

ISH PTA BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 3RD 2009

The meeting was called to order at 16.40 on Tuesday, 3rd September. **Present** were: Monika Cramborn, Elizabeth Nilsson, Roseanne McCormack, Susan Finnegan Anderson, Leonie Pårup Tracey Christiansen and Agneta Medin. Björn von Wachenfeldt was also present.

Minutes of the last meeting approved.

Change of events and upcoming events: Leonie that the Tipsrunda had been cancelled in favour of a Welcome Back evening where it would be easier to gather people, present the PTA and collect fees. 10 and 11 grade girls will get CAS points for taking 'babysitting'. Leonie will check that a poster is arranged for the staffroom - staff are welcome free of charge.

Class Representatives: Only 6 classes have been covered so far. Some lacking possibly due to confusion as to who is recruiting. Suggested that some parents may be hesitant to volunteer as there is a misunderstanding as to what a class representative does – some parents believe that they serve of the PTA board. A brief presentation at the Welcome back evening might clarify things. Also need to send out a brief description stating the role of a class rep.

The School Website: The 'old' school site will eventually be phased out and replaced by the Kommun site which will be 'cleaned up' of its Swedish extras. Both sites are being kept at the moment so that new parents can find the link to the Kommun site. The new site needs to be more exciting and redesigned with room to incorporate the 'old' ISH logo within the page photos and text; however this may not appear at the top of the page. Lee Ellam and Cecilia Kristofferson are responsible designing the website. The possibility of using 11 and 12 Graders – so that they may earn CAS points - to update the PTA website was discussed and approved. Tracey will liaise with Lee and Cecilia on this.

As was discussed at the PTA board meeting in March 2009, teacher profiles and qualifications could be included. Björn von Wachenfeldt agreed that this appears on other school websites and is a good marketing tool. Profiles of PYP and MYP are ready, photos are not necessary but permission of the staff must be obtained first.

Quiet Study Area for MYP 5 and Diploma students: Students have asked for a quiet area between lessons and in free periods to study. Suggestions that the Cafe area is quiet (a lock on the fridge maybe required for security) and the library is not in use from 2.30 onwards, however this is locked when the librarian leaves. It could be left open longer but would need to be monitored. Roseanne and Monika will look into this and inform the students when something is decided.

After School Enrichment Programme: PTA parents are still trying to find a replacement guitar teacher. Classroom space is also limited as more classes are taking place later. However, it was felt by most that parents would be willing to pay for extra classes where an English speaking music teacher is available. The search for volunteers and after school teachers from the parent body continues.

Red House Book Club: This was previously and very successfully run by a parent who has since left the school. Tara Harrigan is willing to run this. Susan will meet with her to pass over the files.

Mini Grants: Alex Rankin has applied for 12,000 sek to fund team shirts. Agneta will review the mini grant application but it was generally agreed that this fulfilled the criteria of a grant and so Mr Rankin will be awarded the full amount. The 'old' ISH logo for school sweatshirts or tee-shirts could in theory be used – Björn von Wachenfeldt stated that he 'cannot forbid the use of the logo'.

Diploma Results: Many parents would like a breakdown of the Diploma results instead of an average based only on those who passed and not taking into the calculation those who failed. Many other school websites offer this information as a matter of course. Björn von Wachenfeldt and Monika Cramborn will discuss this at the next management meeting.

Results of the Parents Meeting on September 3rd: The PTA parents summarized what had taken place at the meeting and explained that the majority of the parents who had attended (approximately 20% of the parent body) had agreed to form four groups to focus on difference areas of improving the school move. Björn von Wachenfeldt will be happy to consider input from these groups; the PTA parents will channel the information between him and the parent groups. BvW stated he will be forming an advisory board selected of representatives from major trade and industries and as such chosen by him. Parents may volunteer as representatives for a parent group.

Other Business:

The PTA parents asked when the hire of principals/coordinators would be finalized. BvW hoped that if the right candidate were found amongst the next set of applicants the principals/coordinators would be in place within 3 to 4 weeks. However, the search would continue until the right person is found.

OLWEUS – bullying prevention scheme. Elizabeth reported new initiatives from staff to prevent bullying, including staggered breaks and extra class time to discuss bullying. Parent reps will be asked to join the process at a later date.

International day will be on October 9th. A member of staff from each section of the programme will be organizing the event. The PTA parents suggested that many volunteers are required and will need to be coordinated asap.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:20

Respectfully submitted

Tracey Christiansen (PTA Secretary)