

The International School of Macao Parents' Association (TISPA)
General Meeting
Tuesday, January 15th 2019, 1:30pm
TIS – Conference Room
Agenda

Present

Mark Lockwood	Lorne Schmidt	Nick Chignall	Amanda Kiat
Dominic Masters	Dominic Masters	Bing Han	Connie Johnson
Nicole Hammer	Abby Barrett	Laura Clarke	Sarah Luvisutt
Ana Paniagua	Lijuan Ma	Suzette Kreeger	Mary Drossos

Apologies:

Mary-Anne Jasinski, Connie Johnson

Minutes of last meeting (December 15th 2018)

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

Welcome

Head of Schools' Report Attached (Mark Lockwood)

- Recruiting for staff started. Ms. Jasinski did some recruiting over the Christmas Break. Mr. Lockwood and Ms. Jasinski were in Bangkok last week at the Career Fair that had 900 delegates. With 60 - 70 International Schools. Very competitive and busy. We found some more excellent candidates. Contracts have been signed and the new teachers are very excited to be coming to TIS.

TISPA Guest Athletic Director Mr. Bing Han

- Ms. Hammer thanked Mr. Han very much for coming to talk with the parents.
- Mr. Han introduced himself and is responsible for after school clubs and sports program. Mr. Han is happy to answer any questions parents may have.
- Ms. Hammer had some general questions from parents.
- *Question: Can parents volunteer as coaches?*
- *Answer:* Mr. Han advised absolutely. In the past, most recent years we have had two parents help out in a coaching capacity. One in the lead head coach role and the other in the support assistant coach role. Both have been fantastic additions to our program. We encourage parents who have an interest in sport or even in clubs to approach Mr. Han and he is more than happy to use these resources to help our kids.
- On the sport side of things Mr. Ham recruits coaches from our existing and incoming staff every Spring. That is our pool of resources because as teachers we are obligated to perform ECA or Club duties after school. For those who are passionate about sports they have a chance to be a part of their passion and expertises. Sometimes we may not have enough personnel to fill the coaching opportunities in which case we would be looking externally for candidates. The parent community is obviously a pool that we haven't had to draw on a lot yet. The only stipulation to non staff member who is working with our students including parents is to sign a Child Protection Agreement that all adults working with our kids have to sign.

- *Question:* Trial outs need to be done for some sports. Sometimes there is a miscommunication or misunderstanding with parents, especially new parents about these trial outs. Is there some more communication for parents about the process? Also in the beginning there is a session for the kids. Maybe the parents could be invited, especially for the younger kids.
- *Answer:* Mr. Han explained that the sports program has come along way in the last 5-6 years. We have now more students than available roster spots. We often limited by the organising bodies of our league DSEJ, ACAMIS or Highschool League, Soccer League stipulates the roster size football, basketball, volleyball. We then have more students coming out than the allowed roster size. Also the roster size is to provide a safe environment so one or two coaches aren't given 30 students in a physical and demanding setting.
- Mr. Han explained for the first time this year we moved from a paper based to Gibbon for sign ups. One of the growing pains Mr. Han discovered as we changed formats is when parents sign up their children for a sports team. The system accepted them and parents assumed that because the system accepted them they were automatically on the team, which isn't always the case. Plans are now being put in place for next year to make it clear that you chose sports essentially you are going to be put on an eligible to trial list. The student has the parents permission. Then when the season starts we need to select the most appropriate students for that particular program.
- Mr. Han also advised that some teams did invite parents to meetings however not all. Thank you for the feedback on this. Elementary teams for swimming, track and field, cross country and year 12 soccer. Those are the four big ones that having parents at the first meeting to lay out expectations and guidelines is important. To understand the trial process.
- Mr. Han further explained that there will be exceptions when we will take a kid or two extra to be part of practice squad. We want as many kids to participate as possible. Reality limits us to a certain number that we have to have.
- Mr. Masters advised with Football we play in DSEJ and then ACAMIS and PRC afterwards. The DSEJ season allows 20 students. Once the season is done Mr. Masters needs to cut the numbers for PRC and ACAMIS to 12 students. Mr. Masters will then do a new trial out for ACAMIS and PRC.
- Mr. Han explained that football is the only sport that has that flexibility after the season has finished as they are so far apart. For the other sports the seasons are aligned together with the DSEJ and International School Leagues. There isn't that room to have more than one trial in one school year. For example Junior Girls Basketball we had 23 girls come out and we had 12 for DSEJ roster. We took 16 out of the 23 girls. 12 girls are on the DSEJ team. From that pool of 16 we can choose different girls for our International Tournaments.
- Mr. Masters advised for new students that start school and want to play sports with the trial outs already been done. They can go see Mr. Han and they can speak to the coach to see if there is a possibility to get involved in some of the training.
- *Question:* Ms. Kreeger asked if there was an official format for communication? As someone who was new to the school and didn't understand the process about the first year where you miss some things as no one has communicated. Ms. Kreeger explained that the school we came from was really good on emails. We have difference of languages here and understanding culturally. *Is there a better process we can maybe look at moving forward where there is a better line of communication for at least sports and then possibly*

for the clubs? On the WeChat and WhatsApp there seems to be a ton of confusion. The parents are trying to figure it out and it is an ongoing issue.

