Optimist International School

Participation Council

Agenda



Minutes of Meeting		
Date:	06/03/2024	
Subject :	OIS Participation Council	
Chair :	Peter Mihm	
Attendees :	Anne Marie van Holst	Cheryl Embleton
	Angelique Podstavnychy	Kevin Lobbezoo
	Bethan Chewter	
Absent with Apologies :	Tuscany Labuschagne	Denisa Stoican

During the meeting, the Admission & Fee policy for the upcoming academic year was discussed in detail. It was decided that the next enrollment period will commence at the end of March and extend into the beginning of April. A proposal was put forward to adjust the fees in line with the indexation value, resulting in a 3.8% increase. Consequently, the tuition fee for the upcoming year will amount to €5400.00. Notably, it was emphasised that the fees do not cover expenses related to the school camp and swimming activities. Regarding swimming lessons, it was agreed that they will be integrated into the school day curriculum. To facilitate this, parents of students in years 3 and 4 will be required to pay an additional fee for their child's participation in swimming lessons. It was underscored that attendance

at these swimming lessons will be mandatory for all eligible students.

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2 Update OIS Bilingual Education

We briefly recapped the previous meeting where the school introduced parents to the new bilingual program. Overall, there was positive feedback from the attendees, with everyone expressing enthusiasm to commence. Notably, nine parents have already indicated their children's desire to join the new group in year 8 this year. Additionally, it was noted that ten children will be transitioning to Haarlemmermeer Lyceum. Approximately 30% of parents are yet to provide their feedback, which is expected to be received by the end of March.

3 | Budget realization 2023

In reviewing the budget realization for 2023, it was noted that there was a slight overstaffing due to fewer students than anticipated. Consequently, measures were taken to rectify this imbalance. Additionally, a significant deficit arose from the increase in salaries mandated by the Dutch government.

Kevin and Peter emphasized the need for a clearer understanding of the decision-making process regarding team staffing. Acknowledging the importance of music from the parent perspective, Anne-Marie proposed that parents compile a list of priorities to facilitate a discussion on this matter during the next meeting, in conjunction with the upcoming year's budget plans.

4 | School Holidays

It was noted that the official holiday schedule will be released in April. Peter expressed concerns about the removal of the extra week in December, highlighting parents' dissatisfaction due to increased travel costs during that period. Anne-Marie clarified that decisions regarding school holidays are primarily made by the foundation directors, with limited influence from our school. However, parents will aim to discuss this matter further during the upcoming 'pizza night' gathering, which will include both parents and the foundation board.

6 Any Other Business

Peter reiterated his concern regarding the ongoing parking issues. The situation seems to be worsening, as evidenced by another accident occurring this year. This situation parallels the challenges experienced by neighboring schools. It was noted that the municipality will release the results of a survey conducted on the matter by the end of March, along with potential solutions to address the issue.

Cheryl concluded the meeting by announcing the organization of the OIS Cultural Picnic scheduled for the end of the year. Plans are underway to coordinate activities and logistics for the day. A call for volunteers will be distributed, and details for saving the date will be shared shortly.

Next Forum:

17th of April Onsite at OIS