

# PTG & Heads of School Meeting Minutes

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019



Attendees: Apollo, May

*Attendees: Matthew Mills (Head of School), Andrew Gordon (Business Director), Michael Smith (Secondary Principal), Helen Thew (Cross Campus Principal), Lorna Conroy (Assistant Principal Secondary School, Student Welfare), Jason Cooper (Primary School Principal), Cheryl Rego (Development, Alumni and Marketing Manager), Rachel Jones (Head of Admissions), Melissa Golden (PTG Chair), Fiona Bertoli (PTG Secretary), Chavapas Ongmahutmongkol (Khun Joe) & Khun Karndee Aor (PTG Thai Liason Reps), Marielle Eurlings (PTG Secondary Parent Rep), Lyke Schouten (PTG Primary Parent Rep), Aki Roughley (PTG Cross Campus Rep), Janine Minchin (PTG Tigershop Rep), Maayen Chorev (PTG Communications Rep), Ms Saengrawee Chaturpornparsit (Khun May) & Ms Apollo Chansrichawla*

*Apologies: Jason Cooper (Primary School Principal), Rachel Jones (Head of Admissions), Vik Bhatnagar (PTG ViceChair)*

## 1. Business carried forward previous meeting

### PTG room renovation

There are a few issues with the finishing touches to the room that PTG Tiger Shop and PTG Events Reps have been working on. The PTG room needs a few extra items such as some chairs, (Mr. Matt Mills agreed that chairs could be utilized from within the school), stools and cocktail tables in order to make a more practical space for all the parents who are now coming into the PTG room and making full use of it.

**Action:** PTG Reps to coordinate with Cheryl to arrange acquisition of 6 chairs from within school. Other required items will be purchased by the PTG when budget allows.

### CAT submission forms

The last day of term is the deadline for submission for additional funds from all CAT clubs. The PTG has been working with Tania Leyland and she has communicated the process to all CATs already. There is 200K in the budget, only what is required for the CATs will be allocated on a case by case basis

### Update on FOBISIA

Mr. Matt Mills attended a FOBISIA Board meeting at the end of 2018. There was open dialogue with other school heads representing FOBISIA. In short, it was decided that another contract will be signed with Thanyapura. The group felt that there are real benefits of having the competitions throughout the year at a central hub. There will be a new person in charge and he will oversee the competition from 2019 onwards.

There was a fair amount of feedback from U15 parents from the November 2018 Games. These parents came back with who had a list of possible improvements that Thanyapura could make which are reasonable, easy and affordable.

**Action:** PTG Secondary Rep (also an U15 parent from the FOBISIA group) will send an email to Cindy with all feedback.

## 2. International Day Review

General feedback was that it was a great celebration and that having more shows, 8 this year in comparison to the normal 5, gave more variety. In point to mention is where International Day brings out the best in some countries, it seems to bring out the angst internally between others, and during the last couple of years there have been a couple of the larger communities with issues. Particularly within the misuse of online chat groups. The PTG are working towards a solution for 2019.

Parent seating was again an issue and it was agreed that bleachers would be sourced for the parent seating area upstairs in the Sports Hall to make to most of the space available.

One thing that would make it helpful for organizers would be if we had a photographic inventory of what the school has available for each country to utilize particularly in the Food Tasting. This would make it easier for countries to plan for the upcoming International day.

**Action:**

- PTG International Day Coordinator to compile a photographic inventory, including dimensions and numbers of each item to send to the individual countries in Term 3 of the previous academic year.
- PTG Chair to coordinate with Cheryl to confirm arrangements for bleachers for seating area upstairs for 2019.

### 3. Christmas Concert Review

Another lovely end to Term 1 and start to the Christmas holidays. The numbers seemed down this year, even though it was busy in the Concert Hall.

**Action:** PTG Events Rep to try and find a wine sponsor for 2019.

### 4. Newcomers Coffee Morning and Term 2 Induction Day

The Newcomers coffee morning went well and parents seemed very happy to come along and meet other parents and be welcomed with a coffee and some nice treats.

Regarding Primary Induction Day, the registration period was too long, some parents were waiting for one hour for the Primary Head to come along and present. In addition, there were a couple of mixed messages about the starting date, some families were told they could start on the first day of Term 2 and others on the second day. Therefore, some families were unhappy that the information wasn't clear. For the new Secondary students, their induction was in the afternoon and it went well.

