



MS PTO General Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, October 24, 2017, 10:30am.
PAC (Performing Arts Center)**

Attendance: Mr. Jim Slaid, Ms. Kelly Duun, Ms. Jeff Jacopsen, Ms. Candice Kim, Mr. Yoong Hoon Kim, Ms. Claire Cho, MS PTO board members

Total parents attendees: Approximately 30

- I. Principal Mr. Jim Slaid
 - a. School Update
 - i. Spring EE Trip Openings
 1. Vietnam – 6 spots
 2. Fiji - 5 spots
 3. Thailand - 10 spots
 - ii. Swimming Jamboree has started.
 - iii. There have been some ongoing issues with 8th graders who have demanded inappropriate things from lower grade students, e.g, bowing, taking things from younger students, etc. Seniority should not be expected from lower grade students. Parents are requested to reinforce this.
 - iv. Parent Teacher Conferences
 1. Parents’ feedback was positive
 2. Parents appreciated the face to face time sessions with the teachers and specific feedback for each student.
 - b. Q&A from last time’s grade level questions
 - i. Language level classes: As language classes are based on level, and not on grade, some HS students who take intro language classes do not feel comfortable being in such classes. The Language Department teachers are trying to come up with a plan to ensure that such students (all students) are in the right level as well as to ensure that upper level or HS students feel comfortable.
 - ii. Reassessments: Every teacher has a different way of doing reassessments. Teachers’ aim is to ensure that all students understand ALL concepts – more so than just achieving a higher grade. Teachers would like students to master the contents so that the students have a solid foundation prior to

getting to the next level. However, many students request reassessments solely for higher grades, and this is not the aim of the teachers.

- iii. Convenience store: Store is supposed to be closed from 3-3:15pm to avoid students trying to grab a snack and rushing to get on the bus – and unsafely requesting the driver to open the door so the student can get on the bus. Parents should remind students that such acts are unsafe.

II. Educational Topic – MATH Guest Speaker (Ms. Dunn and Mr. Jacobson)

a. Ms. Dunn

- i. Brief overview – Teachers keep track of students’ performance so that students are placed either in the accelerated class or in the regular class. When students advance, they are given placement tests to ensure that they are placed in the right level. NOTE: students can move up or down even in the 8th grade, depending on their levels.
- ii. Homework should only be given a time allotment of 15-20minutes a night.

b. Mr. Jacobson

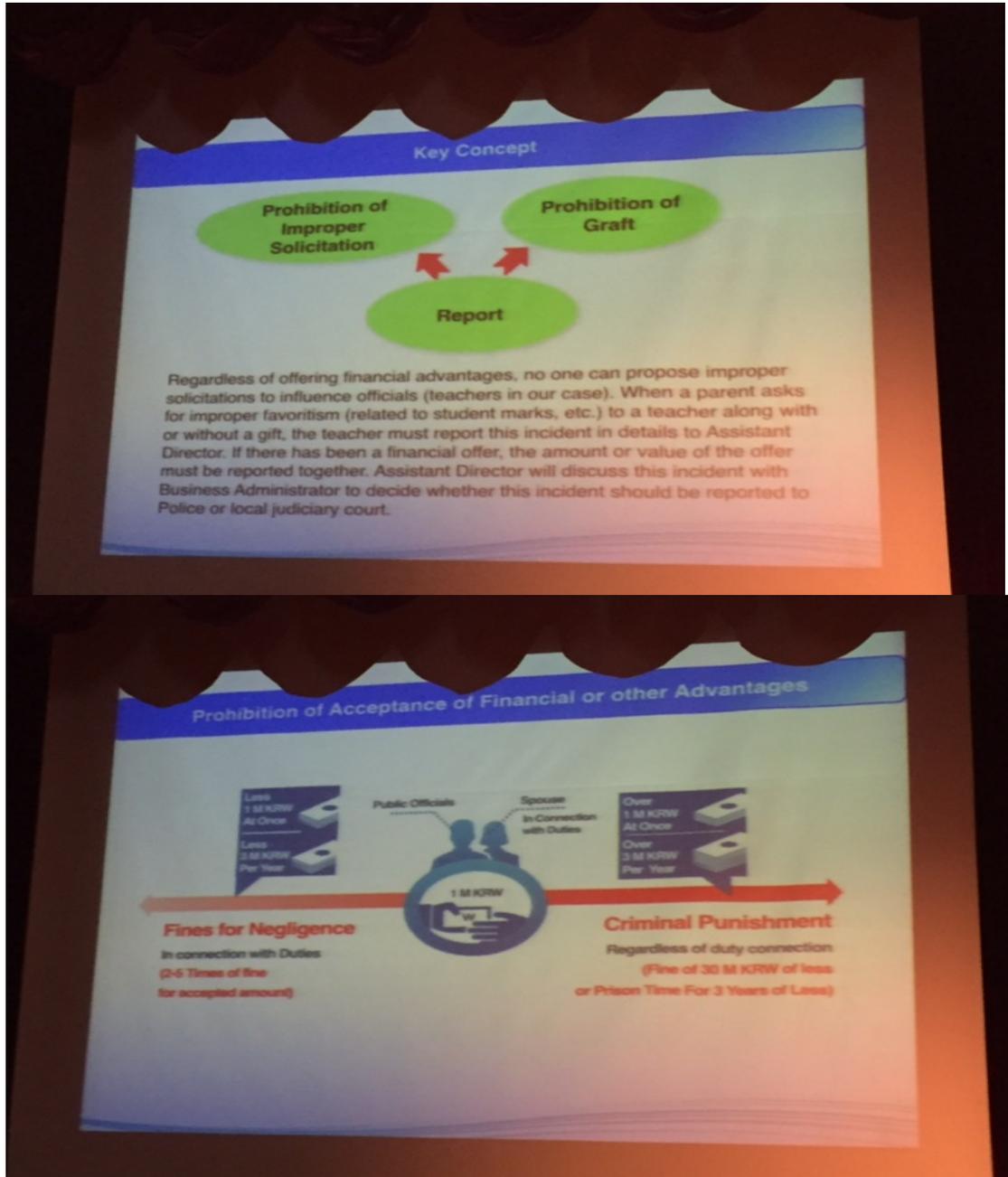
- i. 6th grade
 - 1. It is a big transition year. Students are given tools to succeed in the classes. Teachers are pretty straightforward and expectations are pretty simple.
 - 2. Once the students get past that initial introduction level, classes and homework should become more of a pattern rather than a struggle.
 - 3. Specifically, Mr. Jacobson’s lesson system is slightly different from other teachers. Students are given a video presentation which students can always access at home or wherever.

