

The International School of Macao Parents' Association (TISPA)
General Meeting
Tuesday, 10th April 2018, 1:30pm
TIS – Conference Room
Agenda

Present

Mary-Anne Jasinski Chris Coates Nick Chignall
Nicole Hammer Connie Johnson

Apologies: Howard Stribbell , Amanda Kiat, Abby Barrett, Laura Clarke, Sarah Luvisutto

Minutes of last meeting

No meeting for March 2018.

Welcome

Ms. Hammer apologised on behalf of Abby Barrett (TISPA Secretary) for the miscommunication of dates regarding the March 2018 TISPA General Meeting .

Head of Schools' Report (Howard Stribbell absent). Mary-Anne Jasinski

- A big thank you for the International Community Event which we think was the best attended Community Day. The food sales were done differently this time than in the past and seemed to be really positively accepted.
- Ms. Jasinski asked Ms. Hammer on her reflection of the event.
- Ms. Hammer advised she had received lots of positive feedback from people. Really liked it with the change of table set up. More parents involved who wanted to set up selling food or giving away food by representing their countries. Makes it like a real Community Day. People get involved willing to represent and proud of their country in showing their food and that made it really nice. Representation outside the school community also.
- Ms. Jasinski commented that we need to think about new ideas for up and coming Community Days and that we don't need to do them the same as they have been done in the past.
- Mr. Chignall advised that was the discussion with Mr. Stribbell. In the past it had been about our school not external businesses coming in. There are enough models to show how to do it. That was the big change this year that we had approval from Mr. Stribbell to go ahead and bring in external companies. They can be here as long as we have a payment fair to be here. Which helped a lot.
- Student Services and inclusive ed groups and students. TIS is an inclusive school and we have students at all levels of ability in all grades. What maybe most parents don't know is that it is quite an extensive department and service model. Additionally it is not just for students been identified as having special needs. Its for any student who needs any kind of support. We are being well known in Macau as being an inclusive school. We have more applications every year from children whose parents are indicating up front that they are inclusive with learning difficulties. We do not accept all applications and this might be a misconception. Every inclusive application identified as such goes through the Head of the

Team. They will do the interview and assessment. The initial is a screening type of interview. Sometimes they spend some time with our Speech Therapist and our Occupational Therapist. We will look at what their learning needs are. Then we look at the grade they are applying for to see what the load already is in that grade level before we decide if we can provide an appropriate program for them. Ms. Jasinski advised in elementary as each year passes she is turning away more inclusive applications. We are not going to accept anyone that we don't feel we can give an appropriate program too. We like that we are diverse. The reason for having this model is because we are trying to meet the needs of a typical population. In any a typical population there are kids with special needs. We don't want to be a school that excludes.

- Ms. Jasinski excused herself from the meeting due to a teacher's medical reason.

Principal's Reports

Secondary (Chris Coates)

- Experience week was a success. A few minor problems on the trip. Nothing significant. A couple of behavioural issues. Couple of minor injuries. We since have had two celebration assemblies. One in middle school and one in high school. Where the kids presented about their programmes, what they learned and reflected on. They put together videos showing what they did and it went really positive. We are well on our way to changing the culture and some of the attitudes towards experience week and doing service work and Community Service. We really passionately believe in this and are putting in the time to meet with every parent. Our participation rate was 99 percent.
- Secondary teachers are writing progress reports that will be going home on April 20th. The week following there is going to be Parent / Teacher Conferences. On Wednesday and Thursday evening 25th and 26th April. Will be using the new online booking system.
- Maths contest week. They will participate in International maths competitions. We get our results later on and see how the kids did against other kids all over the world. That is happening this week.
- May 04th PESA which is an International School Assessment. There is English, Social Studies, Mathematics and Science. All 15 year old kids will be writing it. They write at the University of Macao on May 04th. Done all online.
- Preparations for Grade 12 Graduation (May 25th) and the Grade 9 Celebrations (June 01st) for finishing middle school.
- May 07th the first Secondary Sports Day. Initiative of the PE Department. Kids who are taking PE it is mandatory that they have to participate in a certain number of events. Part of the curriculum. Other kids will have the option to sign up. If they don't sign up they will then help with the event. Everybody will be engaged and involved in someway. They will set school records for example the 100 metre Record and they will get posted up on a board. Build a legacy in the school and history of tradition in the school.

