

The International School of Macao Parents' Association (TISPA)

General Meeting

Thursday 10th September 2015, 1:30pm

TIS – Secondary Library

Agenda

Present

Howard Stribbell	Christie Kelso	Andreea Sorinna	Connie Johnson
David Spreadbury	Diane O'Keeffe	Waynie Hsie	Lorrie Du
Mary-Anne Jasinski	Laura Clarke	Lizzie Gonzaga	Angela Lee
Julie Kirkman	Kath Rose	Jane Yuan	Phuong Ng
Kat Scott	Bec Walker	Caroline Sauvart	Ester Morella
Sarah Luvisutto	Louise Kewley	Judith Cunningham	Lea Shinozawa

Apologies: Peta Houghton

Minutes of last meeting (2nd June)

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

Welcome (Sarah Luvisutto, Howard Stribbell)

The Secretary welcomed back regular attendees and warmly welcomed newcomers to the TISPA meeting.

Nominations were sought and elections proceeded. The following committee has been appointed unanimously.

President: Katrien Scott

Secretary: Sarah Luvisutto

Treasurer: Andrea Dryburgh

Student Council representatives gave a presentation on a fundraising project they have been working on over the summer to increase funds throughout the year. This would help support school events. The students came up with a solution that would provide a consistent stream of revenue by designing and creating a kiosk/store to sell food items at TIS. The proposal was presented to Mr Stribbell over the summer and accepted with enthusiasm. TIS sponsored the construction cost of the proposed kiosk. Additional funding is necessary to complete the project and the student council is requesting support from TISPA. (\$16,000 MOP) Benefits of such a kiosk include providing more offerings to the students, enhancing events and activities and providing students with new work experience. The student council also noted that they hope to increase student morale with such a project. The exact location for the kiosk has not been determined. The TISPA committee members will hold a separate meeting and follow up with student council.

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

- The vision of TIS is to seek excellence in four areas: Academics, Athletics, Fine Arts and Community Outreach & Global Citizenship. The goal is to grow all four areas in order to provide students with a well-rounded education. This year TIS plans to develop the Fine Arts and Community Outreach & Global Citizenship areas.

Mr Stribbell introduced the new Fine Arts Coordinator, Shelley SmithDale who gave a brief presentation on the importance of the Arts, noting that research shows how the Arts form a more rounded student. Nothing touches humans more than the Arts, developing creativity and team players. The three areas are: Fine Arts, Music and Drama.

As the leadership at TIS would like to promote the Arts, a new committee was formed with a schedule of Arts programme. It was determined that the display of the Arts should be increased through different ways, such as murals, digital art, etc. in order for students to customise their school and give them a sense of ownership. An Arts logo will be developed to bring the Arts into focus.

It was asked if students would create and produce the Arts logo themselves or if it would be outsourced. Ms SmithDale noted that ideally it would be fully created by students in-house. Mr Stribbell also noted that certain library spaces would begin to be repurposed for art as well.

- Mr Stribbell discussed the staffing report and noted that TIS is expecting to have approximately 1,200 students this year and that the student ratio would remain 24-25 maximum per class.
- The summer renovation projects went smoothly, the new playground being a great success. The school is still trying to find a new space for the skateboard/scooter/biking park that had to be removed to make room for the new playground.
- Phase 2 plans are in the final approval process by the government and after the tendering process, the construction will begin in December or January. A groundbreaking ceremony will likely be held in December or January. Parking will be heavily impacted by this construction and plans for increased bussing will be implemented to aid in minimising disruption.
- A bussing hotline has been established and was presented for review. Parent feedback on the hotline or emergency procedures is welcome. Please email Mr Stribbell with feedback.

It was inquired by a parent if a new pick up area for the Macau University Campus in Henqin would be a possibility as several families would benefit from adding this to the bussing route. Mr Stribbell noted that the busses simply do not have anymore time to add another stop and mentioned that the One Oasis stop would likely be the closest solution. He encouraged the parents to speak to him after the meeting to discuss this further.