- Answer: Mr. Han advised that they know different classes have different chat groups and sports teams have their own chat groups. In terms of official Athletics Policy we do have an official Athletics Policy Handbook on our website and give this to all of our coaches and athletics. It posted on the website from the first week of school. It has the whole trial process. The season length, start date, the athletic fee and travel, tournament dates and schedules is all in the booklet. This will probably answer most people questions.
- Ms. Kreeger explained that a lot people do not know that the booklet is there. Especially if there is the language barrier and they are not up to speed on how the school works in their communications and where to look for that.
- Mr. Lockwood responded that that was a great question. Mr. Lockwood advised that they are in the process of updating their website. The website will be the main tool of communication. Mr. Lockwood could not agree more when you look at all the different social medias that are out there that it all gets lost. The website is convoluted and is now being refreshed and looking at what are the most important things to have on there. Communicating with parents, students, teachers, school community. Please appreciate we are working on that process to revamp it. Mr. Lockwood will look at the extra curricular so we as a staff can put out there what is most appropriate.
- Ms. Kreeger advised that will be helpful however we still need to make sure people know that's where they need to go. Whether that is at the beginning of the year and a reminder throughout. Even in our Assemblies to remind parents to get on. Communication is really important so we can all function better as a community here and supporting the school.
- Ms. Hammer advised the book is very good and has where the events are. However there are places LIS, DIS where parents do not know where the schools are. Might be good to have a reference of the school and address.
- Mr. Han responded that that was a good idea and will be about 80 schools. They will make that happen.
- Ms. Hammer asked a question from a parent. *Question: Apparently the G6-8 boy soccer cannot join the DSEJ tournament because they don't have enough players?*
- Answer: Mr. Han explained the coach in the U14 team chose not too because they couldn't have at least 8 committed players for that team. Ms. Hammer asked do they actually have a complete team?
- Mr. Han advised the middle school program is two fold. You have your U14 competitions which is DSEJ and PRC. We joined a new league SDRG U14 basically G7, G8 and maybe some G6. Our main event is the South China School Athletic Conference ('SCSAC'). That was a U15 League with G9 and potentially some younger G10 participating. The middle school junior team is essentially made up potentially G6 - G10 kids. The DSEJ competition is U14 only. You could only include G6, G7,G8. Most schools will only have G8 with the population and size. In this particular year we did not have enough kids was 13years or younger to join that particular team. Where as the U12 program has more than enough kids.
- Ms. Hammer asked if there was any way of making two teams for the U12? Mr. Han advised that question has come up. Personally Mr. Han would love it to have an A Team and a B Team. Some of the bigger schools we compete with such as the American School in Guangzhou they have four teams in the sport. For TIS it comes down to human

resources and physical resources. Our field is already completely full after school with our middle school, elementary and high school teams. If we have a second U12 team where are they going to practice? Any space that they take means one less slot for one of our other existing teams. Where do we get the extra coach? The parents could potentially solve that. The B team would not be nearly as competitive as the A team.

- The parents asked if they could be even just attend for training so they may potentially be in the team the year after with practice? Mr Han advised going forward if next year we have a lot more kids interested than we have spots for, opening up a B team is an option providing a parent could step in and take the coaching role for that team.
- Next year we are potentially splitting the swim teams to a junior level and a senior level. It all comes down to if we have the coaches that can take on that role.
- *Question: Ms. Kreeger asked a question in regards to the swim team. If you have a child that is wanting to be competitive but has limitations because of the coaches are volunteer basis and may not have a lot of expertise in that area. Is it something that is an option to pull some money together and bring a more qualified coach for a workshop over a course of a month over a couple of weekends? Maybe from Hong Kong or somewhere else within Macau. If we have enough resources between all of us and we found someone and came to you and advised this person would come for this fee if we get the money together. Is that something you would be ok with?*
- *Answer:* Mr. Lockwood advised that is a great question. Mr. Lockwood and Mr. Han had a conversation about that in regards to badminton. Back in Alberta there is an internationally ranked badminton coach who is very successful and actually approached Mr. Lockwood before he came to Macau to find out if TIS would be interested if he was to come over in running some clinics in badminton. Mr. Lockwood and Mr. Han are only at the talking stage of the idea.
- As a school we are open to that. As long as we go through the right channels and as long as it is seen as an opportunity and beneficial for all children and wouldn't be an elitist piece. Please appreciate that this would be something new and we would need to be careful.
- Ms. Kreeger advised it is nice to know that it is a least an option.
- Mr. Lockwood commented on the short time that he has known Mr. Han he is so open to peoples suggestion and is so approachable when it comes to athletics. Competitive sports have so many great things about it and there is a real downside to it as well. Mr. Han balances that all of the time and with the complications of the different leagues with their structures , the requirements by different organisations. Mr. Lockwood would like it know n among the parent group that Mr. Han is very approachable and very open. If there are any questions that parents have please talk with Mr. Han about what is going on and getting clarity. Mr. Lockwood values that Mr. Han was asked to come here today and was able to clarify some things that people are wondering. Mr. Han always keeps the students at the centre of his decisions.
- Mr. Han advised that he is happy to share the program. He took on the role over 4 years ago and the program has really change for a lot. Hopefully for the better. More and more students are participating in competitive athletics. An integral part of the TIS experience and happy to say more and more of our team has been successfully on court, pitch, pool and track. With anything that is growing so fast there will be challenges and complications and it is important that we all work together to find solutions to push the program forward. Mr. Han welcomes any suggestions or comments parents have.

