



QUALITY SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL
International School of Chisinau
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PARENT SUPPORT GROUP
QSI of Chisinau

PSG website: <https://psgchisinau.weebly.com/>
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PSG Chairperson: Daniel Lee
PSG Vice Chairperson: Leanne Field
Treasurer: John Sax

Minutes for PSG Monthly Meeting - October 2, 2019 **Regency Hotel, Chisinau**

Attendees: Daniel Lee, Leanne Field, John Sax, Loredana Travascio, George Khevsuriani, Ellen Depies, Ecaterina Papanaga, Marush McDowell, Elena Finley, Jon Routh, Mari Clemson-Hines, Brenda Geraghty, Giulia Re, Lisa Bhounik, Kelsey Walters

Welcome and Update from PSG Committee

Daniel Lee opened the meeting, welcoming parents and introducing new committee members, Ecaterina Papanaga, Leanne Field and Varvara Leventopoulou-Berdy.

Treasurer Report:

John Sax reviewed the **PSG budget:** PSG spent 4,500 lei for wine and cheese night. The balance is currently 20,000 lei (\$1100, €1030).

PSG Structure

John Sax reviewed the PSG committee structure and outlined a new election process to ensure continuity of the PSG. The structure and process will be published and disseminated once it is finalized.

- There are three elected committee officers: Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer
- The committee is recommended to include up to 10 members
- PSG recommends that each calendar year, elected committee officers will step down and the committee will hold elections to instate new officers
- The committee meets regularly. However, weekly committee meetings can be adjusted based on membership
- PSG encourages parent involvement and will request additional parents offer support for larger efforts or projects (e.g., Fall Festival, International Fair)

Director Jon Routh supported formalizing a succession plan and process to ensure continuity of the PSG.

PSG Event Discussions

Trunk or Treat Fall Festival planning

The annual event is scheduled for November 8 from 6-8 pm at QSI. George Khevsuriani and Ellen Depies led a discussion to prepare for the event.

The group brainstormed some ideas for this year (pizza, games and activities for kids, using the leftover wine from Wine and Cheese night for parents, etc.). Ellen is leading a parent planning committee for the event, and will coordinate with the teacher committee.

The planning committee will put out call for parent help for the event and for clean up after the event. We will also need at least 10-11 parents to decorate their cars and bring candy for the trunk or treat portion of the event, and may request families to bring snacks. Upperclassmen are also encouraged to help out with activities during the event.

PSG Hike

Daniel encouraged parents to attend the next hikes, scheduled for October 19 and November 16. There are no hikes scheduled for the winter months; hiking will begin again in the spring, probably by March or April.

Update from Director Jon Routh

School Calendar Changes

QSI HQ is hosting a professional development event for regional teachers in Minsk. The school calendar was updated to change November 20 from a half day to no school to allow teachers to travel to Minks.

March 6 is now a full day of school.

No further calendar changes are anticipated.

Advisory Board Meeting Update

The Advisory Board, appointed by QSI Headquarters, advises Jon on topics relevant to school functioning. Jon reported the board has not done fundraising in Chisinau, traditionally. Forfeited discounts (tuition discounts offered but not taken) are not significant in Chisinau. However, the board has not decided how to use them yet this year. Historically they have used this to pay for travel for coach or advisor when QSI students take a school-related trip (e.g., Week without Walls)

Jon will publish relevant bullet points in the QSI newsletter after every Advisory Board meeting. Please check the QSI newsletter from 25 September for more information and the contact information for the board members.

Building Project

The outside work – to include the parking lot, walkway and landscaping – and the inside – to include the library, cafeteria and lobby – are on pace to be completed by the end of October, on time, within budget.

MAP Testing

Jon reminded parents that MAP testing is not high-stakes placement testing. The purpose is to see students' performance levels and what their growth has been to support classroom work with their teachers. The results have been given to teachers who are reviewing and making plans for instruction.

Results will be given to parents during parent teacher conferences; returning parents should note the format has changed, but the information is the same as last year.

MSA Committees

MSA evaluated QSI Chisinau on 12 standards – accounting, curriculum, etc. – and we are waiting on them to give final approvals.

Three goals came out of the review and created the school's seven-year plan:

- Mathematics
- Service learning
- Technology (use in the building)

MSA Committees, comprised of parents and school staff, will begin moving forward on implementation of the plan and goals.

Please review the QSI newsletter for more information - if you would like to join a committee, reach out to Lisa Routh

Parent Questions

Is QSI participating in Week Without Walls this year? Jon reported QSI is scheduled to attend during the last week in May – the timing provides more time to organize.

Past events

Wine & Cheese Night on Friday, September 6

Daniel reported that the event went well, but received feedback that the event should start earlier in the evening next time.

PSG Hike on Saturday, September 21

The hike went well and was well-attended. Please plan to attend the October and November hikes!

Coffee with Director on Monday, September 30

Several parents attended to discuss school happenings with Jon Routh. Jon reported on the topics during his portion of the monthly meeting.

Daniel closed the meeting by thanking parents for attending and asking people to participate in the Halloween event.

Following the formal meeting, there was a discussion about traffic and safety near the school. Kelsey Waters raised the opportunity for parents getting involved in increasing safety, specifically by drafting a letter to request a stop light or traffic management at a dangerous intersection. PSG will consider how to move forward on this effort and will coordinate with the QSI Director, Advisory Board and parents as appropriate.

Calendar (PSG events bolded)

- October 11, Moldova day celebration at QSI
- October 14, Chisinau day (no school)
- **October 19, PSG hike, 10am**
- October 28-November 1, Autumn break
- November 4, Coffee with the director
- **November 6, PSG Monthly Meeting, 12:30pm**
- **November 8, Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat at QSI, 6-8 pm**
- **November 16, PSG hike, 10am**
- November 20-22, Staff development days (no school)