

The International School of Macao Parents' Association (TISPA)
General Meeting Agenda
Thursday, 14th November 2017, 1:30pm
TIS Conference Room

Present

Mary-Anne Jasinski	Nick Chignall	Laura Clarke	Christina Leong
Amanda Kiat	Liz Chiu	Radali Santla	
Chris Coates	Waynie Hsie	Nicole Hammer	

Apologies: Howard Stribbell, Sarah Luvisutto, Connie Johnson, Abby Barrett

Minutes of last meeting (17th October)

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

Welcome

Head of Schools' Report (Howard Stribbell) - Presented by Mary-Anne Jasinski

- Mr. Stribbell would like to thank everyone for their support for the Head of School recruitment process. It was very important to involve all stakeholders. The feedback was very valuable and helps identify some of our strengths and weaknesses moving forward. The Board is currently working with the top candidate to finalise the contract terms and a public announcement will be ready before the Christmas break.
- Community Events. A big thank you to everyone for the Run of Hope and Community Day. Acknowledged both events require a lot of work and volunteers. That is very valuable and brings strength to our school.
- Busy recruiting for next year. Adverts have been placed and applications being received. Current teachers will indicate their initial intentions by December 01st and final decision after the break. This will give the school an idea of positions that need to be recruited for. Mr. Stribbell, Mr. Coates and Ms. Jasinski will be interviewing in various locations - Vancouver, Bangkok, Beijing and Hong Kong.
- Grand opening of the North Wing has been postponed due to scheduling conflicts and finishing the signage, decorative pieces. Still waiting on some furniture and equipment. Date to be advised once all is finalised.
- Board is reviewing the budget for the next school year. Addition of the North Wing and other facilities i.e. offices split into two wings, the larger library, new learning laboratory, Student Services and computer laboratory including decorative and increasing of staffing. Now operating at 95% for PK to Grade 3 classrooms. That requires to open more classrooms and add additional staffing. The funding for the North Wing was raised through various partners and DSEJ provided funding. Parent tuition is used for operational not capital costs. We need to increase tuition by 6 percent next year in order to meet the budget. That enables 3% for staffing and salary increases, 1% for adding additional staff, 2% for the additional operating costs.
- Ms. Jasinski expressed that Mr. Stribbell would welcome any parents feedback, concerns to discuss further regarding the increased tuition fee.

Principal's Report Elementary (Mary-Anne Jasinski)

- Friendship Week. This year we are putting more emphasis into the instruction around this. We have always had an awareness day however this time we have added in some lessons teaching at different grade levels. Caring School are planning the activities for the week and assembly. Elementary and Kindergarten added in a program called MACE. This is in connection with our DSEJ requirements and also connected to the Health Alberta program and is a good fit. Weekly instructions, counselling with issues of bullying and friendship. Social group that meets every week. Individual and smaller group counselling. Online will be the Parents Guideline for bullying protocol. This goes into defining what it is? What we teach the students about responding to the roles of different people in a bullying incident. What to say, what to do and when to report. To give information to parents about what we are teaching the students about bullying.
- Ms. Kait commented that it is good to have a common language. They teach the students the difference between being bullied and being mean. Roles of the bystanders, the victim, the bully. Hoping that a common language at home and at school could be the same. Working with teachers and students that we have zero tolerance to bullying but also to educate the students about what it is. What to do if you see it and what it isn't.
- Dress Down Day on Friday 17th November. Theme is movie or comic character.
- Report Cards go home Friday 17th November.
- Assembly Wednesday 15th November and Thursday 16th November.
- Mini Way to Go Lunch Wednesday 15th November. Added for Grade 1,2 & 3 this year. Individual Class Way to Go Lunch so every student can have a way to go lunch. That has been well received.
- Way to Go Lunch on Thursday 23rd November.
- Grade 5 Trip going to Zhaoqing. Amazing activities and adventures. We have all of our Grade 5 teachers, same model as Grade 6 and an Administrator going on each of those trips.
- Christmas Concerts on 2nd December. Kindergarten at 10:30am in the MPR.
- Grade 1 is a 1:30pm in the Black Box Theatre . 9th December separately Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5 & Grade 6. In the Black Box Theatre.
- Mr. Chignall advised that the for Kindergarten this is not a formal concert. Children who do come can sing carols at a set time then the other teachers run activities throughout the morning.
- Dancing with Scottie on Tuesday 5th December. Grade 1 & 2 students. Special performance in the morning.
- No school for November 24th as Parent Conference Day.
- Moving to online sign up for Clubs for Grade 1 - 6. Will be ready in December. There will be lots of notice and information for parents to do their signing in on line.
- Ms Kait commented that the new clubs will start after Christmas in January. From December 4th - 8th parents log on, click on your child's name and it will show you what is available. Then you can put them in the club. For multiple children you click on the next child's name. It will be first come first serve by parents. Working with the Athletic Director to make sure every student could have a club if they choose. If a parent logs on and all the Clubs are full. Their child will be allocated a club. Every child will have two clubs per year.

