

PTA Board Meeting -- 11.14.2018

PTA President Jillian Monaghan opened proceedings, welcoming everyone and noting that this was her first PTA meeting as president.

She outlined that the meeting would cover three main points.

1. PTA Nomination and Election of Open PTA Officer Positions
2. Updates from Committee Chairpersons
3. Updates from Administration Members

She said any questions or communications for any of the presenters could be sent to pta@isp.edu.pa.

1. PTA Open Officer Positions

Jillian explained that based upon the PTA Bylaws the secretary position -- one of 5 Elected Officers of the PTA -- would be filled by vote if there was more than one volunteer their would be a vote.

The positions of DAC Chairperson, 10th and 11th grade Reps, Garage Sale Chairperson, and Family Fun Fair Chairperson were positions nominated by the president and approved by other PTA officers.

Election for the PTA Secretary - Benton Ives

Benton Ives volunteered and was unanimously approved. He is a new parent to ISP as of 2018, a Home Room Parent, and an advisor for the PANAMUN XXVI Eco-Press with a background in journalism. He immediately began taking minutes.

Appointed Officer Positions

DAC Chairperson - Tiffany Ulloa

Matt MacInnis spoke about the role of parents and the DAC (Dolphin Athletic Committee) noting that parents are a key element in extracurricular sports. "Behind the kids are the coaches and the parentes," he said.

"It's not just about raising funds...a huge part of it is building this community spirit," he added.

He said that the DAC chair recruits different parents from various sports, and "ideally, we can have parents involved in each sport."

Matt also noted the uniform task force is trying to make sure that every kid in every sport will be purchasing the same uniform at the start of next year. Currently, many of the teams are playing with mismatched uniforms. The hope is that the kids will be able to use that same uniform for several years.

He also mentioned the AASCA soccer tournament, which ISP will be hosting next February. He said the DAC is helping with things like logistics, including opening and closing ceremonies.

According to Matt, the tournament will include 26 boys teams, and potentially 26 girls teams, from six countries. All told, that could be as many as 1,000 students participating in the tournament.

At the end of his remarks, Tiffany Ulloa volunteered and was unanimously approved as the new DAC Chairperson.

10th Grade Rep - Gretel Tardio

Gretel was unanimously approved as 10th Grade Representative.

11th Grade Rep - Claudia Zavala

Claudia Zavala was unanimously approved as the 11th Grade Representative.

Family Fun Fair Committee Chair Coordinator - Priya Salvi

Priya Salvi accepted the chairperson position of the committee. The first committee meeting is slated for Nov. 21st, from 9:30 to 10:30 in the PTA office.

A call for a garage sale chairperson went unfilled. The position remains vacant.

2. Committee Updates

Jill spoke on behalf of the ES / MS / HS reps and thanked the community for their tremendous support of October's activities, specifically Artsfest, International Day and PANAMUN XXVI. She showed a short slide presentation which showed so much parental support for this event.

2.1 - Intercultural Group

Pilar Casas, the Intercultural Group Chairperson, presented on the Intercultural Group, a weekly gathering of ISP parents where languages are practiced and good times had. Jill noted that Pilar was carrying on a program established by another parent several years ago and that it is an excellent example of parent initiative.

2.2 VAPAC

Amelia Allread, VAPAC Chairperson offered her thanks for a successful ArtsFest, and encouraged parents to purchase Shrek tickets for the following week -- \$20 Adults and \$10 Students.

The show runs from Thursday Nov 22 - Sunday Nov 25.

All shows begin at 4pm.

She noted that 93 kids are participating in the musical -- from backstage to center stage to the pit. In celebration of opening night the entire community is invited to wear their Shrek shirts to school (or work) on Nov. 22nd. Shirts are available during ticket sale hours.

She said there will be a family movie night on Feb. 9th. Details are still being finalized but the general idea is to serve dinner and take in a movie -- hopefully under the stars on the main field. Families should bring a blanket or chairs. The show should start around sunset, likely after 5:30 or 6.

A STEM coordinated star gazing event is also in the early phases of being planned for after the movie.

2.3 Yearbook Photos

Flavia Vilela reported that yearbook photos sales this year have been disappointing and that it is suspected the change in the ordering and payment process is a part of the problem. This year the system went digital and sales are much lower.

The photographer has managed to extend the deadline until next Thursday Nov 22. Envelopes are being sent home to any families that have not yet placed their order. Photos are delivered before the holiday and are a great way to share and remember these precious moments in our children's lives.

