

MINUTES OF GENERAL PTO MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST 2014

Welcome and Welcome Back!

Rebecca Meurer (Becca) our President welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed her delight at having a full house of attendees. She explained what the PTO does and encouraged all, both new and returning, to become involved as it is a great way to meet people and find out information about living and working in Moscow. PTO brings together the AAS community and is a vibrant, active and positive group of people. For more information and to see what your PTO Officers look like [see link](#)

Upcoming events are the Newcomer's Coffees which start this week and Newcomer's Seminars which start on Monday, 1 September for 6 weeks and the Family BBQ and Fun Run on Saturday, 6 September at AAS.

Please look at the PTO Bulletin Board which has been created by Samantha Volkov and is outside the Exchange in the Student Lounge (you walk through here to get to the Cafeterias) also see the wonderful posters and information publicised on the screens in school and in the school newsletters which are published each Wednesday. [see link](#)

Each PTO Officer introduced themselves and provided information about how long they had been in Moscow, their families, how they are involved in AAS. For more information about what the PTO does [see link](#)

PTO Store and Exchange

Kristina Tadic and Angie Vaaler talked about the PTO Store and Exchange and how these are great ways to become involved at school whilst providing a voluntary service to the whole community. The newly renovated PTO store is where you can buy new PE uniforms and a range of goodies and souvenirs. The Exchange is where you can buy or swap tickets for slightly used uniforms, books, DVD's and ice skates when in season. Please remember to bring in any of these items you do not use and either purchase more items or get swap tickets for next time.

Director's Welcome

Jon Zurfluh, our Director thanked everyone for coming to the PTO Meeting and welcomed them to AAS. He was impressed at the "Best turnout ever" and how he was proud to work with this group. Jon explained that this year's focus was to promote "Love Learning" as part of realizing the AAS mission.

Newcomers' Coffee Mornings and Seminars

Carole Lawlor introduced herself and the Newcomer's Committee. She explained that there are coffees taking place starting this week and that the Newcomer's Seminars will start on Monday, 1 September at 0845 hours in Community Room (3004). This is an excellent way to meet people, settle in and find out about your new lifestyle here in Moscow. Come along and find out what you didn't know you didn't know about Moscow. [see link](#) . [Please click here to view the Coffee and Seminar schedules.](#)

Buddy Coordinators

Amalia Petroulia and Colleen Hamilton have been busy finding country buddies for our new families - your buddy should have contacted you so please feel free to reach out to your Buddy if you have any questions. Buddies have volunteered to provide support and are from your home country; they understand what it is like to move and are here to help.

Amendment of PTO Bylaws

Becca explained that prior to the summer holidays a team had been set up to work on updating the current Bylaws which had been created in 2009. An Easy Guide to the Bylaws and an Explanation of the Bylaws along with the current and proposed Bylaws, can be found on the bottom of PTO homepage on the AAS website. Please click on the following link: <https://www.aas.ru/PTO> Hard copies of these documents are also available in the Exchange. In accordance with the current Bylaws notice, at least two weeks' notice was being given at this meeting for a discussion and vote to take place on Tuesday, 16 September at PTO General Meeting. For further information please contact Becca, Michelle or Fiona Sawyer.

Family BBQ and Fun Run

The kick off event for the year is the Family BBQ + Fun Run + Health/Wellness Fair being held on Saturday, 6 September starting at 1130 hours [see link](#). Angie Gooch has volunteered to lead this event as Liz Maudsley is moving back to England. You can walk, jog, run through the forest then enjoy a BBQ at school. There will be wardens in the forest to show you where to go - it is not a race; just an opportunity to discover the forest with your children, partners, prams ...

How to become a Substitute Teacher at AAS

For more information about how to become a substitute teacher at AAS please contact the HR Department which has relocated to near the main entrance at school. You can find more information on the AAS website at the following link: <https://www.aas.ru/employment/substitute>

Communication at AAS

Rita, our Communications Director introduced herself and explained that there will be more and more information coming your way. If you are not receiving the newsletter please contact Rita at rita.ehrman@aas.ru. Jon Zurfluh reminded everyone that they had taken a pledge to read the newsletter! Please visit AAS Facebook to "Like" AAS [see link](#) and AAS Newcomer's [see link](#)

Our New Chef

Tyler, our new chef introduced himself and said that it was an honour to be here. He enjoys cooking southern cuisine and is open to suggestions. Natasha and Keri, from D&D our kitchen supplier want to hear from you too so please feel free to talk to them in the cafeteria, or email cafeteria@aas.ru

New AAS Wifi password

love learning (*lower case letters, two words including the space*)

Elementary School Room Parents

Sharon asked elementary parents who want to become Room Parents to talk to her after the meeting. There are 33 classes in ES with two Room Parents in each class. The role is to help with class parties, gifts, project support - volunteers are needed to make things happen.

Green Committee

Masha explained that there is a Bulletin Board near the Exchange explaining what the Green Committee does; please contact Masha Soumina (greenaaas1@gmail.com) if you would like more information or to become involved.

Next PTO General Meeting: **Tuesday, 16 September @ 0845 hours in South Cafeteria**

Minutes by Michelle Robson, PTO Secretary