

The International School of Macao Parents' Association (TISPA)

General Meeting

Tuesday, 8th March 2016, 1:30pm

TIS – Secondary Library

Agenda

Present

David Spreadbury

Wayne Hsie

Sarah Luvisutto

Howard Stribbell

Bec Walker

Andrea Dryburgh

Kat Scott

Louise Kewley

Phong Ng

Laura Clarke

Monica Gonzalez

Diane O'Keeffe

No Apologies received.

Minutes of last meeting (16th February)

Distributed on-line. One Correction noted. Accepted as correct.

Welcome

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

- Alberta Accreditation Inspection: Overall very good report including six commendations, one required change (a policy adjustment to reflect some recent changes in Alberta) and two recommended changes.
Required and recommended changes include the areas of the Safe, Caring and Welcoming policy, ensuring anti-bullying programs and mentoring programs are in place and transitional issues and personalised learning areas are being addressed. TIS has been talking about these issues for years and studying behaviours and the need of more care and sensitivity in this field. Mr Stribbell mentioned a few detailed examples that The International School of Beijing are doing in this area, to support this initiative.
The other recommendation was about inclusive education, as well as the assessment practices. Parent communication was a big focus last year, however with the improvements this year, the only focus that is recommended is to further engage parents into a bigger involvement in the education process of their children.
Mr Stribbell asked for parent feedback, of those who may not be as involved as TISPA parents, as to the improvements in communication that have been put into place recently. In general, feedback on the new TIS App and communication in general, including the e-newsletter, notifications, class blogs, etc. is extremely positive. The new APP is very well received and parents love it.
- The direct messages and notifications regarding the traffic and safety issues seem to have been very effective. There are still a few minor issues, including the 4pm pick up time, as well as some blockages due to double parking of drivers, however, in general, the safety issues have been addressed and resolved.

Principal's Reports

Secondary (David Spreadbury)

- Focus is on Experience Week. Most trips leave on Saturday and come back Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday. Communication is a big part of the trips and blogs are in place with

student-posted photos and comments throughout the trips.

The school is working closely with *International SOS*, for emergencies, safety, etc. The Zika virus is in the news at the moment so TIS is encouraging students to pack plenty of mosquito repellent. A question was raised in regards to the Eastern Europe trip concerning the borders and heightened security due to the refugee situations, however Mr Spreadbury ensured the group that all the necessary precautions have been put into place and teachers and support staff are working with service providers to ensure that everything runs smoothly. Trip leaders are designated to all trips and binders with emergency contact information, copies of passports, etc. have been compiled, one of which stays at TIS.

A parent had a concern about the timing of the information sent home for these trips and that some parents were caught off guard. Mr Spreadbury explained that the information, including a brochure and a website, are given to students on October 1 and the deadline for the decision on the trip destination is October 30. It appears that the communication is not always shared by students at home, or at a much later date. It was suggested that the information be sent home to parents at the same time as it is given to students, either electronically or in form of a meeting, in order to ensure clear communication and details are had by all families.

Previously, information nights prior to the trips were held, however for high school, they were never well attended. Mr Stribbell suggested that parents receive a notification at the time students select their destination, confirming permission.

Another parent concern was raised in regards to the deposit on the experience week trip. Some students were apparently told that the deposit would be lost, should a student cancel or elect not to attend experience week. Mr Spreadbury explained that students who had not completed the necessary forms for the trips by a certain date, after several requests from teachers and Mr Spreadbury, received an invoice for the deposit amount. TIS will not hold a deposit or fine students who do not attend experience week, however, due to regular last minute cancellations in the past, this process had to be put into place.

It was asked if an option for students who don't attend experience week could be offered at school, doing special projects. Mr Stribbell and Mr Spreadbury explained that this is not a possibility as all the teachers are on the trips, and that experience week is an integral part of the TIS curriculum and a very important part of the secondary and high school experience. In the past, there have been "work experience" options at Hope Medical Clinic, Dental Clinics, and House of Dancing Waters, however the school really encourages all students to take part in the experience week trips. Sport and Dance camps are also offered for those students who can't go abroad, which include many activities such as riding, canoeing, rock climbing, team sports and volunteer work.

It was also asked if parents could be involved in the selection of the destinations for the experience week trips, however Mr Spreadbury explained that it's always been a teacher-led initiative as the trips tie in to the various subjects, service side and overall curriculum. Mr Stribbell mentioned that this would be possible for the Middle School level as they are all going on the same trip but very difficult at the high school level.

Mr Spreadbury also shared that this year, the participation is down slightly from about 90% to roughly 70% due to the global situation and economic challenges.

It was suggested that students may need to become involved securing their experience week trip by raising partial funds for the additional expense incurred. Mr Spreadbury and Mr Stribbell explained that TIS discourages students from fundraising for these trips, but that they would like to see them more involved in donating their time and awareness instead.

