalised.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mid-Autumn Festival was very successful and raised \$23,107 MOP.

Pop-corn on dress down day raised \$4,080 MOP.

TISPA confirmed that they would fund \$12,000 MOP towards the kiosk for student council. A question was raised in regards to food offerings that would be available for purchase and Mr Stribbell assured the group that the student council would have to run menu items etc. by the food services committee, as well as Mr. Spreadbury for approval.

### **Events Report**

#### **Events since last meeting:**

- **Mid-Autumn Festival** This event was a great success. It was very well attended and everyone really enjoyed the display of lanterns, games, as well as the food and beverages provided by TISPA.  
Mr Stribbell noted that he received a comment from a parent in regards to the BBQ food offerings not being very healthy. While TISPA is always open for feedback and suggestions, it was agreed that this should be brought up at an official forum such as the next General Meeting, where the group would be happy to discuss these concerns and hear alternative suggestions.

**Upcoming events:**

- **Walkathon - October 13**

Last year's event was on a very hot and polluted day, which led to the new Pollution Policy at TIS. Due to the heat, the water supply ran out early in the event and many children were unwell due to dehydration and nose bleeds. It was requested that the water supply be increased, as well as having a nurse on site during the event.

TISPA will cut up the oranges first thing in the morning. Volunteers have been identified for purchasing the oranges and for cutting them. Kat Scott to confirm with Kindergarten classes on whether oranges are needed as they may already be provided by the school.

- **Community Day (November 7th) - Family Fun Day**

TISPA to provide BBQ, Popcorn, Drinks and Stalls. There was an inquiry from a Dutch entrepreneur who would like to sell Dutch pancakes at the event. It was agreed that this would be fine.

- **Christmas Wonderland**

Raffle, Prizes, Lucky Dips etc. To be discussed in further detail at a separate events meeting.

- **Other upcoming Events**

**General Business**

- School photographer: Same photographer as last year but a new space is needed. TIS is looking into the Secondary Library space and would be thankful for TISPA/parent volunteers to help again this year.

**Confirm date for next meeting** Date has been changed to Thursday, November 5th at 1:30 pm.