



The Awty International School
Houston

Awty School Council Session: December 19, 2007
Approved February 13, 2008

ATTENDEES:

Administration/faculty/staff

Janet Bridger
Claire Bruno-Bedouet
Marieke Geurts
M. Jean Stephan
Dr. Watson

Board

Tony Banham

APPA representative

Students

Emilie Gaultier
Zachary Goldman
Elise Hannaford

Parents

Dr. Anneke Valk-Schreuder

Previous School Council MOD can be found at:

<http://www.awty.org/parentsSchoolCouncil.php>

Welcome to all by Dr. Watson

- Minutes of last meeting (October 31)
distributed at meeting, approved without correction.

- Global Warming/ Environmental awareness in the school (Dr. Valk)
The recent developments in Bali are too important to let go without resonance in the school.

There are already a lot of wonderful initiatives going on, like the paper recycling and the environmental advice line in the Upper School Notes, and the Communique to E-Communique, the solar powered lamps and the shower heads to name but a few.

It would be really great if the energy reduction and environmental awareness would be

even more in the forefront of the attention. This is a subject that is at the core of our International oriented education and essential in global thinking.

There are two main strands to look into:

- Firstly, to incorporate lessons on energy efficiency and global warming. Like using the website www.carbonfootprint (try to reduce for one week and take the test again) and follow up on the www.NYtimes.dotearth website, SustainUS. Complete lesson plans are available on the web (KISD example, my own lower school) parents could come in and talk, IPC (international primary curriculum).
- Secondly, what we can do here and now in our school to reduce the amount of energy used. This would not only be a good role model but carry over in teaching awareness

There were various suggestions coming up such as:

recycling bins for paper and for plastic bottles, do away with styrofoam drinking cups, and the plastic plates in the lunchroom will go as soon as the new washer is installed.

Dr. Watson is very supportive of this and among other initiatives the school is already recycling paper. The AC's are running in the summer to keep the computers "alive" He mentions a school in the Middle East, where all electronic equipment was moved to one room during the summer. AC's are managed by the Maintenance Department (ask Mr. D. Davis)

As December is a very busy time we would like to ask the school council participants to brainstorm about ideas that are reasonable and doable and come back to the subject at the next meeting.

- English levels in French Section (Mr. J Stephan)

There is a slightly different name for the English lessons in the French section: every level that is not native level is called ESL.

There are different levels of instruction in the English language in the French section. The number of different level groups in Lower School is more or less the same as in Middle School. The Division Heads are involved in the organization of the English lessons, in the Language Department Mr. Guy Benet is involved with levels for all languages. The ESL Department will also work towards the English lessons for non native English speakers, including the students from the French section.

- College Early Admissions (Dr. Watson)

Taking into account the relatively small numbers of our graduating class the following list of early admissions is quite impressive, and including but not all:

Rice (3), Columbia (2), Brown (1), Stanford (1), Georgetown (1), Vasar (1), Emory (1) and MIT deferred (2)

Emilie mentions that the college application process is complicated and particularly difficult for French students. She would welcome an informative meeting. Elise would be interested in a session on how to research for schools.

The dynamics in the French section are changing: previously the majority of students were going back to France for university, but currently the majority stays in North America. This adds to the workload of the college counseling department and next year we will have three counselors. Although most schools know the IB and the French Bac, not all schools are familiar with the OIB, our classes are all considered honor classes. M Stephan mentions there is an explanation in Wikipedia.

- Awty admissions (Dr. Watson)

Admission is capped at 1180. Awty is high in demand and we have already received 300 applications for next year. Marieke asks about places for expats, who typically hear (much) later in the year than our Dec. 15 deadline, if they will have an assignment in Houston. Admission for the French section, as a French national school, is on a first come first serve basis. (total students French section 465 and International 715)

- Any other business

Stadium progression: stands are done, the clock tower is in, service building is up, the two pads for the tennis courts are in place and the track and field is coming on nicely too. Official opening could be as early as mid March.

Nothing but Nets: students thank the school for letting them do the fundraiser for malaria nets, \$275 was raised! (\$10 buys one net)

- **Next SC meeting:** April 2, 2008.