

### PTA 2014/2015 - Agenda for Meeting 3

Date – Wednesday 22/10/2014

Time – 8.15 – 9.30am

Location – Chapel

#### IN ATTENDANCE

PP1		Camila Giannella	CG
P1	Secretary	Robert Davies	RD
PP2		Juliana Mendonça	JMP
PP3		Gabriela Rinzler Mizne	GM
P2		Daniela Preti Magalhaes	DM
P3	Chair	Adriana Sancovsky Shor	AS
P4		Susan Purdie	SP
P5		Maria Pasquatti	MP
F1		Mariana Tarraf Conte	MTC
F3		Beatriz Madureira	BM
F5		Leda Machado	LM
L6		Maria Martha Costa Mace	MCM
U6		Analia Pescio Valentini	APV

Head	Ms. Simpson	LS
Deputy Headmaster	Mr. Morgan	PM
Senior School	Ms. Simpson	LS
Prep School	Mrs. Allum	SA
Pre Prep School	Dr. Baldisseri	AHB
Head of Sports	Mr McMorrow	SS
Bursar	Mr. Sapsezian	NS

## APOLOGIES

F2		Angelica de Diego	AdD
F4	Treasurer	Marjorie Marshall	MM

## CHARITY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT (PM)

**School involvement in Charities.** 31 senior school pupils went to Diadema to visit Acer for a Children's Day street party. They worked enthusiastically on a Saturday for the benefit of the children. The hours count for CAS within IB requirements.

The PTA would like to congratulate and thank the pupils of St Paul's for responding to the request for help from Acer, facilitated by PTA parents F5 to U6 and with a small financial support from the PTA (hired a bus).

## ACADEMIC ISSUES

### **Sixth form issue**

In last meeting PTA it was mentioned that the school has a new Director of Studies who is working hard on a series of important themes. He will be reporting to the Board in October including initial thoughts on how to plan for the next two years for this important topic.

*How is this going? Any feedback from the Board?*

Academic Strategy was presented to the board and well appreciated. There is a lot going on. Many fronts. Rather than present piece-meal, Ms Simpson said she would communicate with parents when the review was complete. But she was very happy with the progress.

*Timetabling across the school.*

Ms Simpson talked to the PTA about efforts to look in a more holistic way at the timetable, its connectedness across the school, its impact across the years. This is a major task and any changes to the shape of the week will be likely to happen in August 2016, not before.

### **Teaching staff levels**

Unfortunately, there have been some issues around staff for prep and senior school due

to “unexpected” staff shortages. This is a recurrent issue over the last few years. *The PTA suggests that the school should look into structural solutions to better resolve “unexpected”, but recurrent shortages.*

Ms Simpson explained that additional “spare” staff would add to fees. However, rather than use ‘supply teachers’, the school would rather use internal resources in a flexible way to plug temporary, unexpected gaps. She was also looking at ways to share pooled spare capacity across English language schools in Sao Paulo but this was, at present, no more than an idea to be explored.

## GENERAL SCHOOL ISSUES

### Communication

#### *Ms Simpson’s Drinks Parties*

Adriana Shor (Chair) thanked Ms Simpson and the staff for having hosted the drinks to meet parents. Many parents appreciated being given the opportunity to meet her.

The PTA is moving to a system where more issues will be resolved in the separate School meetings,

*Could we suggest that we synthesize the minutes and annex to the minutes of the full meeting? (eg solution to recent Maths teacher vacancy)*

This was seen as positive. The PTA will make sure that the minutes are written up from the school meetings and annexed to the full-PTA meeting.

### Recognition

We understand that several children have achieved excellent results in distinct disciplines eg Athletics. There are mentions in the Paulean. *Could we understand how the school recognizes these achievements internally and if students feel their efforts and talents valued so we (as PTA) can be aligned with the school’s philosophy?*

Ms Simpson is moving from Monthly to Weekly full school assemblies. This will improve communication in general and will allow more timely congratulations to pupils who have achieved notable performances. Mr McMorrow also mentioned how the sports department uses the noticeboards for congratulations and other information. There is also a sports dinner each year where celebration is the main focus.

Philosophically the school believes in celebrating individual and collective achievement whether it is for the school or outside the school. And, we were asked to ensure parents know that the school encourages them to send in information about non-school achievements in any field that may be of note.

### Access to school for pick up/drop of and ECAs

There are indications that armed bodyguards (and/or others) are entering the school premises.

*Although no specific incidences have been reported, we would like to bring this to the attention to the school.*

The issue was discussed and the school is very clear that arms should not be allowed on school premises.

## TRAFFIC + SECURITY

The implementation of the new traffic charter has been working reasonably well. The parking in front of the Z-Deli has improved allowing better traffic flow. Movement in front of the school in the pick up and drop off area is glacial at times, but is better. When the new scheme started initial reports to the PTA were that some emails with photos have received feedback others haven't. This is because not enough information was given. The system is now working much better.<sup>2</sup>

During the implementation it became clear that the perceived risk of an accident on the crossing on Gabriel Monteiro da Silva is real. For one in two light changes, children and adults cross on the red man.

*Discussion on next steps:*

1. *Reinforce messaging on photos and have clear policy and communication to parents*
2. *Look at how to improve safety on crossing*
3. *Monitor ability to perpetuate scheme with current staffing..*
4. *Await new building before starting pick up for PP and P1/2 as described in memo.*
5. *PTA will continue to look for routes to CET for traffic light change.*

Ms Simpson also asked if the school should look at offering a paid for after school club for those that would like to pick up their children later. This is very common in the UK for junior children (up to P5 until 6pm). The PTA was enthusiastic about this idea.

PTA will pick up on Bus, collective transport in the future, to concentrate on Juquiá.

## OTHER MATTERS

### Sports

In the last meeting we highlighted the elevator issue. There have been one or two incidents. Mr Sapsezian, said he believes that the systems are in place, so will investigate and will look for a permanent solution to the elevator issue.

Water availability for visiting sports teams was deemed to be still an issue. The School

will look in to this.

Mr McMorrow was present as head of sport department a number of issues were discussed;

- They will work on communication improve communication to parents about sports activities
- A teacher/supervisor should always be present on a transport provided by the school on school related activities.
- ECA 2015 activities will be communicated in December for January to June. It is hard to commit to August to December due to teacher changes in August forcing changes to timing. The spirit is to maintain timings for a year where possible.
- Recommendation that no adult should be in the children's changing rooms. School will look into changing room supervision.

### **Uniforms**

Sports: swimming suits were liberated to be 'navy blue' to help to improve quality and reduce costs relative to the times that they will swim.

*We would like to thank you for the communication. The shops in 'School Street' are without stock and what there is, is of poor quality.*

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## **EVENTS AND FUND RAISING**

### **Second Hand Uniform Sale**

It was its usual success, no real differences from other years.

Still lots of stock left over.

R\$4000 plus was raised

### **Sports Centre Opening**

Saturday 29th November:

Mr McMorrow described the sort of support that would be helpful from the PTA, particularly for the on-the-day logistics for the Biathlon; front of school, numbers, etc. as well as perhaps PTA-funded gifts of water, snacks, etc. an ambulance on sight, etc The PTA would like to help and three volunteers stepped up.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

We have been receiving feedback from older and younger pupils about Sodexo people behaviour. *We just wanted to bring this to your attention for you to see if there is smoke without fire or the reverse.*

This has been addressed by the school over the last two weeks.