c. Principal’s personal take on this

- i. Principal went to a small school because parents wanted to go. From personal experience, got great grades not because of any help. Students should like school and have fun.
- ii. Parent’s comments like, “What did you miss? Do you understand why you got that question wrong?” To Principal Slaid, personally, such questions seemed to have a negative impact. Parents should keep this in mind when talking with their students about grades. Even though he was concerned about getting good grades, he learned that learning and improving upon his personal skills and comparing myself to others were the biggest success.
- iii. You need your student to do the best they can do and to push themselves.

- iv. However, if the students did not do that, then maybe the conversation should be, “Did you try your best? Did you push yourself enough?” Rather than, “Why didn’t you get an ‘A’”?

III. Kim Young Ran Law
Presentation by Mr. Young Hoon Kim (KIS Business Office)



IV. MS PTO President's Report

- a. Due to the Kim young ran law, this year 5 bouquets were handed to the parent/student accompanists.
- b. Jamboree snack sales will be continued.
- c. Lunch meals were not provided to the teachers during the parent/teacher conference
- d. Mini-grant awards have been resumed (Budget is 100,000won per individual/group to a total amount of 600,000won)
 - i. Due date is Nov. 20, 2017
 - ii. Selected students should make a 10 minute presentation at the MS Office on Nov. 22, 2017
- e. Lunch Committee: Lunch monitoring is in full swing.
 - i. Monitors: MS Parent Volunteers, Ten 6th grade parents volunteered
 - ii. Monitors Conduct a survey - 8 categories and total 50 questions
 - iii. Report the monitoring Result: on December 5th, 2017, during the PTO Meeting
- f. Jamboree Committee Schedule
 - i. Boy Soccer - Sept. 23 @CI , Oct. 14 @APIS, Oct. 28 @YISS
 - ii. Girls Soccer - Sept. 16 @ KIS, Sept. 23 @GSIS, Oct. 14 @YISS
 - iii. Cross Country - Sept. 16 @SFS, Sept. 23 @YISS, Oct. 14 @KIS
 - iv. Swimming - Nov. 4 @GSIS, Nov. 18 @KIS, Dec. 2 @SFS, Dec. 9 @YISS (Tournament)
- g. Treasurer's Report: Overview of the PTO's financial budget and allocations presented.

V. Art Exhibition Update

- a. Ms. Candice Kim (Arts Department)
 - i. 6th Grade - Foundations Art
 - ii. 7th/8th Grades - Fine Arts, Visual arts (modern), and Illustration (Students who already took fine arts or visual)
- b. CHROMA Nov. 13-16 @ Conference Hall PK-12th grade Art students
 - i. *Reception 3:15-4:45pm (Tuesday)
 - ii. Stages of making a coloring book

The MS PTO general meeting was followed by the grade meetings and was 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.