Elementary (absent) - Mr Spreadbury

- Admissions is in full swing for the next 21 days. TIS was expecting over 1000 applications, however, currently about 500 have been received, a majority being for PK. DSEJ has changed the process for Pre-K applications. There will be 6 PK classes, 5 JK and SK each and 4 Grade 1-3 classes. When Phase 2 is complete, there will be 6 PK, 5 JK and SK, 5 Grade 1-6 and 4 Grade 7-12!
- Report cards are coming up as well as the student-led conferences.

Treasurer's Report (Andrea Dryburgh)

The last Popcorn day made \$2950.

Kat Scott

Popcorn is getting more expensive in Macau so other options are being explored ,and the supermarket below MamaCare has agreed to place our orders in HK for popcorn and sausages, at wholesale prices.

The new BBQ will be delivered tomorrow! It will be used for Community Day on Saturday if assembly goes smoothly this week and everything is in order.

The Disco will be held on April 15. Mrs Kiat will organise it with the Grade 6 student council like last year. Mrs Kiat suggested increasing the ticket price from \$20 to \$25-30 MOP. Pizzas will be ordered again, but no glow sticks will be given out. TISPA has volunteered to help on the night with set up and admission. TISPA has to confirm if water will be donated again.

Ms Kewley provided the disco light last year, however she suggested trying to find a better alternative and will ask a contact for help.

For International Book Day next year, it was suggested that the dress down day would tie in with this event in March and a few other literary initiatives would be added. This year, TIS had Scholastic Book Orders in early March, as well as two author visits.

Dress down day in March was always a fundraiser for TISPA's Easter Raffle, where chocolates or \$10 MOP were collected. This year, because TISPA is providing the chocolates, it will be a normal dress down day (Casual Theme).

Events Report

Events since last meeting:

None

Upcoming events:

- **Community Day March 12 - International Theme**
Vegetarian burgers will be introduced. It has been very difficult to source these but Blissful

Carrot has agreed to provide them for this event. (\$24 MOP cost) Apples and Bananas will also be sold as a trial.

- **Dress Down Day - March 18 (Causal theme)**
- **Easter Raffles**
TISPA is buying the chocolates and assembling baskets. Tickets for raffle need to be stamped and roster for selling tickets is in progress.
- **Disco**
Date set for April 15

General Business

- Pop corn machine
- The new BBQ has been purchased. The old BBQ will be kept and stored for a while as a back up.

Confirm date for next meeting Tuesday, April 12th at 1:30 pm in the Secondary Library.

澳門國際學校家長會 (TISPA)
常務會議
3月8日 (星期二) 下午 1:30
澳門國際學校中學圖書館
會議議程

出席代表

David Spreadbury	Wayne Hsie	Sarah Luvisutto
Howard Stribbell	Bec Walker	Andrea Dryburgh
Kat Scott	Louise Kewley	Phong Ng
Laura Clarke	Monica Gonzalez	Diane O'Keeffe

沒有缺席者

上次會議紀要 (2月16日)

已於網上發佈。有一處地方需要修改，更正後確實無誤。

歡迎各位

校長的報告 (Howard Stribbell) - 詳情請參閱附件

- 艾伯塔評審結果：整體而言非常好，當中獲六項表揚、一項改革要求（修改政策，以配合艾伯塔的調整）及兩項建議改革。
其中要求及建議修改的事項包括安全、關愛和接納政策、確保反欺凌及師友計劃已準備就緒，過渡性問題和個性化學習等方面也正備受關注。本校這幾年都很關注這些問題，一直研究加強對這些領域的照顧，包括學習態勢度、對此領域的關愛和理解的需要。Mr Stribbell 提到北京國際學校也為此領域作出努力，以支持這一倡儀。
另一個建議的範疇與融合教育及其評估程序有關。去年的重點是家校溝通，但隨著有關方面的進步，推動家長積極參與教育成為今年唯一的建議焦點。
Mr Stribbell 獲得那些未有參與 TISPA 的家長有關近期就溝通的改善之意。整體而言，從手提電話流動程式、電子校報、提示訊息、班博客等溝通方式都收到極為積極的反饋。特別是流動程式，深受家長愛戴。
- 有關交通和安全等的訊息推送成效十足，雖然下午 4 時的接送情況仍有家長將汽車並列停靠，造成交通阻塞。但整體而言相關的安全問題已得到處理和解決。

校長的報告

中學部校長的報告 (David Spreadbury)

- 集中討論學生體驗週。多數的行程都在週六出發，並於下週三、四或六回程。溝通是整個旅程的重要部份，供學生在旅遊期間上載照片和發言的博客已經運行。
本校與國際 SOS 公司就緊急事故及安全等問題一直有緊密聯繫，像現在爆發寨卡病毒，

學校出發前也提醒學生多帶驅蚊用品。另外就東歐邊境難民問題，不少家長也對出遊安全表示擔憂。然而 **Mr Spreadbury** 強調一切有必要的安全措施已經到位，同行的老師和教職員也與服務供應商緊密合作，以確保一切順利進行。一式兩份的緊急聯絡資料及護照複印本，一份會由帶隊老師隨團攜帶，一份則留在學校備份。

