



LFA Meeting Notes on 9th October 2019

In Attendance

LFA Parents: Cindy G., Jeff, Lilian, Grace, Rebecca, Chris, and Virginia

Faculty: Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Richard, Mr. Steven, and Tina

Upcoming LFA Events

The LFA shared that the Parent-Staff Social had to be canceled due to issues with the venue and they hope to schedule a Social sometime in December. There is a CPR class on October 16 at 10:00 in the MFR and the LF hopes to schedule the MFR for the Brain Development Specialist Class on November 13 at 10:00 as well. As Halloween is upcoming the LFA enquired whether the MFR could be used for LFA members and homeroom parents to sort through parent's donation items and compile gift bags for the students. The administration agreed that this will not be a problem.

Student Council Changes

Mr. Steven explained that the Student Council program in Secondary is undergoing review. They are currently discussing the changes with the students and hope to implement a Student Council that is taken more seriously, has more responsibility, has its own constitution, and meets regularly with the administration to put forth student ideas.

Halloween

The LFA will be distributing gift bags for the Primary students on Halloween and inquired what the role of Secondary school will be on this day. Mr. Steven stated that while Secondary students are welcome to dress up for the holiday, their classes will continue on as usual. Primary students will have their regular celebrations.

WeChat Communication

The LFA mentioned that it would be convenient if homeroom teachers were able to have the WeChat contact of the teacher in case of emergency. Administration suggested that teachers call the school in case of emergency as it is the quickest way to reach a teacher.

Communication

The LFA shared that a number have parents recently complained about lack of communication in Secondary regarding potential changes. The LFA asked whether there is a Nord Anglia policy on how this type of

communications ought to be handled and whether the administration could be more proactive in communicating issues. The administration agreed that while this is a once in a decade situation, and that solving it was very complex and intricate, more communication could have bettered the situation for the parents and students alike. Going forward the administration hopes to have new teachers in place earlier on in the school year so this situation won't happen again.

Dress Down Days

Mr. Tom clarified that dressing down on certain days this school year will be used as a way for students to raise funds for particular organizations. In this sense, students will pay a designated amount for the privilege of skipping the uniform for a day.

Learning Support Counselor

The LFA inquired whether it would be possible for the school to more fully advertise the new learning support counselor's qualifications so that parents would know more about this valuable resource. Ms. Patricia is able to help with a variety of issues including dyslexia, EAL, and a variety of learning disabilities. Mr. Tom assured that these resources will be promoted to the parents.

Non-English-Speaking Students

There had been inquiries from parents regarding the school's policy on accepting students that don't speak English. The Administration explained that the process for EAL students to be accepted to Secondary school is quite lengthy and includes an online assessment, an interview with Mr. Steven, a Cognitive Ability Test-4 (CAT-4), and discussions with the MYP director, Mr. Jarret. As Lemman International School is designated by the Chengdu government as the International school for Expats, it is their policy to accept all expats and provide a plan for them to succeed. Mr. Tom further explained that in some cases it would not be possible for a student to learn or adjust easily in an English-speaking curriculum. In these cases, the school has advised the parents to consider alternative options.

MYP Team Projects

The LFA shared that some students really struggle doing team projects in the MYP program when English abilities vary so widely. They questioned whether each individual student is being assessed justly and wondered if there might be a better approach to the high percentage of group projects. The administration agreed that MYP does indeed involve a lot of teamwork, and that the program needs to evolve. Mr. Tom shared that they are currently assessing the program and how to ensure it is a good fit for Lemman. He thanked the LFA for raising this issue and agreed to ensure that the teachers are aware of this situation and can correctly evaluate each individual student.

IB Program

Regarding last year's IB graduates, the LFA wanted an explanation on how students can obtain an IB diploma. Mr. Tom admitted that last year's numbers were not great and the cohort was very small. He expressed his optimism for this year's cohort, including one student that is projected to have straight 7's. He suggested the following qualities for students to excel in the IB program: motivation, independence, resilience, as well as

completion of the following three components: theory of knowledge, extended essay, and cast program. Teachers are in place to assist and guide students. Parents will be contacted along the way if their child is slipping or struggling to complete the work.

MAP Testing

In cases where the MAP graph is showing no improvement for a student, the LFA asked what is the next step for primary students. Mr. Richard said that the MAP testing is finishing soon and there will be a parent workshop in the next few weeks. He mentioned that MAP testing is just part of the way they assess the students in grades 3-9 and that they are continually reviewing the process. Mr. Tom voiced that the school has a high reputation of academic success including MAP scores well above the average in America and IB scores above the world average. He maintains that Lemna is the top academic school in Chengdu and that students will make more progress here than anywhere.

Calendar

The administration shared that the date for the Year End Concert will be disclosed by the end of this month. They also stated that the International Day date is being reviewed and discussed but will take place and most likely in May.

Uniforms

Mr. Tom discussed the uniform protocols for the cold weather, explaining that every item sold in the uniform shop can be worn at school and that non-uniform jackets and overcoats can be worn over the uniform during periods of cold weather, as can long-sleeved undershirts as long as the colors fit in with the color scheme (not patterned or colorful). He also informed that the full-zip jackets will be in stock next week, and explained that solid trainers or shoes should be worn with the uniform and not open-toed shoes, Crocs, or flip-flops.

Substitutes

The LFA asked for clarification on the school's policy regarding relief teachers as some parents have complained of missing teachers or not enough teachers. Mr. Tom replied that there are now properly qualified teachers filling all spots across the school and that relief teachers will be used when needed in Primary.

Security

LFA asked for more security including ID cards for parents. Mr. Tom said that many ideas for security are being considered but final implementation has not yet been decided.

LFA Meeting

The meeting began at 11:00am and ended at 12:30pm.