

SJASL Parent Group – February 21, 2023
Meeting Notes

Discussion regarding meeting logistics:

- Decision not to record meeting
- Noted that screencast from Bradley will be available to parents

Head of School (Updates and Agenda Topics)

1. Action Items

a. Soccer Academy Proposal

- Information shared regarding boarding income (\$28-48K for boarders). Soccer students will have different fee levels. Revenue estimated between \$600-800K.
SJA would break even with 75 soccer students (need to break even next year to finance new facility).
- Conversation with Easter Seals is ongoing. Arena in Langford is available for far less due to partnership with Pacific Football Club (PFC)
- PFC has started marketing. Should find out final numbers in 6 weeks.
- Aiming for another 20 international boarders for September 2023.
- Jamar Dixon (PFC) could get bus license and drive the soccer students. This would mean an extra bus driver is not required.
- All info available on parent portal.

b. Nourishment Program Update

- Less waste with new salad bar and more people eating healthy greens.
- Noted that there has been positive feedback.
- Parent interest in expanding the salad bar to more days.

2. Agenda Topics

a. Academic Program Discussion

- Student Profile – aiming for a 50/50 split of local/international students.
- Mr Archer would like to run more outdoor CAS options. Parents are supportive of more outdoor activities in general. Spring will see more outdoor education as part of PE.
- Educational Goals: Prioritizing holistic learning. Want more learner centered and interdisciplinary education.
- Desire to improve the blending of the two school communities (boarders/day students).
- Aiming for IB Diploma Program authorization in September.
- Looking to join the Canadian Association of Independent Schools (CAIS). Need to be operating as a school for 5 years. We hope to apply one year early for CAIS. NEAS certification is also a plan for the future.
- We continue to look at research around Drop-everything-and-read (DEAR). It is part of the daily schedule up to Grade 8. We want to prioritize reading.

- o Students can read anything that is in physical print. Online is too hard to monitor.
- o Question whether there be a distinction between younger (up to gr 7) and upper cohorts.
- o Suggestion that typing/organization courses would be more useful for older grades during this period.
- Discussion about food delivery policies. The school currently allows for delivery through the office. But this is causing inequity and work for staff.
 - o Parents think this should not be happening during school hours. Deliveries could be managed for after school events/activities.
 - o Policy should be created by the school and shared with parents for their information.

Parent Community Engagement Group (Updates and Agenda Topics)

3. Action Items

- a. PCEG Constitution and Bylaws
 - Suggested edits made regarding signing authorities.
 - Unanimous vote to approve Bylaws and Constitution.
- b. Survey
 - Consider question about fundraising/donations on survey.
 - Include questions about the bus – possible interest in having a family rate for the bus (vs each student) to increase students on bus.
 - Solicit uniform idea/input on the survey.
- c. Teacher Appreciation (May)
 - Need to pick a date and come up with some ideas. Will this be a food fair? A potluck dinner? Could the students serve the staff?
 - Need to set a budget.
 - Noted that there are 54 staff members.

4. Agenda Topics

- a. PCEG Web Update
 - Web portal is up and running and will be expanded as needed.
 - Emails need to still be set up for parent portal.
- b. Fundraising Committee/Projects
 - Concern about the number of fundraisers. Could the teachers coordinate more? Could there be more focused charities?
 - Suggestion to ask parents what we would be willing to donate rather than constantly having fundraisers.
 - Noted that PCEG now has a bank account.

- o A gaming grant is being applied for between April and June (based on enrolment). Not possible to set up for this year.

c. Uniforms

- Most items are now in stock. Fleece are hard to come by.
- Suggestion to have a parent-run uniform swap and shop in the Spring and Fall.
- Suggestion to add swimsuits to the uniform package if there are going to be more waterfront activities.
- Noted that new students will be required to purchase the uniform package from the school shop.
- SJA is working to set up an online shop for casual SJASL gear (hoodies etc).

5. Leadership Team Survey

- Generally positive responses
- Noted that Mr Bradley's survey only received 36 responses.
- Encourage people to participate – boost survey on Facebook and the parent portal.