



1. PTA President Jillian Monaghan opened the final PTA meeting of the year with welcome remarks and a thank you for members' hard work during the school semester.

- Jillian updated members on Elementary School activities, including the most recent holiday shop, which raised more money than the previous year's Giselle Liano, a Pre-K teacher who is currently undergoing cancer treatment
- "We can give, and we can still do really well," Jillian said about the holiday shop.
- Jillian also thanked the elementary school representatives for their help in making the Fiestas del Patria and holiday concerts a great success this year.

2. Next on the agenda was a middle school and high school update from Pamela, Claudia and Mette.

- Pamela highlighted the work the school counselors have been doing to help parents understand "what it's like for kids to go through middle school."
- She also offered thanks to the middle school representatives for all their work this year.
- Claudia and Mette followed her remarks with an update from the high school, and a thank you for all the hard work parents had put in to make the Fiestas del Patria and Dolphin Crew Appreciation Breakfasts so successful.
- They also read a letter from High School headmaster Eric Munson, who thanked everyone for their efforts.

3. School Director Viki Stiebert followed with remarks of her own, again thanking the parents for all they do to help make the school a success.

- Viki noted that there have been several challenges for the school over the last year, but said "now is the time for us to reach out."
- "We are one community," she added, saying "it's about ... the kind of model we want to set for our kids." Viki said she was going to do her best to "reach out and ... consciously bring people together" -- and she encouraged school parents to do the same.
- She concluded by thanking the PTA explicitly "for all that you do" for the school.

4. Flavia and Tatiana followed Viki with an update of the PTA's efforts over the past six months.

- Over the past six months, the PTA has organized and executed 10 events. "When everyone helps, the events run so much better," Tatiana said in an overview of the events.
- They also encouraged parents to bring new ideas -- "we need more and different things," Tatiana said.
- They also offered a brief overview of the PTA budgeting procedures, and made it clear that if anyone had any further questions or wanted anything clarified, they were happy to answer questions directly.

5. Jillian opened a discussion of PTA microgrants.



- Jillian noted that the PTA had gotten a lot of questions about how microgrants have been implemented in the past.
  - She noted that last year, those grants totaled roughly \$25,000 to the school.
  - And she said the PTA has begun discussions about how those grants should be dispersed this year. "We feel it doesn't make sense to wait until the end of the year to look at microgrants," she said.
  - For example, the PTA has been asked to sponsor a summer school program for one of the school's scholarship students, but Jillian pointed out that there isn't a clear set of policies for how the PTA should respond to that kind of request.
  - Jillian concluded by saying the PTA would continue discussing microgrants and how to best implement the program going forward into the new year.
6. Amelia Allred updated members on the VAPAC drama and arts programs.
- She said that the Shrek performance was a huge success, with over \$18,000 in ticket sales.
  - Next up, rehearsals have started for the ES Musical, Wizard of Oz - follow us down the Yellow Brick Road! She said over 70 Elementary School kids are participating -- and that's not even including those who are working backstage. All told it will likely be more than 110 kids participating in the production.
  - Amelia also noted that her group is working on the AMIS festival, which will bring over a hundred kids to Panama for a musical festival and workshops next year. Some will be traveling from as far as England and Belgium.
  - She said they were looking for 50 ISP community families to help host visiting students for four days. She noted that the school will take care of transportation and all but a handful of meals for the visitors. She said to please contact her for further details about hosting.
7. Tiffany, DAC Chairperson, followed with an update of DAC activities.
- She said she's been focusing on getting organized for AASCA, which is slated for early next year. Tiffany noted that the school is looking for donations and sponsors for athletic events particularly AASCA
  - ISP is responsible for the opening and closing ceremonies and Tiffany said "this is a great way to showcase our school."
8. Priya, FFF 2019 Chairperson, also gave an update on the Fun Fair preparations.
- She said she's been working hard to get ready for the big event, adding that this year's festival will do more to try and include high schoolers in activities.
  - She also asked anyone who has sponsor interest or information to please contact Jillian.
9. Ana Lobos updated PTA members on ongoing discussions about school uniforms.



- Ana said the school was going to be looking for parent input on any potential changes.
- She said the school was focused, in particular, on possible color changes (since several other schools in Panama have very similar colors), and possibly improving the quality of fabric used in the uniforms.
- At the meeting, some parents raised concerns about a complete overhaul of the uniforms, but Ana assured participants that the school was not considering major changes. “These are not going to be major changes,” Ana said.
- “This is the beginning of process,” Jillian added. “We’re going to get parent input before taking action.”

10. Ana Rubinihoff updated attendees on the Board activities.

- She said the new Board is committed to serving ISP and to ensuring the school’s “long-term sustainability.”
- “We can safely say things are going well,” Ana said.
- She said a key area the board is working on is “supporting our school administration...to all kind of row in the same direction.”
- “Please rest assured that every decision that is made is going to be the best for the community and will be good for the school in the long-term,” Ana said.
- Ana said she was pleased with the mix of skills and backgrounds on the Board, noting that members have experience working in finance and human resources..

11. Jillian concluded the meeting with a note of thanks and said she was looking forward to “all that we can accomplish in the New Year.”