Principal's Report Secondary (Chris Coates)

- Progress Reports are going home this Friday. For Secondary teachers the weeks leading up to the reports consist of assessments and evaluations in order to provide a good snapshot of students' attainments for reporting. There is a new format. Feedback has been it is a definitely an improvement being more readable and easier to follow. Mid-semester reports are released on November 18th.
- Teacher / Parent Interviews are on Thursday November 23rd from 3:30pm to 8pm and on Friday November 24th from 8:30am - 12pm. It is currently a drop in format. Moving forward we would like to introduce an online process where parents book on line a time with their teacher. Also on the night of November 23rd we will offer short parent information sessions on the Experience Week Program.
- Respect to the Experience Week we are looking at 100 percent enrolment. Currently close to that. There are 10 students in Secondary who are not participating. Half of the 10 students have legitimate reasons such as a visa issue where they cannot travel. However some of the reasons provided are frivolous at best. Parents lying on behalf of their child to get them out of participating in the program. We have tried to address every issue. If it is to do with money we have a variety of trips at different costs. We have even provided 3 local options that are either very low cost or no cost. It is good stuff with service work. Doing work with children in the classrooms. In the future we are going to put Experience Week on the Report Card with no grade assigned as it is part of the program. The teacher will write a paragraph about the students participation and engagement. If a student does not go it will state the student chose not to participate. The numbers are a lot better. We have a person whose part of their job is to organise this program. We believe that much in it, we are willing to invest part of a salary for someone to do this as we know how important it is. Start to establish the culture at elementary and as they come through the school it will become part of life at TIS. Even on TIS Applications there is now a box that parents have to tick to acknowledge that their children will need to participate in programs including Experience Week.
- Walkathon February 14th. We want to get the older kids involved. We want to incorporate the House theme into that as well. Students being organised by House and having older students taking on supervisory/leadership roles for the activities on the day. There will be some logistics involved in organising that. Parents can continue to be involved on the day. This is a really good opportunity to put the House system into place and have that connection between the younger and older students.
- Once a month there will House Wednesday's. All students on that day wear their house shirts. If they wear their house shirts they get points for their house. The first one will be on November 22nd.

Kindergarten Coordinator (Nick Chignall)

- Report Cards for first term are written indicators how the students have started the school year and how they are progressing. Focus in on social, emotional development and how they are adjusting to transitions.

Vice Principal Elementary (Amanda Kait)

- Redesigning Grade 1-2 Playground. Parents can provide feedback on what would be great to have in the playground. Staff are giving their feedback and student voice. Then it will be looking at design, equipment costs and shipping costs.
- Pizza Sale on November 23rd. Only for Grades 3 - 6. Last time raised \$3000 MOP. Provided by Honest Pizza's which have donated the pizzas for this month. More pizzas have been ordered as students had to be turned away last month.