Elementary (Mary-Anne Jasinski)

- We have done 245 PK applications. We have space for 120. We are filling to 110 which is what we normally do. We hold off on a few seats because people come and go in Macau between now and over the summer. We often have expat families coming in who haven't had any opportunity to participate in the process. After school starts then we will go to the Wait List and fill the rest of the PK seats.
- We announced we were adding a Grade 1 class. We are now adding two Grade 1 classes because of the number of applications we got for Grade 1. This year indication coming back from existing SK is that there are not many families moving. We had 45 Grade 1 applications for 5 seats. We go through the interview process. Then children are put into groups accepted, wait list or declined. Within the accepted group there are two groups. The accepted or conditionally accepted. Where there are conditions on the acceptance for example the PK kids must be 100 % toilet trained. Sometimes we have a probationary acceptance typically for one year. These are the Grade 4 and up children who are coming to us and struggling in their current school for some reason or another. We will accept them with conditions and understanding that we will be checking in on them periodically during the year. If there hasn't been significant progress then the child leaves at the end of that year. Phone calls went out today. We are full up to Grade 3. Grade 4, 5 and 6 will be smaller.
- The incredible Helper Tea before the break. The Elementary Leadership Students did everything for that tea. They had to contact people they wanted to purchase food from. Order all of the supplies. Create invitations. Everything they had to do together. It was fantastic. The best attended Helper Tea. A wonderful acknowledgement of the work that the Helpers do.
- Elementary Musical - April 20th and 21st.
- Poetry Celebration - April 24th 9am Division 1 and 11am Division 2.
- Assembly - April 18th Division 1 and April 19th Division 2.
- Field Day - April 13th.
- ECA starts April 16th.
- Teachers training to be Google Certified - April 13th and April 14th,

Kindergarten (Nick Chignall)

- Reminder that House Shirts to be worn on May 18th.

Treasurer's Report
(Connie Johnson)

Community Day: \$9,910.00 - only sold popcorn, tacos and drinks. \$5,439.00 after expenses.

Popcorn day: \$3,400.00

Easter Raffle: \$5,907.00 after expenses.

- Mr. Coates asked as part of the inventory for the House T-shirts that TISPA sponsored was looking at every new student been given a House Shirt as part of the admission package. Would TISPA be ok with this? If so then every so often will need to buy a small inventory for any new kids that come in.
- Ms. Johnson advised Mr. Coates that TISPA would need to discuss further and to find out how many shirts that would involve.

Events Report**Events since last meeting:**

- **Dress-down Day** - March 30th
- **Easter Raffle** - March 30th
- **Community Day** - March 24th

Upcoming events:

- **Dress-down Day** - April 27th
- **Community Day** - May 12th
- **Dress-down Day** - May 18th
- **Other up and coming Events**

General Business

- Ms. Johnson commented that some parents are asking “What happened to the Dr Seuss writing on the walls?”
- Ms. Jasinski advised the writing was put up temporarily with the 15th Anniversary. It will go up in a better form. Same things on the new walls.

- Ms. Hammer asked about the idea of Class Room Reps in Elementary for next year?
- Ms. Jasinski advised that decisions won't be made until the Fall.

- Ms. Hammer advise there was a question about Grade 1's coming outside at 3pm for pick up there is no shade and it is very hot. Is there another option?
- Ms. Jasinski advised she would follow up.

- Ms. Hammer provided feedback that the Student Led Conferences were really good. Time communication says about 30 minutes. If you want to also take your child to PE, Mandarin and Music it takes longer. Some of the Dad's came and they had to rush back because it took longer. May need to look at extending the time.
- Ms. Jasinski responded that the intent of the 30 minutes is the time in the Classroom and then you can do all the other part. People are welcome to stay longer. We have to juggle the number of people in the classroom at each time.
- Ms. Hammer mentioned to change the information, so parents know that it can take longer.

Confirm date for next meeting Next General Meeting date confirmed for Tuesday May 08th 2018 at 13:30hrs in the Conference Room.