

PTA Meeting, 20 September, 2011

1900 -2100 NGG International Staff Room

Present at the meeting were representatives from all classes. Carina Mörtl (K1), Vasanthi Jayaweera (K2), Christa Schraeverus-Mulder (1i), Saskia van Heerikhuizen (2i), Toni Bird (3i), Catherine Studsgaard (4i), Yvonne Gautam (5i), Bettina Farahani (6i), Heather Gartside (7i) Anna Wieghorst (8i), Jenny van den Panhuyzen/Uhel (9i), Jan Thrane (Tr), Torben Sundstrøm (Su), Karen Johansen (Jo), Jan Alling (Al), Michelle Bentsen (Bn – Teachers Rep)), Birgitte Fræmohs (Fm - Minute taker)

1. Welcome from Heather Gartside Knudsen who began the meeting by saying what a great start to the year it had been with the International Family Day, also the success of the new aula and bathroom. The PTA is evolving this year, the success of the monthly PTA meetings and JO has a meeting with Class Reps once a month. Much better communication helps us all
2. Introduction of all participants.
3. Approval of the last PTA meeting (June 2011). Approved, Bettina Farahani asked: Does Spanish classes have a class room? Yes, they do (Al).
4. Message from NGG I Administration.
 - Principal Jan Thrane (Tr): Welcoming all, informed that the school finance situation was not good, red numbers. Must wait and see what the new “red” government will bring, but anyhow NGG will not raise the school fee to CIS level.
 - Welcoming Class Reps, Explaining the role of being a Class Rep, working together (Reps and Admin) for the better of the children. Last year Reps did a wonderful job. Admin is very pleased and happy. Jan Thrane hopes it will continue.
 - Good start to the school year, went to Tivoli with DA & INT department Grade 9 students – and did physics experiments for Talents. Huge success; teachers will try to do more of the same during the school year.

- Was also very impressed with the International Day. Looking forward to Blandede Bolcher, Welcome Party, Christmas etc. - continue having arrangements together with the Danish department.
- Parking: Showing new plan by Heather and Tr. Meeting w/owners of Cirkelhuset. Hoping for approval. Anna Wieghorst: Will NGG ID have School Patrol like the one at the Danish Department ? Tr: Yes maybe, in the morning - from Grade 7 and upwards.
- Støtteforeningen: Received a gift, new chairs to the gymnasium, curtains, playground, mimio system. 250.000 DKK for Ællingen playground (rubber-matting to allow water running through).
- Internet: New Fibernet. Apologized, it crashed due new system – trying to use programme that excluded Facebook etc. Now up and running again.
- New curriculum: Tr attended meetings w/other international schools. Big need for intl. school. Dansk Industri confirmed. Still awaiting the "big need for international schools" - hasn't arrived yet !
A few numbers less than last school year 2010/2011. Some schools are in deep "trouble".
Still keeping an eye on the IB Diploma situation. We hope that NGG in the future can offer the Pre-IB ! Future plans !
Need to be more visible to foreigners. Tr requesting help - come up w/firms etc. to advertise.
Jo: Mentioning fairs, expats, advertisements etc. as a possibility.
- Danish Department / International Depart: On letters: NGG International School to the outside, NGG International Department internally.
- Jo: Explaining the Bulletin, letters form Administration once a week on Thursdays. Very clear, very simple. The PTA Chairman will also issue one
- AI: NIL
- Bn: NIL

5. Heather: Election:

- Heather Gartside: PTA Chairman
- Toni Bird: Vice Chairman (Primary)
- Anna Wieghorst: Vice Chairman (Secondary)
- Jenny Uhel & Carina Mörtl: Executive Committee
- Jo Jobling: Events
- Dorthe Dencker-Schmidt: Finance
- Heather Gartside: News letter – Now extinct.
- Lene Gottlieb: Welcome Committee

6. Status of PTA committees

- Jo Jobling: International Day was a tremendous success. Looking forward to Grade 8 Halloween (Primary): Class Rep / Sub Reps participate in events at the party / parents. Meeting Tues, more info on board. Halloween party (secondary) in the fall. Now: Champagne tasting (November 2011). Easter event, Sleep over possibly ?, Teacher appreciation Day, Sankt Hans.
- Heather Gartside on behalf of Dorthe Decker Schmidt: Finance. Computers for the library on hold. Maybe iPads instead ? Subject is under discussion. +/- 50.000 DKK in the pizza/pasta account at this moments.
- Heather: News Letter: This will be the last issue due to lack of a strong team for production. Weekly bulletins will replace it. Ben Jones (Rhys's dad, 6i) has agreed to take over layout for the final edition. Webpage: working on a new system, eye catcher ...
- Tr: Please give feedback if you have any suggestions – improvements welcome.

- Welcome Coffee: Lene Gottlieb; New families are very happy. Received good feedback. Will continue with the coffee mornings in the future.
Location: Svanereden

7. Class Representative Suggestions:

- PTA minutes distribution: Saskia van Heerikhuizen requesting that a copy of the PTA minutes goes on the website. Jo confirmed that it is already there.
Timeline: Speed up the time for issuing.
- Toilets (K1&K2): Extra cleaning "round". Toilets/sinks nasty. Tr & Su will take a look tomorrow (Wednesday, Sep 21).
- School Calendar: Anna: Input / Changes to calendar. How to get the info. What can be done? E-mails, on the info board, letters ... it works.
- School Communications in English: Crista Schraverus: Requesting translation into English. Jo: Come to the office and we will help translations to English where possible of course.
- Saskia van Heerikhuizen; What is the purpose of Danish/International arrangements together ? Tr: One school, learn from/and respect each other. Also swimming hours, no space/time for more if individually departments.
Tr/Bn: Will not force ID teacher to have arrangement w/Danish department. But encourage ID teachers to have one per term. It shall be natural !
Friendship class on the Danish Department - working on it, some classes already has a Danish Friendship class.
Interaction: Let Danish classes come to ID (Christa Schraverus suggestion).
Lene: Blandede Bolcher etc. a huge success, need to interact to learn.
Heather/Tr/Jo: PR. Come and talk to Admin. If you know of companies, embassies etc. with international families, we would like to have the addresses so we can send some school pamphlets.
- Status of Continental Trips: Bettina Farahani: Why were the secondary class trips cancelled? Tr: From Grade 8 trips and upwards, classes go aboard.
Jo: Prices, First - too expensive and hard to keep a class trip within in budget (2.500 is the school limit). Secondly: To learn Danish history and culture.
ID travels together with Danish Grade 8-9 classes. Separate classes at destination

- into groups. To save money.

8. AOB:

- Heather Gartside: Status of the library. Thank you Anna Wieghorst for doing a wonderful job in the past. Jette Price has now taken over the duties and it works very well.
- Jenny Uhel: Many new innovations planned. Laptops: Exams are done in writing. Jo: We are aware, will change between hand writing and keyboard/laptops. On CIS webpage you can see exams.
Something we will look at for future use – once we are doing IGCSE exams next school year.

9. Next PTA meeting: TBA

10. Meeting adjourned with thanks from Tr at 21:20

Minutes: Fm