Treasurer's Report (Connie Johnson) - absent Presented by Nicole Hammer

- The last Pop-corn day was Halloween themed and raised \$4,200 MOP.
- Community Day \$11,520.00 much less than last year. Wasn't that busy, less people showed up. Sold all burgers and hot dogs. Lots of volunteers including student and overall it was a good afternoon.

Events Report**Events since last meeting:**

- **Community Day**
- **Run of Hope**
- **Popcorn Dress Down Day**

Upcoming events:

- TISAP to start the raffle tickets next week for the Christmas raffle. Sent out letters for prizes and hopefully we get a lot of feedback.
- Christmas Charity Tree will be in the North Wing with charity cards on the tree. Note to all the class room teachers and they can promote the charity tree.
- Winter Wonderland - December 7.

General Business

- Ms. Hammer asked a question about the Athletic Teams from Grade 4. They are doing really well with all the training but they only train during their season. Most of the teams not the whole year around. Why not the whole year for training?
- Mr. Coates responded that in local schools both in Macau and Hong Kong they get students to choose one sport and they basically train in that one sport all year long. Our philosophy is a bit different. If students want to pursue a sport at an elite level they typically won't do it in a school like this. Often it is outside of school and we want students trying different sports. Sports are offered at different seasons. For example Volleyball was offered for the first few months and now basketball. Then from basketball to track and field or rugby. We encourage students to try a lot of different sports and then eventually they may latch onto one or two particular sports that they may want to take to a higher level. Another factor is the organisations that we are apart i.e. ACAMIS and they have their set seasons we have to follow those seasons. Also the commitment of the coaches. Some coaches are required to get involved at ECA's at the school and time commitment as they are volunteers.
- Ms. Chiu advised that this is her first full year here. They came from another International School where the kids can try different sports however they focus on one. They require the kids to compete in competition. So they need more coaching and they are more committed with that sport. When they go to the competition they are at a good level. This is elementary level.
- Mr. Coates explained an Athletic Program is big picture, school wide. We start to develop athletes at the younger age and they will compete in their different sports in those competitions and build up for the tournaments and leagues they are participating. Ultimately the goal is that we will continue to develop them and so when they come out of elementary and into secondary school and they end up playing for University teams then they are traveling all over to compete against other International schools in China or in Hong Kong.
- Ms. Chiu acknowledge high school however in elementary when they go to competitions they are not prepared enough for the competition. And when we went to Guangzhou for that competition for swimming it was frustrating to see all the kids in last place because they do not have enough preparation. The kids then get frustrated and sad. Then they do not want to come back because nobody wants to always be in the last place. Now we have a gap from January until next September. October is the first swimming competition, so when they are going to try and do their best there is only one month preparation.

- Mr. Coates explained if they are doing swimming at TIS they will do it during the season that we offer it and then we hope they will try other sports and they are engaged in other sports. Kids that want to really do swimming at the highest level as it is the same in Hong Kong and in Canada they usually join clubs outside of school and that is where they get the high level of coaching. We want to expose our kids to the different sports but is it not a priority for us to be at the highest level in that sports that we are beating other DSEJ schools.
- Ms. Jasinski responded that in the local schools when they have the capacity to train, they are not necessarily competing internationally. The logistics of having enough teachers to coach all of those sports ongoing in elementary. We use that manpower for Clubs rather than putting it all into all teams and sports. That might be different from other schools. Other schools might put all of that manpower into sports or they may have more manpower. Logistically I am unsure how we may do it?
- Mr. Coates advised that we play in the DSEJ in some sports because we want to get experience but our commitment athletically is to the Association of Chinese and Mongolian International Schools 'ACAMIS'. The South China League, PRC is where we are committed as an International school and we measure our success on how well we do in ACAMIS.
- There were no further questions.
- Ms. Kait advised we will be selling raffle tickets for the Christmas Concert on Parent Teacher Interview night. All funds will go to charity.

Confirm date for next meeting
December 5th at 1:30 pm.

Next General Meeting date confirmed for Tuesday,