



AWTY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Awty Parents and Personnel Association (APPA)
Board Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2014

Welcome and Call to Order

- 1) Jill Munk, President, called the meeting at 8:10 am.
- 2) Motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting. Moved, seconded, passed.
- 3) Review of action items:
 - a) Counter for the APPA blog (to monitor how many times the blog is accessed/read) cannot be installed.
 - b) The presentation on math curriculum could be organized only as an evening event, not a morning one.
 - c) Organizing APPA inventory: we had 2 volunteers, neither involved in APPA, helping with inventory
 - d) Volunteers for family events at Awty don't need to be approved. We could relook at if we want to always have approved volunteers

Treasurer's Report – C. Houy

- 1) See budget
- 2) No questions; Sage seems to be slow on invoices.

Head of school- Lisa Darling

- 1) **New Provisieur** : Head of school Lisa Darling introduced Christine Chourre. She had come 3 times to Awty before being hired and was heavily involved in the daily run of the French track via skype and phone. Lisa Darling extremely happy and pleased with the partnership and collaboration created between her and Christine. A wine and cheese gathering for parents to meet the new Provisieur is in the works.
- 2) **Christine Chourre**: happy to be here and inviting everybody to stop by her office.
- 3) **Kevin McTernan** : He was Interim Director of Advancement (replacing Ronald Jackson) and now full time director.
- 4) **Lisa Darling**- other developments:
 - a. Reema Kasavich resigned. The new Annual Fund person: Chantel Olufsen. Born in Norway; she starts 27th October.
 - b. IB coordinator: Isabelle Vandyke – her visa process is going well but slow, pushing the start of her work at Awty from Nov. to sometimes bet Nov. and January. The interim coordinator is doing well.

- c. Grade 11th : some issues with finding supervisors for students' extended essays, teachers can take only 8-10 people, (psychology, economics), parents are concerned about it. IB students do independent essays; IB is very strict about how many hours coordinators can talk to students. IB regulation encourages independence. This is an issue other IB schools confront with as well.

Events

Care and concern- Cristina Feder

- 1) Creating a care calendar, where people can log in and offer help
- 2) The committee helped with appointments at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Or they just send flowers and a card wishing the family member a fast recovery
- 3) Concern about confidentiality: maybe a note in Awty notes "we don't reach out to families, the families reach out to care and concern"
- 4) A meeting with care and concern liaisons coming up to clarify issues; they hope to get one liaison per grade
- 5) They had a meeting with heads of schools and counselors to be clear about channels of communication
- 6) They put a note on the APPA blog about their latest meeting
- 7) Introducing Mara Troop who helps the committee

Awty Fine Arts Booster Club- Rita Murdoch

- 1) Nov 5 hopefully to open the bistro, from 3 to 5 pm.
- 2) Looking for a name for the bistro to differentiate it from Rams Booster Bistro : school gifted them with a refrigerator, ready to go, only food needs to be purchased
- 3) Suggestion to reach out to Rams booster to inquire about the logistics of doing it
- 4) Top T-shirts- designs; "Unleash the artist in yourself" ; " Imagination makes you infinite" in several languages
- 5) Any baking sale? They need to get through a formal process to get all the activities approved; the first one will be the bistro
- 6) Bistro will be located between staff cafeteria recital hall; healthy snacks, looking at licenses to sell homemade goods; suggestion to contact experienced parents such as Mariella de Jong, Annie Dunkin

7) Awty Cultural Connections- Gino Castoriano Coulom

- 1) Goal: to reinforce a sense of community, bring people together in one school, sharing common interests, events, etc. Most events are free.
- 2) Events held at people's house: past events : baguette baking, Venezuelan breakfast, today arts and crafts
- 3) Future events: CPR workshop, a second tour for Chinatown tour
- 4) French conversation group: meeting once a month to practice their French and plan various outings to French plays, restaurants, trips, etc.

Odyssey of the Mind- Suneeta Rangwani

- 1) International problem solving competition; teams of 7 kids each
- 2) Not enough parent coaches; middle school parents to be trained
- 3) Membership bought for Awty entitles us to 14 teams
- 4) Suneeta's team (5th graders) advanced to state in its first year of competition
- 5) \$1,000 per person going to the world championship (room, board and travel) - funds need to be raised, plus the "solution" needs to be transported it
- 6) presenting kids' projects- last year they presented to their classmates, to generate interest and spread the word about it
- 7) idea for fund raising:
 - a) request to share APPA account for deposits of raised funds
 - b) meet with accounting office to determine best way fit
- 8) 3rd graders team is mixed International and French students
- 9) something in Awty notes to increase awareness? They offered the 22 kids theater workshops organized by Alley theater, 3 workshops offered already, and 3 more to come
- 10) 35\$ registration fee per team

Dragon Boat race - Barbara Schmidt

- 1) Amazing weather, 3 Awty boats, 20 kids in each boat
- 2) 10th year of attendance for Awty, present from the very beginning of the race
- 3) 13 teams participated, Awty won for "The best attitude on and off water"
- 4) 2 upper school teams competed in the gold medal final,
- 5) a new location for practice ; possibility to make it a club activity throughout the year; they would like to get a boat and go on the Bayou; they could earn CAAS hours, cleaning the bayou, etc,
- 6) 3 boats:
 - a. 1st boat: upper school (9-12th grade)
 - b. 2nd boat : only 11th graders, because there were 30 11th graders
 - c. 3rd boat: middles school (6-8th grade) sponsored by the Booster club

Liaison Reports

US International / French

- 1) high demand for supervisors for IB extended essays; teachers cannot take more than 8-10 students

Miscellaneous- Jill Munk

- 2) Admissions Open House- Nov 9, volunteers tour guides needed
- 3) Letters- from a dental office in Sugarland, APPA got a \$100 check for referral
- 4) Future plans:
 - a) There was an executive committee mtg- liaisons are to report directly to VPs, which alleviates the president's workload, committee chairs still report directly to the president
 - b) Nominating committee for the April elections, need names to be published by March, need to have everything by February, if interested contact Jill by Christmas
 - c) Open online vote for APPA slate
 - d) 3 open APPA meetings needed according to bylaws; an open invitation for the December meeting with a spotlight on ACC – 10-15 minutes, probably in café,
 - e) Possible new way of spending APPA budget carryover:

- i) every year we have carryover (Catherine does an excellent job); at the APPA executive meeting was discussed the possibility of putting a line in our budget to make sure these moneys will be spent on a focused effort to build a legacy. We can use the wishlist from administration and purchase an item; we want to preplan, make it intentional
- ii) Supporting the school line item budget. Gift to be determined later in the year, when we have a good grasp of our budget; more flexible than a pledge
- iii) A budget review committee proposed – determine if our spending reflects our mission
- f) Request made to have an adhoc committee to determine if this initiative is a reasonable one; Catherine has been treasurer for 8 years. Committee with dual role: to familiarize with the budget- and help our treasurer plan the budget. A motion to set up a committee, seconded, moved.

In attendance: Jill Munk, Aimee Flood, Lisa Darling, Catherine Houy, Rosanna Bennett, Cherie Chalk, Rita Murdoch, Catherine Houy, Cristina Feder, Suneeta Rangwani, Ibela Penichet, Barbara Schmidt, Sheri McDonald, Gino Coulom, Jo Strachan, Talia Kallop, Ana-Maria Nicolae, Merel Ligtenberg, Kim Lloyds, Lorraine Talbot, Grace Tee Lewis, Mara Nieto Troop, Andrea Garcia-Ahmed, Doreen Hanrahan

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 am