

JICS PA Meeting

Meeting Minutes

11 February 2020

The meeting commenced at 6:10pm with a welcome from Deepta, PA President and a review of the agenda for the evening. In addition, Deepta thanked parents for coming to our meeting and for their support this year of the PA. A group of over 20 parents were in attendance.

The minutes from the Fall PA meeting were unanimously approved (First by Beth Corcoran and Seconded by Francois Tanguay-Renaud)

For new and returning parents, Deepta provided an overview of the PA, reminding parents that all JICS parents are members of the PA, and that the PA is a registered charity. Furthermore, she advised parents that the PA Executive is responsible for the charity, its finances and its plans. The PA Executive considers parent engagement as essential and will work throughout the year to help every parent feel like he/she belongs.

Celebration of Diversity

Parents have been taking advantage of the diversity celebration fund from the PA (\$50/ class per event). We've already celebrated several events at the school:

- Lunar New Year
- Diwali
- Hanukah
- Black History Month

Coming up:

- Persian New Year
- Pride Celebration
- National Indigenous Day

Family Engagement

- Hot dog Night
- Games Day
- IALS Conference

- In the spring JICS is hosting the International Association of Laboratory Schools and there will be an opportunity for parents to attend an event
- Graduation Day

Successes to date:

- September Parent Social
- Terry Fox Run
- Book Night
- Grand Pals day/Holiday Sing

Hasina Lookman, Treasurer, provided an overview of finances for the year highlighting the follow items

- General accounting for 2020
- Shop and support items are available for parents to purchase items where a portion of sales come back to the PA (<https://www.jicsfamily.com/shopandsupport>)
 - Explorer Hop is offering 5% back for the PA Fund for families who are interested this is an option for you as well
 - Families – please note that if you have products / services that you sell online and would like to donate a portion of sales to JICS, please connect with Deepta Rayner (JICSPAExec@gmail.com)
- Beth-Let’s focus on Donor engagement and the people who have been our biggest donors over the past 5 years. We have to follow up and ensure we’re proactively sending out tax receipts. How can parents help the school solve this problem.
- Highlights of large purchases made last school year (available on the website: <https://www.jicsfamily.com/teacher-grant-purchases>)
- Update on merchandise (available at <https://www.jicsfamily.com/shop>)
- Budget for 2019/2020 school year - Complete details regarding the above are available on the JICS Family website for review.
- PA Money is spent on Classroom grants, babysitting for PA meetings. Cutlery, cups, plates were purchased so we can be more eco-friendly.
- Chriss spoke about the social worker who is at the school now. Laura is here once a week
- Deepta went over JICS PA Fees and Donation – although participation is down, and given that JICS is trying to increase its financial diversity, this is expected and fundraising is consistent with 2017

Fundraising

- Fundraising is a huge opportunity and focus for us this year. Ramping up into the 100th anniversary.
- \$5,000,000 over 5 years is the goal to provide true financial diversity for all families at JICS
- There was a question about receipts from the gala last year, still outstanding with UofT

- ACTION – Richard will work with UofT to resolve

Connections to UofT

- Our students are UofT students and need to be recognized that way. We're now discussing how we do work together to make this a benefit.
- Looking for financial benefits we can give to parents
- Beth asked how parents could help influence the decision making. It's a huge opportunity for parents.
- It would be helpful to have an idea of how many parents use or are interested in Uof T camps?
 - ACTION - The PA and JICS Admin are developing a survey and will add this to the list of questions
- Deepta explained there was a typical issue they were going back and forth on.
- A parent noted that it would be great to have early access for signing up over a subsidy but both would be great.

Upcoming events

- Parent Education
- Math morning for parents
- Marlene Scarvalis - Tonight Feb 11/20

Our next update was from The Principals' Report, provided by Richard. Richard updated us on many items including the following:

- Information about enrolment
- Lunar New Year and Black History Month
- IALS Conference
- Staffing update
- Nursery Cohort is full
- Almost all other spots in the school has been filled through attrition
- Patrick Harvey fund Dance at 25 Howland hosted by Ramona And Vik. \$70 for a ticket. Please donate if you can't make it. It's going to be a blast!

Upcoming Survey

This spring , the PA and the be sending out a survey to ensure we understand the needs of current families and help with plans for next year.

Our final agenda item were updates from Class Reps who provided attendees with highlights about their classroom. Updates shared included information about classroom grant purchases and social events, and reps paid special attention to the fact that many classes welcomed new families this year.

Nursery – Parents continue to come into class to read, children preparing for a street car ride

JK – Math skills are growing!

SK – Enjoyed a class breakfast and skating on Tuesday

G1 – Enjoyed a class breakfast

G2 – Recently had a parent social, salmon eggs have arrived in the classroom, learning cursive writing

G3 – Enjoyed a class breakfast, visited the UofT math department, celebrated Black History Month

G4 – Kids are learning about motion & forces, slave trade (BHM) and working on their “Ology”s

G5 – Kids visited nature centre at high park, looking forward to upcoming Ottawa trip

G6 – Children are preparing for transition, reading graphic novels in book club and had class breakfast

Thank you to all our incredible Class Reps.

The meeting closed at 8:10.