**Action:** Feedback for Primary:

Registration needs to be 30 minutes at most for Term 2 Primary Induction day  
Message needs to be clear about start date for new students.

### 5. Air Quality Issue

Bangkok Patana's School policy is in-line with the US EPA policy (i.e. when the school receives the latest reading from the Bang Na station, the school uses the US AQI number and US formulae to decide on the students' daily activities rather than the Thai AQI or formulae which is less conservative. The school has tried measuring the air quality with a portable monitor but have found the readings to be consistently (30%) lower than the readings from the Bang Na station. Again, going with the results from Bang Na is a more conservative choice.

Business Director, Andrew Gordon, looks at a variety of different sites and measure, they all use the Thai government raw data to provide their results, regardless of how they calculate their readings. The Air Visual system (which also reports from Bang Na), is a system that bases its measurement upon the colour of each dust particle, using a different method from the US standard, and not as reliable. The US standard is more complex and detailed.

Mr. Gordon handed out the number of documents which he uses on a daily basis to measure the air quality in the Bang Na area. The documents are based on the age

group and sensitivity of the students and in light of each daily reading, the school makes sensible decisions for their students regarding outside activities. Every morning the school determines the reading for the day and if the reading early is on the border, another check is carried out at about the 12 noon.

Bangkok Prep, NIST and KIS all have their own stations. ISB and Patana are looking into it. St. Andrews on 71 uses the Bang Na station, which maintains International standards.

Air purifiers will not be bought and placed in the children's classrooms as they only only purify a small space of 64 square metres. Although this would be more effective in secondary than primary because there are doors, they will not be installed as this is simply adding another system to the new air filtering system which will be put in place.

Installing more plants would be great for general well-being. However, unless 25 plants are placed in one classroom there is no impact on the air purifying qualities. The plants do not take out any of the negative but do provide more oxygen.

Articles have been included in the Patana News over the past few weeks and links to more detailed information provided. While almost 1200 people looked that the article, only 60 people clicked on the links and delved deeper into the information provided.

#### **Bad Behaviour:**

Andrew Gordon, mentioned for parents to publicly bad mouth the school in a public forum, such as tagging people in public, not private, groups are not good for the school nor community as a whole. It shows a lack of respect and understanding for the actions the school is taking and a lack of faith that the school has the student's best interest at heart.

#### **Idle Cars and Buses:**

The PTG have been monitoring the idle cars during the last few days. 8 out of 10 cars had their engines on while waiting to drop their child or waiting for students to enter their car after school. Flyers have been handed out to drivers and parents and so far the flyers have been received graciously.

The buses also start their engines before the first student gets on and this time has varied in the last term from starting the engine at 2.20-2.30pm. This will now change. In the past, the school has been conscious of the heat policy. At this time of year, students are more than capable of getting onto a school bus and waiting a few minutes for the air conditioner to start kicking int. At warmer times of the year, such as Songkran, the buses may need to be switched on earlier due to the heat. This will be address in April.

## Presentation from Thai PTG Rep

The Thai PTG have been working closely with Andrew Gordon and the school on the implementation of air quality monitoring, communication and prevention mechanisms in school. While strides have been made in this journey, the Thai PTG has asked the school to communicate more with all parents, reinforce and ensure execution of policies and speed up roll-out of planned efforts, especially with regards to the air filtration systems.

Regarding the Idle buses, the Thai community held a poll and results show that 48 out of 130 Thai parents whose children use the bus would like a holding area for their children to wait at before they walk to the bus.

### Action:

- Filters are being installed in the existing system, starting with Nursery and FS and working up through Primary and Secondary. This work will be completed throughout the whole school before the 2020 pollution season.
- School to post the AQI reading on the main page daily.
- PTG to post AQI reading on FB page daily
- Buses to turn on their engines after the first student enters the bus, NOT before. This will be a trial.

## 6. Upcoming PTG Events

### a. Fun Day 2019

After much discussion and deliberation, the decision to cancel Fun Day was taken. It was felt that this decision was in the best interest of the parents and students and parents of Bangkok Patana. Unfortunately, the school does not have another weekend in the 2018-19 calendar to hold Fun Day.

**Action:** The PTG will work with the school to find a more suitable day for the next academic year and possibly have the Day in March when the weather is potentially much better.

### b. Staff Appreciation Day

PTG Events rep Michela has been talking to Cheryl about changing the event and making it little more personal. Currently a lot of people sit in one venue and because there are a number of sittings, sometimes there is less food for the last sitting.