2.4 Holiday Shop Committee

Jillian, Holiday Shop committee chairperson, noted that it has 15 members working diligently to create a great community event on Dec. 7th in conjunction with the elementary school Holiday Concert. The Holiday Shop is an honoured annual tradition at ISP where we invite community members and local artisans and vendors to set up a market place in our high school gym. A winter wonderland theme was initially considered but the committee has moved the focus to celebrating our beautiful community and all its diversity. The event is still looking for vendors to help sponsor the proceedings so please share our flyer with any great food or quality vendors you think our community should know about.

2.5 Dolphin Maintenance Crew Appreciation Breakfast

Tatiana Bazo, committee chairperson, noted that this year's appreciation breakfast for the school's maintenance and support staff will be held on the 5th of December.

It was also shared that these valuable members of our community will no longer be called "The Dolphins." Instead, they will be called The Dolphin Crew, as some members of the school community noted that everyone who is part of the school is a "Dolphin," and we are trying to move towards common and clear wording.

There was some concern that the old terminology was "using language that was creating a barrier," one participant in the meeting said.

Members of the PTA circulated a sign-up to help prepare food for the breakfast, which should emphasize Panamanian faire. Other ways to volunteer include helping to set up and serve breakfast, buying a food item, donating money or gifts for a raffle. Students will be joining us on

the day of the event to help serve and entertain as a demonstration of their gratitude.

There is an RSVP option in Sangha or email PTA to sign up to support this great event.

Each year we collect \$5 from each student to give a Vale gift card to each of our great Crew members. In the elementary school this is collected by class parents. Collection has been challenging in years past so in an attempt to simplify the process we are offering ACH transfer or cash payment. We are trying to collect these funds this week.

ES payment coordinate with Vanessa Kassotou for cash WhatsApp 6694-4029

Or ACH to: Jillian Monaghan

Multibank Cuenta Ahorros 10132534693

Reference ES and your class number and email a copy of the transfer to pta@isp.edu.pa.

Middle School (MS) and High School (HS) Payment can be given by students directly to Principals Vickie Swan and Erik Monson.

2.6. STEM

STEM Committee Coordinator Shayna Hodes reminded the group of the Near Space Program Capsule Launch this Saturday, Nov 17th.

Yes, we have students at ISP launching capsules into space! The PTA has supported this amazing program through micro-grants of more than \$2,000 during the past two years and we are proud and inspired by our brilliant students.

She also shared that the week of Dec. 4th - 11th there will be an After School Activities (ASA) open house, where parents are invited to come and see what happens at ASAs. Children can explore new or different after school activities.

In preparation for the HS Science Fair on January 17 ISP is looking for professional scientists to act as judges. Ultimately we hope to create a database of parents at the school with science backgrounds or skills, for field trips, internships and also for support with science fairs.

3. Administration Information and Updates

We were pleased to hear updates from Head of School Viki Stiebert, Communications Manager Jair Guevara, Marketing Manager Ana Lobos and Director of Teaching & Learning - Shawn Colleary.

Viki opened her remarks with an observation: "What cool kids you have." She spoke of the important progress being made at school. The Search associates fair this weekend and the training be offered in academic standards. A training that is hosted by iso

Jair said his team would be working with the Sangha developers to make improvements to the app and asked for feedback as our challenges and problems can help the developer improve the program for us.

The team is also working on developing a short tutorial video -- in English and Spanish -- to help parents better understand how to use the app.

In response to a question, Jair said that the Daily Digest has an open rate well above 30%, which is relatively high, compared to other industry standards.

Ana Lobos also spoke about the need for parents to share their ISP experiences, as a way to help the school market its best qualities.

She also mentioned three large projects on the horizon, including an elementary playground rebuilding, a new lift for the high school and the need to raise funds for the AASCA tourney next year. She highlighted the "need to work together to define our school priorities for shared goals/objectives, aiming to impact most or all of our students with our investments."

Shawn shared information about ISPs movement towards standards based reporting, the Inquiry process and the newly implemented Writers Workshop program.

He also shared about the process of developing the ISP Character Traits and integrating these values into the all areas of the school culture.

As a PTA we have also discussed these character traits and aspire to emulate them in our activities both on and off campus.

The meeting was closed at 11:35

The next PTA General Meeting will be held December 12 at 10am in the Elementary Conference room.

Minutes by Benton Ives PTA Secretary