

**PTA Final Open Meeting for 2008-2009 School Year  
Thurs 9 July 2009 @ 9 AM**

**Attendees:** Lucy Capon, Monique Rubin, Jolanda Bowring, Marjan Oloomi, Joyce Steinmetz, Graeme Scott, Becky Brannan Anderson, Saima Choudhary, Sheree Coomber, Susan Waldron, Sue Haldemann, et al

**Apologies:** Sue Smuts, Sue Tee

**Agenda:** **Summer Fayre – Post-Fayre Discussion & Feedback; PTA-Only Spring Fling for Spring 2010; Some Dates for the Diary 2009-2010; PTA Funds Allocation Voting; Welcome Committee Update; Constitutional Amendment – Board Elections; Board Resignations; Additions to the Agenda (Further Business)**

<i>Item</i>		<i>Action</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Summer Fayre – Post-Fayre Discussion &amp; Feedback</b>	
	<p>Summer Fayre overall considered successful with positive feedback from most parents. Questions were raised whether this event should continue to be considered a fundraising event or a just-for-fun event similar to Halloween; however, Graeme indicated that there needs to be some fundraising at the school, and this is the best venue for it in Primary. Parents also raised concerns about the tee shirt price being too costly at €10; it was noted that it was a fair price considering it was the admissions ticket to all events. It also was more practical rather than having lost physical tickets or misplaced passports as in past years, and the tee shirts can be worn an indeterminate number of times in the future. Tee shirts helped parents running stalls because it was apparent which children had tickets for the activities. Selling tee shirts in advance helped determine how many families might be attending so that costs could better be estimated.. Costs for the Fayre were kept lower this year by having each class pay for its own stall. Some parents also suggested that for future events, water could be taken from the taps and kept in jugs</p>	<b>LC/GS/SC/ SC</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>PTA-Only Spring Fling for Spring 2010</b>	
	<p>For 2010, the Summer Fayre will be replaced by the Spring Fling which will be a Primary School-only event and will be held earlier in Spring so that it does not conflict with year-end events. This decision was made because of the age difference between the children in the Primary and Secondary schools since what appeals to one age group is unappealing to or unsafe for another.</p>	<b>LC/GS</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>PTA Fund Allocation Voting</b>	
	<p>According to the PTA Constitution, 91% of parents voted via a past questionnaire that funds raised by the PTA should be used directly for the benefit of the Primary School and its children and not for any other purpose (ie., charitable contributions); some parents are opposed and</p>	<b>LC/GS/SC</b>

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	<p>feel that PTA funds should at least in part be donated to charity. Graeme explained how limited the Primary School budget is and that it primarily needs to go toward sourcing quality staff which is why fundraising is an important part of the ISH PTA. However, it was agreed that there should be some flexibility regarding the 91% vote since many of those parents may no longer have children attending the school, and the discussion to include a portion of future PTA funds for charities will be discussed when school resumes for the 2009-2010 school year. Graeme suggested that if some future PTA funds are allocated to charity, then it might be more democratic to allow the children to choose the charities which helps to promote the children's sense of responsibility and awareness.</p> <p>At this time, PTA funds totaling approximately €4,000 will be allocated toward various items for the playground. Ideas put forth included monkey bars or a swinging bridge for the Lower School playground which cost approximately €800 each rather than larger equipment which can cost from €7,000 to €10,000; and a super-size chalkboard for the Upper School playground. Some extra expenses will be safety-related, such as rubber tiles for under the monkey bars. Another considerable expense is in removing poles on the Upper School playground which has been discussed in the past, so it might be more feasible to work with the poles (ie., purchasing a super-sized chalkboard) rather than trying to remove them – and some children love the poles and would be unhappy if they were removed. A parent suggested that using a thermometer poster (showing the amount raised to date and the amount needed to reach the goal) at school might help parents understand why fundraising is needed (such raising money toward costly playground equipment), but the consensus was that at ISH with its varied population spanning the globe, it would not be feasible.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Welcome Committee (Welcome Group) Update</b>	
	<p>The Welcome Committee (AKA (also known as) the Welcome Group) and Buddy Families will be present at the New Family Induction Day in late August with cookies, coffee and tea as well as useful information for new families; more details will be sent to Buddy Families via email closer to the event. The Welcome Group also is collating a Welcome Pack for new families, a questionnaire for new families who wish to be matched with a current ISH family, and will organize a group for The Hague Welcome event when school resumes. Other ideas include asking ACCESS to be present at new family/Meet the Teacher events and organizing a group to attend the Expat Fair in autumn.</p>	<b>JB/JS</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Some Dates for the Diary: 2009-2010 School Year</b>	
	- Welcome Back Picnic: Sunday 27 September	<b>GS</b>

<i>Item</i>		<i>Action</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Halloween Party: Wednesday 28 October</li> <li>- Winter Festival: TBA (to be announced) for a December date</li> <li>- Quiz Night: 14 January</li> <li>- Spring Fling: Saturday 24 April</li> <li>- Car Boot Sale: TBA (to be announced) for a May date</li> </ul>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Constitutional Amendment - Board Elections</b>	
	As approved at the last Open Meeting in May, the Constitution has been amended to change the date of Board Elections <i>from</i> February <i>to</i> approximately Easter time; this decision was made to allow a transition period for new Board Members with current Board Members. The new Board then will take effect at the start of the following school year with the current Board serving until the end of the current school year.	<b>LC</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>PTA Board Resignations</b>	
	The following Board members resigned effective the end of this school year, creating four (4) open Board positions out of six (6): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lucy Capon, Chair</li> <li>- Monique Rubin, Vice-Chair/Fundraising</li> <li>- Marjan Oloomi, Class Rep Coordinator</li> <li>- Sue Smuts, Treasurer (not present)</li> </ul>	<b>LC/MR/MO</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Additions to the Agenda</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Fundraisers for Charities</u>: Suggestions were made to hold additional and specific fundraisers for charity, such as Costume/National Dress/International Day (maybe for Lower School to organize) in addition to the Shoe Box charity. Graeme again proposed the idea of the children in Upper School having an active role in choosing the charity or charities to which the PTA then would donate funds. Another parent suggested that a percentage of all funds raised by the PTA would then be donated to the charity or charities of the children's choice at the end of the year.</li> <li>- <u>Open Meeting Minutes</u>: Minutes of Open Meetings will be posted directly to the website for both parents attending meetings as well as the general parent population rather than also being sent to each individual parent attending the meeting. This change has been made for timeliness reasons since all minutes need to go through an approval process before being disseminated.</li> </ul>	<b>LC/GS/SC/ JS</b>