**Action:** PTG Events Rep and Cheryl Rego to confirm new arrangements for all staff.

## 7. Financial Report

Current balance is 750,000 baht in the bank as of December 2018. With the cancellation of Fun Day, it means a potential loss of 500,000 baht revenue for the PTG. With events such Staff Appreciation, Volunteers breakfast and Y13 Leavers gifts happening, the balance may not fulfill the 1 million baht balance at the year end.

The TigerShop revenue is the same as last year but the PTG has spent more with the purchase of the new hoodies and replenishment of other items. Feedback from parents is that they would like to see more products being sold in the School shop. The School shop provide sales updates every 2 weeks which is great.

**Action:** PTG Executive Committee will reassess budget and refine where possible. Options to hold fundraising events, such as a Quiz night and Car Boot Sale to be considered.

## 8. Primary Report

The PTG Reps for FS1 & 2 are organizing a get-together on February 6<sup>th</sup> 2019 and the Y3 and Y4 on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

### Secondary Report

There as a combined coffee morning for Y9-Y13 parents at the end of Term 1, which was well received and attended. The idea was for parents to share experiences and learn from it. Especially for parents of students transitioning from Y11 to Y12, when it's time to make decisions about their IB subjects and choices.

The next KS3 dance is happening on February 8<sup>th</sup> and there will be another chance for parents to get-together at Ribstory while waiting for their children. The PTG will buy everyone their first drink.

Request from parents for a small uniform change - to swap the clip for a button (and some elastic) in the Secondary trousers and skirts.

**Action:** PTG Secondary Rep to take the question to the SRC

## 9. Thai Update

Presentation already provided by PTG Thai Rep.

## **10.School Reports**

### **ECAs and Sports**

There was plenty of SEASAC Varsity action during the last weekend of January. The results were great; Tennis placed 1<sup>st</sup>, Basketball Girls 2<sup>nd</sup>, Basketball Boys 3<sup>rd</sup>, Rugby Boys 4<sup>th</sup> and Touch Rugby Girls 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Tigersharks placed 1<sup>st</sup> overall at the most recent Fobisia Swimming, held in Bangkok at Bangkok Prep.

The Climbing team had a recent competition and did a fantastic job too.

All BISAC competitions and other sporting events to be cancelled for the w/e 2/3 February due to bad weather conditions.

Upcoming Events for the Tiger cart:

Super Junior SEASAC for swimming and gymnastics will be held at Patana on the same weekend. Great to get the Tiger cart out. There will be a Vendor zone (with sports apparel) and a Food zone, details to be distributed closer to the time.

### **Secondary Update**

All secondary students were surveyed after their residential trips. On the whole the reponse was positive but there were some issues with the accommodation providers which are no going to be addressed.

Since the start of Term 2, Y13 have had trial exams as well as the Y12 Biology Trip and Y12 Environmental Science trip as well as a day trips for DT and Thai students. Y9 students have made their options choices and Y11 students their IB choices.

### **Primary Update**

There has been no response or request for further information or counselling from parents regarding the one-off unsubstantiated historical allegation of a previously employed Swimming Coach.

The children are taught about safeguarding and this has increased in the last few years so they are more aware of what's right and wrong.

Primary residential's are going well with fewer ticks for the Y5 students. The new families were all contacted by the Primary office after Day 2 to reassure the parents that their children were fine and doing well.

A Y13 student presented to primary parents and did some work on gender socialization, about 25 people attended and it was greatly received.

## **Marketing**

The Patana News has taken up much more readership recently and now, almost 2000 people are reading it, and spending, on average, about 4 minutes reading it.

Regarding the Air Quality issues, the school have pushed back on sending out an all school email until now, instead putting the information in the Patana News.

The School website is being redesigned and will be launched in Term 3. There will be 5 school videos showcased. In addition, the school prospective is being redesigned.

Rebecca is leaving for maternity leave and the marketing team is looking to replace her while she is gone, has to be a native English speaker, have to be able to manage publications and possess Indesign software knowledge.

## **Head of School**

Matt Mills and Jason Cooper visited the UK, with the intent of hiring 21 teachers. There have been good applications from International schools. The School has hired additional counselling staff to support students in both Secondary and Primary. Senior Studies area and college counselling area will be remodeled and an extra office built.

The boards in the lounge have been put up for students and parents to see the renovation plans for these new areas.

End of meeting 11am

Minutes written by Fiona Bertoli, PTG Secretary.