



October 7, 2016

PTSO Minutes - 2nd meeting of the 2016/2017 school year

Meeting called to order at 11:35 am by Suzi Suchyta (our fabulous Co-Chairwoman)

Dinara Balgozina swooped in like Superwoman and assumed the Co-Chairwoman position just moments before the meeting began. In fine leadership style, she broke formalities and encouraged community bonding through circular seating. Imagine where she will take us next!

Introductions (Suzi):

- ❖ Dinara Balgozina - our New **Co-Chairwoman** and our **Russian Chair** (*she wanted to take on more roles as well, but was rebuffed by a general desire to spread the wealth of leadership*)
- ❖ Vanessa Allepuz - our **Treasurer** / BFS Communications Director (*the glue that holds us all together*)
- ❖ Sarah Sánchez - our organized and efficient **Secretary**
- ❖ Rebecca In - our **Uniform Store Coordinator** (*although sadly she was not in attendance thus we were unable to thank her for the tremendous service she is doing for our organization*)
- ❖ Mariana Jimenez - **Hospitality Director** (*although she missed her introduction, we were relieved when she entered carrying an enormous plastic bulb full of Halloween candy*)
- ❖ Mrs. Kim - our **English-Korean Translator** (*although we did not use her services today, we appreciated her support*)

Old business (Suzi):

- ❖ Thank you to the parents who came to wrap books!
- ❖ Thank you to Dinara for stepping up (today) to be our PTSO Co-chairwoman!
- ❖ **We NEED:**
 - A **Facebook Admin** to post announcements (sent out by Dinara) and update the social media savvy parental community
 - **Brian Armstrong** assumed this title (although perhaps only under the pleading glare of his wife, the secretary)
 - **Concessions Coordinator** (This post remains unfilled)

Finance Update (Vanessa):

- ❖ Financially, we are doing very well

- ❖ We have 3,090,000 krw on our accounts
- ❖ We have been selling many uniform items
- ❖ We purchased some additional play equipment for the elementary (72,000krw)
 - Teachers and students are all very grateful for this purchase
 - A strong boost in morale can now be witnessed on the playground

New Business (Dean of School Lauren Harvey guided us through announcements from the US Dept of Education):

- ❖ As Dean of School, it is Lauren's job to oversee our SKAC
- ❖ She wanted to pass on valuable information in order to create a more informed parental community
 - **Southern Korean Activities Conference (SKAC) Announcements:**
 - Parents and families are encouraged to attend any SKAC event in order to strengthen our community and show our support
 - Upcoming SKAC events include (see handout)
 - Elementary School Futsal Finals - Oct 13th at HFS
 - Cross Country Meet 2 - Oct 18th at DIS
 - ***HS Volleyball Finals - Oct 20th at *BFS**
 - Middle School Futsal Finals - Nov 8th at HIS
 - ***STEM Middle School and High Science Fair - Nov 15th at *BFS**
(BTW- this date is also Secretary Sánchez's birthday, she likes dark chocolate)
 - Model United Nations - Nov 29th at KFS
 - ◆ This year, Model UN is a class at the High School level
 - ◆ Mr. Tim Neeno is looking for community members to speak to the class about varying UN-related topics
 - Email him at tneeno@bfs.or.kr to find out more
- **Help your child at home announcements** (Lauren Part 2: see handout):
 - Help your child with lowering the stress of test taking
 - Give them praise for what they are doing WELL
 - Encourage your child to read (develop both English language literacy and home language literacy)
 - Ask your child how his/her day went:
 - Ideas: 3 goods and 3 bads (focus on the positive 1st)
 - Pull out specific information from newsletters
 - ◆ What were you doing?
 - ◆ How did you feel about it?

- ◆ What was your goal in this activity?
- Limit your child's screen time **(To find out WHY, look into the Neuroscience behind blue light and brain activity)*
 - ◆ Make him/her play outside (at the playground, in the dirt, in the stream, at the beach, hike a trail, etc.)
 - ◆ Offer activities for **Active Learning** such as:
 - Board games, card games, paper books (*Ahh, that is what the Library is for!!*), art, blocks,
 - Recyclables can be used to build something new
 - Challenge: If given a only a bendy straw, how creative can your child be?
- Encourage your child to be responsible and work independently
 - Post and stick to a **schedule** with **Homework Time**, **Chores**, and **Free Time** allotted
 - ◆ During **Homework Time**, set a timer **This will develop efficiency*
 - ◆ Sage advice from Suzi's former friend: *Failing now (at the Elementary level) is NOT going to keep your child out of college*
 - Check their homework for correctness, but make them complete it individually
- BFS recognizes the importance of finding balance between school and personal life, thus teachers are encouraged ONLY to offer meaningful homework
- Help your child to become a responsible citizen (see handout)

❖ Upcoming Events and Reminders (Suzi):

➤ **Founders Day - Friday, Oct 14th** (This year marks BFS's 20th Anniversary),

- In honor of this event, **Friday Oct 14th** will be a half day of school with the afternoon reserved for games and celebration
- For this event, PTSO is looking for **Donors** (to purchase prepackaged food items), **Bakers**, and **Volunteers** (to sell food items)
 - Event will start at 12 pm

➤ **High School Volleyball finals**

- A **Concessions Coordinator** will be appointed (by Dinara and Suzi) from the **list of volunteers**

- **Concessions Volunteers** will sell pre-ordered and marked-up Pizzas from Costco, donated pre-packaged snacks, and baked goods
- We need someone to pick up the pizzas from Costco on the day of the event

➤ **Halloween (We will celebrate on Friday, Oct 28th)**

- We need a Chair to organize candy donations and to help organize parents coming in

➤ **BIWA (Busan International Women's Association) Bazaar**

- This phenomenal group of ladies hosts a diverse array of booths at their annual BIWA Christmas-themed Bazaar
 - Some of the BEST food that Suzi has ever tasted was forged from the labor and kilns of BIWA Bazaar past participants
 - PTSP will have a booth at this bazaar
 - ◆ WE NEED:
 - Easy craft ideas that we can pre-make
 - Bakers

❖ Dinara will start drafting emails and notices to send out to the parent community of BFS

- Her goal to is create a more cohesive, more informed, stronger, and more participatory organization

❖ Everyone agreed that we would like to drink coffee when we meet again on Nov 3rd at 11:30 am *(Hint, hint, nudge, nudge Hospitality Team).

❖ Look for announcement emails and find us on Facebook for updates

- Disclaimer: *Our Facebook page name is unknown at this time, but we swear that we will bridge the wide disparity between the social-media adept and the social-media challenged