

Sotogrande International School PTA General Meeting 19th September 9am in la Cantina

Present: Barbara Peacock (chair), Sarah Burgess, Tracey Stoneham, Jurgen Germeys, Maddy Maclachlan, Jak Kearney, Enrique Del Viso Martin

1. **Apologies:** Donna Morrison, Maureen Smith, Sue Davies

2. **Welcome by Chair of PTA:**

BP opened the meeting by introducing herself to the many parents in attendance. The PTA committee members present then also introduced themselves.

BP explained that now the Advisory Board is in place, the PTA is free to focus solely on fundraising, events and supporting school events such as the upcoming Back to School Party on 22nd September and School Triathlon on 13th October. She continued to explain how the PTA operates with regular open meetings throughout the year, organising fundraising events and then considering applications for funding support from the school. This could be to purchase equipment not covered under the educational remit of the school such as enhancements to play areas or to part fund non-curriculum trips, anything will be considered provided it is not a capital purchase for the school or a donation to charity, although the PTA will support or facilitate students in aid of charity.

BP noted that this is a transitional time for the PTA and if any parent has an opinion or comment to make about the potential future for the PTA, please let her know. A parent suggested looking at other similarly run schools to see what they do, if there is a best practice that could be adopted. She also asked how the Assist programme fits in with the PTA. BP replied that these are separate entities and don't really work together. There is also the Parent Ambassador programme, the Advisory Board and Kindred Project charity. BP described the work of these different groups.

The PTA is also there to listen to parents concerns and to help where possible. For example, the PTA arranged a seminar 'How your teen's brain works' last year, and hope to organise another presented by the school psychologist dealing with social media.

The PTA email is pta@sis.gi if any parent would like to get involved with the PTA or find out more. BP reminded parents that they are all automatically members of the PTA.

The Back to School Party is all organised, but MM is always looking to expand her pool of willing volunteers so please do get in touch if you would like to help at this event or any future events. It was again asked why Parent Ambassadors are not allowed to be approached for assistance at PTA organised events.

The parents WhatsApp groups are now into their third year and work well as another channel for the school to communicate with parents. There are also 'social' groups for many of the year groups so that important messages do not get lost in social chat.

3. **Approve minutes of previous meeting:** The AGM which took place on 30th May 2017. SB proposed and JG seconded. Minutes approved.

4. **Head Teachers report:** JK thanked everyone for attending the meeting and congratulated the PTA on all that they do to support the school. The events that the PTA organise are not just fundraisers for the children, they are also important opportunities for parents, teachers and children to come together socially.

JK was pleased to note that the picnic benches requested by the school from PTA funds earlier in the year had been ordered. These will be a great addition for students to find a quiet place to sit. Conditioning equipment has also been ordered for the school gym.

5. **Financial report:** BP reported that finances are healthy, and funding requests are considered and voted on by committee members. The most recent approved request was to make a donation to support students attending the annual Model United Nations trip.

BP reported that the PTA is currently operating without a treasurer.

N.B. Following the PTA meeting Danielle Bostoan volunteered. Welcome Danielle to the committee.

6. **Any Other Business:**

Swimming Pool: Is now heated and is being covered. Will be complete before the Triathlon on 13th October. SB asked if the school would consider offering use of the pool to the school or wider community. Other parents commented that there are a lack of places to go to teach your young child to swim. Maybe the pool could be used for swimming lessons? EDV will look at how this could work.

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts: A parent asked if this club would be restarted. BP confirmed that the lady who was running the packs previously has now stopped. Someone else would need to complete the relevant training and start packs again. The PTA Message Board could be used to see if anyone might be interested.

Transport: There are minibuses run by the golf and tennis academies to transport children to their training sessions. Could a bus be arranged to take children to the tennis clubs for after school lessons (not academy)? Unlikely, it is better to try to arrange lift share with other families. The PTA Message Board could be a good starting point.

Advisors: SB asked if Secondary parents are content with the Advisor system? Generally yes. SB reminded parents that their child's advisor is worth getting to know and establishing a relationship with.

Cantina: JG is going to eat at the Cantina today. He will report back.

EC1/EC2 children: A parent pointed out that EC1 and EC2 children don't have to be in school until 9.15. Many parents don't come until then as it helps to avoid the traffic earlier in the day. However PTA meetings start at 9, thus excluding these parents. Point noted, all future meetings to start at 9.15.

7. **Date of Next Meeting:** 14th November 2017 9.15am in the Cantina