

**AISB PTO General Meeting  
November 10, 2007  
AISB Library, 1000h  
MINUTES**

**In Attendance:** ExCo members Maria Ramilo, Jan Derpak, Omar Saibou, Gary Holsten, Rachel Strozeski, Lara Prihodko, Kymberly Tiffany, Claudia Vondrasek, Kelly Dalton  
and 12 others

**Absent:** Richard Koczwarski (making pancakes!)

**I. Call to order**

- a. The president called the meeting to order at 1015h.
- b. The president discussed the agenda for the meeting.

**II. Review and approval of minutes from the 10/18/07 executive committee meeting**

- a. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting by Rachel, seconded by Gary. Minutes approved by majority.

**III. Treasurer's Report**

- a. **Halloween carnival earnings** – Gross Halloween carnival earnings almost doubled from last year (475.000 CFA). After expenses the net deposit into the PTO account was 215.848 CFA. The marines ordered some items for the haunted house that we need to reimburse them for. There was a question whether prizes that came in the container were paid for in advance or not. Last years budget seems to indicate they were and PTO members from last year believe they were.
- b. **Funds allocated for Model UN trip** – The executive committee decided to donate \$50.00 per student to the 6 students attending the model UN conference for a total of \$300.00.
- c. **Secondary school social activities**
  - i. The PTO contributed 25,000 CFA to a secondary school movie night held November 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - ii. The request for movie night funds was last minute and highlighted the need for a funding model for social events and field trips.
    1. Should the secondary students have a budget of their own?

2. Should secondary students do something to make their activities sustainable outside of PTO funding? The elementary student council is doing this.
  3. Gary spoke with David Henry about this and has prepared a letter describing various funding models for secondary school activities.
- iii. A more formal discussion on funding models will take place at the next ExCo meeting.

#### **IV. Committee Reports**

##### **a. Author's visit December 6,7**

- i. Author will visit with students on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of December. All students will meet with the author, grouped by age. The main theme of the visit will be that every child has a story to tell. Students will have read his books before he arrives. The author's daughter will be presenting with him. She is the author of the story 'I Lost My Tooth in Africa'. The author's wife is an artist as well.
- ii. A wine and cheese reception for adults only will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup> from 7–9 pm. The PTO is funding this reception and there will be no cost to attend, however a donation box will be present to collect funds for library improvement projects. The event will take place on the library terrace, which is currently being painted, resurface and generally cleaned up. Paul and his students will provide music, high school students will serve, and perhaps we can have parents donate desserts. There will be an author's presentation, book signing and some books available for purchase

##### **b. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary International Festival February 23rd**

- i. The working committee for the International Festival needs to begin meeting ASAP. First meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Henry's house. Committee members include: Ambassador McCulley, Claudia, Omar, Mariel, Rachel, Jan, Kelly D., Maria, Alice and Christy. The festival committee chairperson will be determined at the first meeting.
- ii. There was a long discussion of ideas/suggestions for the festival:
  1. There are 21 countries represented at AISB, but we should try to include all countries with representation (ie embassies) in Mali.

2. The main idea is to have each country sponsor a booth of food, drinks, or something else representative of their country.
3. We need volunteers to contact the embassies to help coordinate.
4. Ideas for other aspects include games, face painting, jumping castle, music and a silent auction.
5. For the silent auction we need good prizes such as airline tickets, restaurant dinners, babysitting, etc... A suggestion was made that embassies or country representatives could donate hard to find items for the auction such as South African wine or Canadian maple syrup. Or possibly they could donate a whole food hamper, an example from Canada might include maple syrup, ham, butter tarts, wine... Commercial businesses might also be interested in donating a gift basket. We can make a list of ways people can donate to the silent auction. It is difficult for one person to coordinate all of the items for the auction. A model was suggested to put a potential auction contact and suggested donation in an envelope. Parents/teachers/ staff can pick up an envelope from the PTO and be in charge of approaching that business. This would spread out the work load and ensure no duplication of effort.
6. Kenyan model for booths: It was an annual event at the international school in Kenya. Each country group would figure out the best way to represent their country. Each country would make a suggestion to the PTO, who oversaw the whole event to make sure there were no repeated efforts (too many burger booths, not enough variety in drinks, etc....). Costs were absorbed by the community of that nationality and the income from each booth was donated to the PTO and announced, which provided some incentive for creativity.
7. Because this is AISB's first such event a suggestion was made that we be explicit about what we are asking of the international community for the booths.
8. Perhaps some of the after school activities can perform to provide entertainment.

## **V. Unfinished business**

- a. **Family Fun Day** – Family fun day was supposed to be a beginning of the school year ice breaker. A suggestion was made to postpone it until next year. A motion was made to approve this suggestion by Kelly’s husband, and seconded by Kymberly. It was approved by majority.

#### **VI. New business**

- a. **Speeding on the road in front of school** – There continues to be a problem with speeding in front of the school and many of the same cars are involved. Is this something the PTO should get involved with? There have been requests in the newsletter for cars to slow down, some drivers have been spoken too, but it has not been effective. Parents whose drivers are speeding need to be contacted. Also, the location where the bus parks is awkward from the perspective of safety. Do we need signs on the road to control the speeding? A suggestion was made to ask Anglo Gold Ashanti about signs they have had fabricated and inquire whether they might donate some. Another suggestion was made to install a speed bump (a ditch with a log in it). Do we need permission to do this?
- b. **T-shirt contest** – The winner of the t-shirt design contest hasn’t been chosen yet. It needs to be finalized soon so that a printer can be contacted. Who is going to pay for the t-shirts? AISB, the PTO?
- c. **Book fair books** – Kelly and Rachel can do the ordering for the children’s books, but at previous meetings we have discussed also having adult books. We need someone to coordinate this, help with ordering and finding a supplier. Maybe Allison (AP English teacher) can help with ordering. Or ask the Bamako book club for recommendations? There is also a need for help in picking out books for older kids. We need to be ready to order the books after winter break, hopefully before. We will be ordering more books for small children this year. The book fair will be held in April.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

- a. Move to adjourn the meeting by Gary, seconded by Rachel. Approved by majority.
- b. Meeting was adjourned at 1100h