Principal's Reports

Elementary:

Principal (Apologies from Ms. Jasinski. Ms. Kiat presented).

- Helpers Tea is next week. This is 100% student run and they are doing a great job. We have 98 helpers coming with a capacity for 120.
- We have a lady coming from Alberta to coach and PD our teachers on the Lucy Calkins College Writing Workshop Model. This is a program we have been using for the last two years. It is an American program out of Columbia University. We recognise as we are going through this we need some more expertise. The lady has a Masters in Literacy from Columbia and is a co author on some of the books with Lucy Calkins. This will be for two weeks in March. Coaching the teachers in the classrooms with your children.
- Feedback from a parent was in November there was a long line up for Mandarin Interviews. This will change in March with the Student lead conferences. If a parent wants to have a meeting with the Mandarin teacher they can have one separately and a time will be allocated.

Kindergarten (Nick Chignall)

- Ms. Jasinski is close to filling all kindergarten positions for next year.
- The outdoor classroom project. The cement benches were removed over the break. The mound of dirt has arrived. While waiting for the potting plants the children have been climbing the mound, rolling tyres down. It has been fantastic with the kids using their imagination.
- Kindy Cuppa Chat. Ms. Campbell advised Mr. Chignall that the official invites are coming out and being translated. If you signed up on the form you should be receiving one on the 30th January.
- Ms. Campbell and Ms Kakoske are going to our sister school next week for professional development with the teachers about kindergarten programming and building up their capacity. We offer our experience being a more experienced school internationally in our kindergarten program.
- Chinese New Year 25th January in MPR1. Parents need to inform the teacher if they are attending so high school students volunteers can help kids who do not have a parent/ helper coming that day.

Secondary:

Principal (Lorne Schmidt)

- At the end of December we had a very successful music concert at The Venetian. Technical support was fantastic and we hope to be able to do that again.
- Majority of recruitment for next year has been completed. Offers are out. They are all experienced teachers, currently working overseas. Many have had Alberta experience as well as IB experience.
- Very proud to announce the first acceptance to Oxford University in the UK. A full IB student, which we feel helped support the application to the school.

- Started the new year with middle school and high school Assemblies with reflection on 2018. We reviewed the schools mission statement and code of conduct to start the new year with a fresh start and to make this a very positive place.
- Semester Two will begin on January 31st. For middle school students there will be some changes in the option classes they are currently in. For high school students there is only some G11 math classes that were new.
- Experience week trips are confirmed and the curricular connections are now being made in the classroom in preparation for that.
- IB students are completing their IA coursework. They will also be writing mock exams at the end of February. The real exams are in May for IB students. Followed by the Alberta exams for all of our students in June.
- Next years planning we are looking at offering more semester courses in the high school. Separate the IB classes for the Alberta classes as much as possible. The students that are doing Alberta courses are just getting the Alberta instruction. Students doing IB course has Alberta and IB. Streamline the planning and understandings for our students.

TISPA Reports

President (Nicole Hammer)

- For popcorn we still encourage everyone to bring their own containers. We are still using plastic bags we have in stock. After we have finished the stock we will buy paper bags.
- Uniform Shop are re-sizing. The sizes are much better now. There is more stock now.
- Storage for TISPA. The second popcorn machine is not allowed to be under the stairs due to safety issues. Ms. Hammer asked Mr. Lockwood if TISPA could use the storeroom on the 3rd floor where the Christmas tree is kept for additional storage space for TISPA. Mr. Lockwood advised TISPA could use the storage space.

Treasurer (Apologies from Ms. Johnson. Ms. Hammer presented)

Pop-Corn December: \$3,440.00 after expenses \$3,100.00

TISPA donated \$2,500 to the Giving Tree to buy extra gifts.

Events Report

Events since last meeting:

- Dress Down Day Chinese New Year - January 25th

Upcoming Events:

- Dress Down Day - February 22nd
- Community Day - March 09th

General Business

- Ms. Barrett asked if there were any plans to have after school Mandarin classes to help students? Ms. Kiat advised that Ms. Helen Ku Mandarin department has set up after school classes starting this week to help students with their homework. There are separate classes for foreign and local students. The communication was sent home to parents. Ms. Barrett and other parents advised that they had not receive the communication.
- Mr. Lockwood explained that the classes will be structured. This is a trial to see how they run. Mr. Lockwood will follow up regarding the communication.
- Ms. Clarke asked when the Walkthon will be? Mr. Lockwood advised that they have not rescheduled a date due to the MUST Stadium not yet being completed.

Confirm date for next meeting Next General Meeting will be Tuesday February 12th 2019, a 1:30pm to be held in the Conference Room.