- A guest speaker from the US, specialising in raising children in the 21st century, is holding workshops in Macau. Mr Stribbell inquired if a workshop for each Division 1 and Division 2 would be of interest.

Principal's Reports

Elementary (Mary-Anne Jasinski)

- Currently the focus is on establishing new routines and settling students. With the increase in student flow in the mornings and afternoons, it is really important for parents to wait outside. After Clubs, teachers will continue to remain with children until they are picked (Kinder & Div 1).
- Clubs are being organised, including Math Club for Gr 1-3 and 4-6. Both begin next week. The Math Club is a support and enrichment program outside of the school. It is intended for students who are either struggling with the grade level maths or for those who would benefit from enriching their math skills. It was very well attended last year. ELL starts soon as well.
- As student numbers grow, assemblies are structured differently this year. They are divided into 3 groups plus Secondary: Kindergarten, Division 1, Division 2 and Secondary. They will be 30-35 minutes long and are an important way of celebrating student accomplishment and awards with parents. Division 1 is Wednesday, September 16 and Division 2 is Thursday, September 17 at 8:35.
- Fall Break is coming up quickly and G6 Experience Trip and the G5 Camping Trip take place immediately after the holidays.

- U of A student teachers are joining TIS again for their practicum.

Secondary (David Spreadbury)

- The two big changes this year for Secondary are the new lockers, which include a charging component, and the laptop program. Grade 7 books are currently entirely online and more electronic titles will continue to be added in the future.
- 8 of the school's staff new hires are allocated in Grade 7.
- Parents are encouraged to attend Curriculum Night tonight, where 3 presentations will be given at the secondary level: Writing, University Applications, and Tech Laptop Presentation.
- Auditions for the drama production are open.
- The soccer team is in China this weekend.
- SAT testing will be held at TIS on Saturday (TIS is an official SAT Testing Centre)
- After the Fall Break, G9 have an overnight trip in Coloane and G5 and G6 are off on their Experience and Camping Trips.
- Several presentations for country-specific university applications will be taking place and will be posted on the school calendar. (Australia, UK, etc.)

Treasurer's Report

Minor change since June 2015. Currently in the process of handing over files etc. to new Treasurer.

Events Report

Events since last meeting:

- **Secondary School Arts Night**

This event was a great success after disappointing turnout last year. It was very well attended and everyone really enjoyed the impressive display of art, as well as the food and beverages provided by TISPA.

It was requested that paper invitations be reintroduced for certain events as to improve parent communication. Due to an inconsistent teacher communications approach, some parents are not informed well enough about school events. Mr Stribbell noted that TISPA originally asked to move away from using so much paper in communicating to parents. After a quick immediate vote, there were many more parents in favour of paper notices, however, it was unanimous that if teachers were to use a consistent electronic approach, then paper would no longer be necessary. Mr Stribbell will take this topic back to his team to come up with a solution.

Upcoming events:

- **Mid-Autumn Festival – Thursday, September 24 (6-8pm)**
TISPA stalls are ready to proceed.
BBQ, Drinks, Face Painting/Glow Sticks/Crazy Hair/Tattoos, Bake Sale
Check stock to replenish, place orders, complete volunteer rosters.
- **Dress down day - September 25 (Tiger Pride Theme for all divisions)**
- **Walkathon - October 13**

- **Community Day (November)**
- **Christmas Wonderland**
- **Other upcoming Events**

General Business

- It was discussed to possibly move the General Meetings to Season's Cafe at MUST, however due to busy lunch periods there, this would not be possible. Moving the meetings to mornings doesn't suit most parents either, therefore it will remain at TIS in the Secondary Library. It was mentioned that Season's could possibly provide catering, which will be further looked into.

Confirm date for next meeting 6th October, 2015 - 1:30pm, Secondary Library