

# MS PTO General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 18, 2016, 10:30am.  
Conference Hall @ G building

**Attendance:** Dr. David Lovelin, Ms. Odell - KIS MS Head of English Department, KIS Business Administrator, Mr. Cathers, Mr. Rich, MS PTO board members, and about 100 KIS MS parents.

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## Welcome By PTO president

- MS PTO President greeted all the participants, and addressed Kim young lan law takes effect on some of PTO events and supporting plans.
  - PTO's financial support towards school was postponed.
  - All PTO events and programs are being examined by school administration and PTO under the new law.
  - PTO is looking for legal ways to support students, teachers, and schools.

## Principal's Report

- Dr. Lovelin spoke on Understanding the Growth Mindset.
  - He introduced the article "Growth Mindset and the idea of failing forward"
    - It is how to help every child fulfill their potentials from school teacher's viewpoint.
    - What is the growth mindset? It is the idea that intelligence and talent can be developed by efforts.
    - Students learn from their experience and apply it to the real world .
    - Failing forward - If you are afraid to fail, You will keep failing forever.
    - "If parents want to give their children a gift, the best thing they can do is teach their children to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy efforts, and keep on learning."
  - Dr. Lovelin explained what this looks like at KIS.
    - KIS Goal #2 - Expand and Refine applied learning systems to prepare students for future challenges and global needs.
    - Many of students will have the jobs which does not exist yet, in their future, and that's why experiential and applied learning is so important.
    - KIS Programing -Authentic-Relevant-Engaging
      - Appreciate the struggle
      - Use and apply the information we learn
      - Focus on learning,not memorizing
    - Dr. Lovelin introduced an article "Harnessing the Power of the Productive struggle"
    - The goal is to help every students move forward.

## Invited Talk

- MS English Department Philosophy - By Ms. Odell
  - The philosophy
    - Nourish young minds to become critical thinkers, to share opinions respectfully, and to practice lifelong learning.
    - Help students to grow an appreciation of language and literature, and to use the power of their voice.
  - Curriculum
    - The curriculum cycles through revisions from year to year, but follows same standards.
    - Grade level teachers meet weekly.
  - Ms. Odell explained new initiative as a department in reading and writing instruction.
  - Performance Evaluation
    - Provide adequate feedback.
    - Grading is by evaluation rubric system which focuses on where a student's abilities fall currently.
    - Our hope is for students to read and use the feedbacks to improve.
  - English department is more than open to parents for reading resources and others as well.
  - "Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, into another's skin, another's voice, another's soul"

## Presentation about Kim Young-Lan Law by KIS administrator

- This law bans illegal solicitation and bribery.
- Public servants, including school employees such as teachers and spouses, are subject to this law.
- Since students, parents, teachers, and school employees are considered to have interests regarding grade and evaluation all the time, there is no exception like 3,5,7 for this law.
- Pay more attentions to the actions that we have taken for granted during the past years.
  - Parents cannot provide anything, any service to school employees, as long as their students are at school.
  - It is illegal that parents ask for consideration on the grade even without bribe.
  - If the situation, violation of this law, happens, teachers should report to the principal and the third person can report to the investigative agency.

## Report by officers

- Event Report - By Vice President
  - Due to the Kim Young-Lan Law, changing some of PTO events is necessary.
  - The KIS commission of lawyers is finding out the proper ways PTO can support students and school.

- For the KIS concert, flower bouquet cannot be provided to the Choir conductor. Instead bouquets were handed to 7 parent accompanists.
  - PTO will not be allowed to provide lunch meals to teachers during Parent Teacher Conference
  - Mini Grant Awards is on hold situation temporarily.
  - Any monetary support for teachers' educational projects is impossible.
  - It is unsure that PTO can provide monetary support for Book Fairs in November.
  - The Jamboree snack sale for boys soccer on Oct. 8th, was cancelled. Instead JJ catering carried on the snack sale for the day. It is still uncertain whether PTO can continue its snack sales. If not, PTO will find alternative ways legitimately.
- Introduction of PTO Website - By MS PTO IT/Web Coordinator
    - What's on MS PTO Website [www.kispto.org](http://www.kispto.org)
    - Simply click to MS PTO in menu bar.
    - School events are updated in real time.
    - The website is updated mainly once a week, mostly on Mondays.
    - Check the Google calendar for any school events and updates.
    - For questions, contact IT coordinator : [mspto.kispto.org](mailto:mspto.kispto.org)

The MS PTO general meeting was followed by the grade meetings and adjourned around 12:30 PM.

Parents' feedback and suggestions at the grade meetings will be collected by each grade representative and will be used for the school improvements.