

MINUTES

PSG meeting – November 13, 2019

Attendees: John Sax, Jon Routh, Daniel Lee, Ellen Depies, Holly Mohan, Carolina Hadji Michael, Jon Geense, Lisa Bhoumik, John Odhage, Leanne Field

Daniel Lee opened the meeting and welcomed parents, PSG members, and QSI staff.

PSG Discussion:

- **November PSG Hike** - John Odhage reviewed the details of the (likely) last hike for the calendar year
- **Treasurer's Report** - John Sax provided the following status as of Nov 13: 15,000 lei (approximately 775 euro), spent 240 euros on fall festival, 117 euros of which were a capital investment on games QSI can use again
- **PSG Planning and Fundraising** – John Sax indicated there is currently no planned spending, but parents with QSI and PSG should identify ideas over the next few months.
 - o Jon Routh discussed the QSI budget and identified where tuition funds are spent:
 - Generally:
 - 65% to staff – salary, relocation, local staff
 - Next largest amount pays for curriculum, to include purchasing and shipping books and supplies from the US as well as online access
 - Smaller amounts are spent on utilities, etc.
 - Paper, school supplies, etc. are in the budget
 - Over the past several years, QSI Chisinau has taken \$300,000 (USD) in loans for the building project and will spend the next several years paying back QSI
 - “Extras” are not included in the budget and there is opportunity for PSG and parents to contribute
 - Examples:
 - o Several years ago, parents and PSG purchased couches and other décor for the school lobby
 - o PSG funds pay for teachers to go out for dinner once a year; this is very appreciated by the teachers
 - Jon Routh indicated that events like fall festival are a huge success because there was money to spend from PSG.
 - o John O. suggested having a workshop with teachers, parents and students (some or all) to come up with ideas for PSG use of funds

Update from Jon Routh - Director Jon Routh provided the following QSI Chisinau updates:

- **QSI Director's Meeting, Thailand, October 2019**
 - o Key takeaways from his meeting, to include
 - Child protection - Keeping Safe curriculum and discussions about ensuring a safe environment for children to learn
 - QSI Plan to move HQ to Malta (from Ljubljana) – likely low impact at the school level

- **Building Project**
 - o QSI is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony, likely the week of Dec 9; stay tuned for date/time
 - o In the new cafeteria, there is a wall that is a tree made out of cork, which will serve to dampen the sound and provide a permanent space for the paintings children make when they leave QSI
- **MSA Update**
 - o QSI Chisinau received reaccreditation and certificate for the next 7 years with no recommendations, stipulations, or follow up items
 - o Thank you to everyone who participated in the process!!!
- **School Museum –**
 - o As part of the new lobby, QSI has included a display case to use as an international museum with objects of art and culture from all over the world. Please consider lending or donating items that are representative of your culture to the school museum!
- **Thanksgiving lunch** – QSI plans to have the whole school together in the new cafeteria for lunch that day, Thursday, November 28.
- **Reminder: The Director’s door is always open!**

Past Events

- **October PSG hike** – 34 people attended, hiking was great, lunch was excellent; looking forward to the next hike!
- As you talk with other parents in the QSI community, please encourage them to attend the PSG hikes and other events!

Parent Discussion

- **Fall Festival recap and lessons learned** - Parents and PSG members discussed the event, which was considered a success! Feedback included a favorable impression of the use of space (gym, food layout); helpful email in advance to lay out expectations, but some things could have been clearer; many parents would be willing to donate some small amount to support PSG purchasing all food at the next event. Comment about impromptu music session at the fire pit prompted further discussion of organizing students to play together sometime. Please send any additional feedback to PSG for consideration as we plan future events!
- **Ideas to engage older students** – Jon Routh stressed the importance of providing support for and engagement of our older students. He identified challenges to this support as the secondary school population has increased in recent years:
 - o mindset to allow for our high school and middle school kids to have higher level activities that may not include the younger classes.
 - o getting students to and from activities when there isn’t a bus available – PSG can perhaps help facilitate carpooling among parents.
 - o Interest – what will students be interested in and capable of attending?

Parents spent a few minutes discussing possible ideas to engage the older students, to include volunteer opportunities, murder mystery night, articles in the school newsletter, and a lock-in at the school. Ellen Depies read a list of suggestions submitted by another parent. Please send ideas on engaging and providing activities for older students to PSG!

Calendar (PSG events bolded)

- November 11, ASA session 2 starts
- **November 16, PSG hike, 10am**
- November 20-22, Teacher professional development training (no school)
- December 2, Coffee with director @QSI, 8:30 am
- December 3, Advisory board meeting
- **December 4, PSG Monthly Meeting, 12:30 pm**
- December 19, Winter music program, 4-5 pm
- December 20 – January 10, winter break (no school)