

Minutes of the ISL PTO General Meeting

06/02/18 8:45 - 9:45

Kendra Tutunjian (KT), outgoing President of the PTO board, opened the meeting before handing over to the incoming President Jessica Maisonnave (JM).

1. Welcome

KT declared the meeting open and reminded attendees to sign the attendance sheet. She thanked parents for their attendance and reiterated the mission statement of the PTO, which was to deepen the connection pupils had with the school and the wider community. She informed PTO members that she was resigning due to increased work commitments and that JM, hitherto Vice President, would be taking over; Ieva Pope (IP) would be Vice President.

2. Past PTO Events

JM reported on the PTO events held in the last month (Father Daughter Dance (FDD) on 19 January, PTO lunch on 30 January). The FDD had proved an all round success commensurate with the immense amount of effort put in by volunteers. Several new people had attended the lunch which was great as the purpose of such events was to bring parents together.

3. Financial Report

Tom Lokere (TL), PTO Treasurer, reported on the last two months of the PTO budget. The opening balance in December had been EUR1,186.91 of which EUR190 had been spent on the coffee station for the Teacher and Staff Appreciation Lunch and EUR153 on Holiday Craft (including waffle ingredients). The FDD had had 130 attendees, takings of EUR1710 and outgoings of EUR1407.81, resulting in a profit of EUR302.19 and a closing balance as at the start of February of EUR1,146.10. TL highlighted that the real driver of all this was volunteer hours put in and thanked all parents who had helped make these events happen.

Alice Prince (AP) made the point that exhorting parents to volunteer was all very well but to enable events to be efficiently organised and implemented there needed to be someone from the school on each organising committee. When AP had organised the Book Exchange she had done so in collaboration with library staff and Madara Pole (MP) had provided support for the FDD. MP stated that she was happy to make herself as available as she could to assist with PTO events.

4. Upcoming Events

The board reported that the upcoming events planned for February were a Valentine's Bake Sale on 14 February (with baked goods to be offered for sale to pupils when they returned from lunch) and a PTO lunch at the Jurmala Golf Club on 20 February. Attendees could sign up using the sign in sheets or on the PTO Facebook page.

5. School Administrative and Staff Reports

Sergejs Baltmanis (Athletic Director) reported that the CEESA band event had been a great success and thanked all host families. The next event requiring hosting of visiting students would be Volleyball in summer. 59 students would be attending the Tallinn Friendly Olympics.

Ulvis Kravalis (ASA Coordinator and CAS Coordinator) reported that the Winter ASA season would run until one week after the Ski Break, after which there would be a one week break from ASAs before the beginning of the Spring season. Details in this regard would be communicated by the

school. In terms of community outreach projects, tenth grade students had made a visit to an orphanage for children with disabilities and further projects were under consideration.

David Martin reported on the upcoming Middle & High School Musical (Once Upon A Mattress, a musical rendition of the Princess on a Pea story) which would be performed on 21 and 22 February. This would be free for students and all students would be bussed to see it by the school (and parents would be advised when which class was attending). Tickets for non-students would be EUR3 at the front desk.

From the floor Eva Tsakiroglu (ET) made the point that last year's performance had failed to be recorded which was a disappointment to parents who had been advised that they were not permitted to take pictures. MP explained that this was because the person tasked with making the recording had unfortunately failed to show up, but that photographs had been taken by the school and were available to view; she agreed to revert to ET in this regard.

Steve Vis (Elementary Principal) thanked KT for all her efforts and contribution as PTO President. He reported that Kathy Collins, the school's literacy consultant, had visited last week and also conducted a workshop for parents and that Justin Johns, the math consultant, would be visiting the following week and would also hold a workshop.

Mark Robertson-Jones (Secondary Principal) reported on the upcoming introduction to college counselling for Grade 11 (the purpose of such counselling being to try to find the best fit in terms of higher education for each pupil) and the Diploma Programme Family Night for Grade 10 students (the purpose of which was to find the best diploma subject fit, including in conjunction with advisory).

Eric Larson (EL) (Director) reiterated that the CEESA band event had been excellent and thanked all host families. MP noted that there was a recording on Facebook. The 2019/20 school calendar was now out and copies were on the tables; parents would note that it included additional professional development days for teachers (not at the cost of any school days). The school was working actively with internationally known consultants to up the standard of professional development it provided to its faculty.

Phin Pope, from the floor, asked how the construction project was progressing. EL replied that target completion was end of May but that previous targets had been missed by the builders so completion by that date could not be guaranteed.

EL further reported that the school had attained 5th place out of 12 at the CEESA Math Camp in Helsinki (which had been attended by far larger schools such as the Anglo American School of Moscow) and that an 11th grade student had won first place in the Latvian Maths Olympics.

Lisa Scale (Council Member) provided an update of council matters. The school had received full reaccreditation following the accreditation visit. The report had included both commendations and recommendations and management were working to address the latter. A budget of EUR8500 had been approved in respect of an iPad pilot for elementary school, the purpose of which was to ensure an optimal use of tech for each age group. The loan facility from Citadele had been reduced from EUR4m to EUR3m as less money than anticipated was needed for construction. The continuation of a force majeure fund equal to 10% of the school's budget had been approved. There would be a forum for discussion with the council on 13 February and the school AGM in March (which would be preceded by a Russian language introduction).

6. Ways to get involved

JM encouraged parents to sign up to join the committees being formed in respect of Spirit (sports/community), fundraising for International Day and the mother/son event planned for 15 March. Interest could be indicated on the sign up sheets and attending a committee meeting did not entail any further obligations - parents could just come along to share ideas and test their interest.

7. Close

JM thanked all for their attendance and confirmed that the next PTO meeting would be held on Wednesday 6 March 2019 at 8:45 in the Media Centre.