有家長反映通知體驗週的時間太短，甚至令部份家長措手不及。**Mr Spreadbury** 解釋學校早於 10 月 1 日把單張派給學生，並通知其回覆出遊地點期限為 10 月 30 日。反映了學生未有把訊息帶回家或沒有及時通知家長。有建議日後透過電子或會議形式將訊息同步發送給家長和學生，以確保全部家庭都收到清晰資訊。

以往，在遊學團出發前學校舉辦了面談會，但高中的家長們出席率一向偏低。**Mr Stribbell** 建議學生選擇遊學地區之時通知家長，確認其允許。

另外，有家長對體驗週預付金問題提出疑問。因有學生稱若取消或不出席遊學團，就無法拿回預付金。**Mr Spreadbury** 解釋如果學生在老師和校長再三催促下仍無法在指定時間內交回所需文件，學校會向其繕發預付發票。學校基本上本是不會扣存該生保留預付金或作任何罰款。但基於過往的經驗，不乏臨出發前取消行程的現況，就此學校只好按程序處理之。

被問到不參加體驗週的同學是否可選擇參與其他在校項目時，**Mr Stribbell** 和 **Mr Spreadbury** 表示由於體驗週屬於課程一部分，對中學生而言是很重要的經歷，老師們都會隨團出遊，因此無法兼顧在校學生。過去，有關學生會被安排到協康醫療中心、牙科診所或水舞間等地方工作，取得「工作經驗」。學校也曠辦運動班或跳舞班，當中的活動包括騎馬、划獨木舟、攀岩、團體運動和義工活動等。但學校還是鼓勵同學們參加體驗週。

又有人提出可否讓家長參與選擇出遊地點時，**Mr Spreadbury** 謂體驗週是老師主導的旅團，特別是高中部的行程，都由老師直接負責籌劃活動項目，以涵接課程和社會服務，因此有關要求較難實現。**Mr Spreadbury** 謂相對初中生都去同一個地點中，或許有可能達成這項要求。

Mr Spreadbury 又提到基於大環境因素以及經濟考量，今年體驗週的參與率比過去的九成稍低，下降至七成。有建議學生可為旅程籌募經費以減輕開支。**Mr Stribbell** 和 **Mr Spreadbury** 表示不希望學生透過籌款來支付旅費，但樂見他們花更多時間和心思參與其中。

小學部校長的報告（缺席） - **Mr Spreadbury**

- 招生面試於緊接下來的二十一天進行。到目前為止本校收到五百份報名表，與較早前預計的一千份存在差距，當中大部份都是幼兒教育首次入學申請。今年教青局為首次入學幼童設下中央登記政策。明年，本校會為幼兒教育一年級開設六班，幼兒教育二至三年級則分別開五班。而小學一至三年級則各自開設四班。待第二期新校舍投入運作後，即會為小一至小六每級開設五班，中學則是每級四班。
- 成績表派發及 student-led conferences 家長日即將展開。

財務報告（**Andrea Dryburgh**）

上次的爆谷日賺進\$2950 元。

Kat Scott

澳門的爆谷售價越來越貴，因此有提議讓 MamaCare 樓下的超市承接，對方已答應以批發價為我們訂購香港的爆谷和香腸。

新的燒烤爐將於明天送抵！如果會議和其他東西都安排順利的話，新烤爐就可在週六的同樂日上使用。

Disco 活動將於 4 月 15 日舉辦。Mrs Kiat 會跟去年一樣與小六學生會一起組織。Mrs Kiat 建議把門票價格由 20 元調升至 25 至 30 元。活動將提供披薩，但沒有螢光棒。家長會已表示會義務為晚間設置和 admission 等提供幫助，而提供免費飲用水方面則要稍後再行決定。去年 Ms Kewley 提供了 disco 的燈光設置，今年她謂會幫忙尋找更好的替代品。

有建議把明年的國際圖書日與 3 月份的便服日合併舉辦，並且增加一些文藝活動元素。像今年 3 月初的 Scholastic Book Orders 活動以及邀請兩位作者到訪等。

往年 3 月份的便服日是配合家長會發起的復活節獎券活動而進行的，學生可選擇提供巧克力或贈款 10 元。而今年，由於學生會已提供了巧克力，因此今次的便服日（休閒主題）不再以籌款為目的。

即將展開的活動

自上次會議後舉辦的活動

沒有

即將舉行的其他活動：

- **同樂日 3 月 12 日 - 國際主題**
同樂日將首次售賣素菜餡餅。雖然一開始難以尋找供貨來源，最後 Blissful Carrot 同意以 24 元的單價在是次活動上提供。另外，蘋果和香蕉也會首次試賣。
- **便服日 - 3 月 18 日（休閒主題）**
- **復活節獎券**
家長會將提供巧克力及盛裝的籃子。抽獎券需蓋印及編制人員輪班售賣之。
- **Disco**
4 月 15 日舉行

常務事項

- 爆谷機
- 已購新燒烤爐。舊的那台會存放到儲物室，以作備用。

下次會議日期 會議已定於 4 月 12 日下午 1 時 30 分於中學圖書館舉行。