



## PARENT/TEACHER ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES October 3, 2017

**PTO Vice-President Kendra Tutunjian** opened the meeting welcoming everyone to the second PTO meeting of the school year. A total of 30 people was in attendance.

Guests:

ISL Director *Eric Larson*:

The school director mentioned during Tuesday's meeting that the CIS/NEASC accreditation survey yielded 120 responses (120 parents filled out the survey) from the community. He also mentioned that on November 4, an all-day retreat is scheduled to review and look deeply into the mission and vision of the school and its strategic plans. On the other hand, aside from the building construction, there is another construction going on to increase the parking lot and add 35 more spaces. Also, the results of the pre-accreditation visit will be announced soon. Finally, the quarterly newsletter (Lynx) is coming later this month.

ES Principal *David Callaway*, Secondary School Principal *Mark Robertson Jones*, Athletics Director *Sergejs Baltmanis*, ISL Counselor *Rebecca Joslin*, MS/HS PE Teacher *Kyle Redshaw*, PYP Coordinator *Beth Martin*, and ASA Coordinator and CAS Coordinator *Ulvis Kravalis*.

The school's upcoming events:

- October 2 - 5 Talent Show Auditions
- October 2 - 6 Think Pink Week - Breast Cancer Awareness week
- October 10 End of 1st Quarter
- October 16 - 20 Fall Break
- October 23 - 25 MS/HS Musical Auditions
- October 26 - PTO Bake Sale
- October 27 - 10:00-19:00 Parent/Student/Teacher (PST) Conferences
- October 30 - 11th Annual ISL Food Drive begins
- November 6 -10 - Spirit Week

Elementary School - David "Cal" Callaway ([dcallaway@isl.edu.lv](mailto:dcallaway@isl.edu.lv))

- October 6 - ES Activities Day
- October 6 - 7 ES PYP workshop (teachers and TAs)
- October 12 - ES Talent Show Dress Rehearsal
- October 13 - ES Talent Show

- November 2 3:00 - ES Assembly Library K-2
- November 3 2:50 - ES Assembly Library 3-5

Secondary School – Mark Robertson-Jones ([markrobertsonjones@isl.edu.lv](mailto:markrobertsonjones@isl.edu.lv))

- October 6 8:45-10:00 - MYP Parent Meeting (all parents invited)
- October 6 17:30-19:30 - Middle School Fall Dance
- November 3 8:45-10:00 MYP Parent Meeting

**New set of board members:** During the first PTO meeting of the school year, a new set of board members was elected. The complete list can also be found in the school's website under the PTO page:

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| President:                  | Chantal Kool  |
| Vice-Presidents:            | Kendra Tutunjian/Eva Tsakiroglou  |
| Secretary:                  | Jingky Lowe   |
| Treasurer:                  | Carola Solter   |
| Communications Coordinator: | Monica Ussia  |
| Logistics Coordinator:      | Savvas Andreadis  |
| Room Parent Coordinator:    | Vija Pugule (This position is now vacant and we welcome anyone interested to fill in the position. Please email PTO or talk to any of the board members). |

**Room Parent Role and updates:** Eva Tsakiroglou discussed the roles of the room parents and also mentioned the meeting that happened last Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Present during the meeting were 14 room parents.

The minutes and guidance regarding class parties and class funds were distributed. Another meeting is scheduled towards the end of November.

School Counselor- Rebecca Joslin ([rjoslin@isl.edu.lv](mailto:rjoslin@isl.edu.lv))

- October 25 8:45 - Counselor Parent Coffee – topics to be discussed will be on Parenting (understanding yourself and your child) and it will alternate with another topic on personal safety.

**Athletic and Activities Coordinator *Sergejs Baltmanis***

- October 5 MS boys and girls friendly games with Julius Verne French School
- October 7-8 MS and HS friendly games in Pinki
- October 9 Jr. NBA event at ISL for Gr.5-6
- November 2-5 CEESA MS Boys (Kiev) and MS Girls (Skopje) soccer tournaments
- November 8-12 CEESA HS Boys (Sofia) and HS Girls (ISL) soccer tournaments
- November 16-19 CEESA MS Robotics competition in Tirana, Albania

- November 26-29 CEESA MS Speech and Debate in St. Petersburg, Russia (TBC)
- March 31-April 7 Ski Trip (Mr. Redshaw) A Ski Trip to Switzerland is now being organized for Grades 6-12 – Viamonde MS and HS Ski and Snowboard Program. This is a 6-day camp that is scheduled during the March break. The cost is between €1750-1900). Please contact Mr. Redshaw (MS & HS PE Teacher) for more details.

#### **ASA Coordinator/CAS Coordinator Ulvis Kravalis.**

- November 11, Fencing tournament among schools hosted in ISL.
- November 25, FencingFun (ÉpéeFun) Parent/Teacher/Student event.

**PTO Treasurer *Carola Solter*** reported the following as expenses for the months of August and September: Beach Walk - €32.50, Riga City Tour - €40.00, PTO Lunch - €40.00, and Parent-Teacher Night Out - €100.00. The PTO money on hand is € 1, 057.

**PTO Activities for the school year:** A list of identified PTO activities for the school year was distributed during the meeting. If anybody is interested to help in any of the activities, please let us know. The PTO will definitely need more hands.

#### **PTO Events**

Last month:

- Riga City Tour – Feedback: It was a good introduction to the city. It was fun and we learned numerous interesting facts about the history and infrastructure around Riga.
- First PTO Lunch – This was well-attended with 28 people enjoying lunch at Singh’s Restaurant.
- Parent-Teacher Night Out – Attendance was a good mix of teachers and parents that enjoyed the

#### **Upcoming Events. Mark your calendars!**

- Riga Central Market Tour and Lunch – October 11 @ 11 am.
- Apple Bake Sale – October 26 @ 11:30 am. Please label your baked goods with the ingredients in order to facilitate proper ‘distribution’ to kids with certain food allergies.

#### **Action Points from Last Meeting:**

- Informational Coffee Mornings – this is a series of Monday mornings where the PTO will be conducting Q&As especially targeted for the new families. The first session is scheduled on October 23 at 8:45 in the morning.
- The minutes of the meetings are now uploaded on the school’s website under the PTO page. They are also available on the PTO’s Facebook page.

### **Comments and Suggestions:**

- Roberto Battioni, one of our PTO members and a chef is conducting cooking classes for anybody interested. All classes will run for 3 hours, covering 4 dishes. More information to follow.
- There were questions raised regarding Halloween and Spirit week (kids wear a different outfit based on a daily theme) – more details to follow.

Next PTO Meeting: Tuesday, November 7/ 9am @ the Media Center. Please join us and bring a friend.

- If you have any questions, please contact us @ [pto@isl.edu.lv](mailto:pto@isl.edu.lv).
- Visit our Facebook page: Parent Teacher Organization @ ISL.