

PTA - September, 2023 Meeting minutes

Senior Campus, 4th of September, 2023

PTA board ATTEENDEES

Carlos De León , Interim Chairperson

Erin Frugia, Secretary EFR

Carlos De León , Treasurer OKR

20 RISS PTA

Members/Parents

Teachers

Mr Rafael Moreno RMO RISS - PTA

representative

A Powerpoint Presentation and Agenda were made to assist with this first meeting.

❖ **The Purpose of the PTA at RISS:**

- The role of the PTA is to strengthen the school community by connecting parents, organising events, and supporting school development, via projects and fundraising.
- The PTA is open to any discussion regarding school functioning, events, or sharing of information. The PTA does not deal with academic or individual issues. This must be addressed to the school directly (tutor/head of studies)

❖ **General Updates:**

- The PTA has monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month. Meeting minutes will be attached to the school bulletin email each month.
- All PTA communication is done via the school weekly bulletin and WhatsApp. We have recently discovered the use of the WhatsApp community feature. We will have one Community for work/social groups and one community for grade levels.
- An introductory coffee morning meeting with ACCESS, <https://access-nl.org/>, will be set up soon for new and existing parents. ACCESS is a local not-for-profit organisation that helps internationals, free of charge, regarding questions about moving to, living in, and leaving the Netherlands.
- When entering the school during school hours parents need to sign in at the front office and receive a visitors badge.

- When volunteering in the school, each volunteer must complete an online background check. Please see front office staff for guidance. Please complete this process ASAP if you are planning on volunteering as this may take several weeks to process.
- The PTA had a Thank you Breakfast for the RISS staff in June 2023. We collected €437.50 from parents for this event.
- The New Parent Coffee event on August 21st in the Senior Campus Library was very successful. Carlos and Erin gave a short speech about the PTA, Jayne De Bier, librarian, spoke a bit about how parents are allowed to check out books too. Carla Kacorová, Admissions Coordinator attended as well to answer questions about RISS.
- Fenke Singoeie, spoke a bit about her new role on the Wolfert van Borselen, participation council. Last year the council was looking for a RISS parent that spoke Dutch to fill this role. Fenke will try to keep us informed of council decisions/matters.
- ❖ **Updates to the Board**
 - Carlos De León is currently our Interim Chairperson. Nominations are open for a new Chairperson for the 2023/2024 school year. Please let the PTA know if you are interested in this position.
- ❖ **Work Groups - Event Planning**
 - **Halloween Party:**
 - RISS plans a Halloween party for students every year in October.
 - We discussed the possibility of having a separate party for parents. This also occurs for Valentines Day. This idea will be presented to the RISS leadership team.
 - **Wine and Cheese Event:** *Needs new leader*
 - This is a successful PTA event which occurs every November usually on a Friday evening. with a high turn out. We discussed Including an art exhibition again and the group liked this idea.
 - Due to the size and scope several planning people are necessary. Additionally, we will need lots of physical help needed on the day of the event. It was recommended that we have more set up and clean up helpers than last year.
 - Possible dates for the event could be Nov. 10th or 24th.
 - Location ideas include junior campus or senior campus cafeteria, OLC, Wolfert Gymnasium) These suggestions will be brought to the RISS leadership team.
 - **Festival of Lights Talent Show** - *Refreshments Leader needed*
 - This event occurs in December right before the Christmas break. Students from 6th through 12th grade are invited to perform drama skits, monologues, music, etc. All families are invited to attend and enjoy the show.

- The PTA has been asked to provide refreshments during the intermission.
- **Green Team Parent Support-** *Leader is Erin*
 - Also called Green Thumbs. We are exploring collaborating with the Green Team staff and students to see if there is room for parents/families to help/attend some Green Team activities.
- **Webpage/BulletinTeam** - *Photographer and content help needed*
 - We are looking for one or more parents to help take more pictures during PTA functions to help give the bulletin and website more content. If you are that person please contact the PTA board. <https://riss.wolfert.nl/community/pta>, The website also needs updating.
 - Typically, the PTA chairperson writes the bulletin updates each week. If any PTA parent has interest in helping provide content or pictures this would be greatly appreciated.
- **Library and Media Center Updates:**
 - The PTA supports the development of the library by providing funding for new books, magazines, and newspaper subscriptions.
 - We support the CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) students that run the Language Heritage Club by helping with their annual book drive and additional activities.
 - The senior campus library is looking for parent volunteers, “Friends of the Library” to help on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 11am. (Times may vary or expand) Please contact Jayne de Bier or Norma-Jane Le Blansch, librarians, regarding volunteering in the library.
 - Parents can assist with book check out, chromebook lending, covering new books with protective clear film, holiday decoration, and monitoring the library for volume control and general safety.
 - The PTA sponsors the NYT online subscription. This is very popular.
- **Green Roof project at Junior Campus:** *Needs new leader*
 - Project members are currently working to finalise the architectural design plans and cost with RISS (user), Wolfert (owner), De Dakdokters (design EPC firm) and will need help with applying for funding soon. All funding organisations will require submittals and processing in Dutch. If you would like to help the fundraising team please contact Erin Frugia.
 - To date RISS PTA has set aside €31,688 to contribute to this project.
 - It was suggested that we implement the project in phases. Several members wanted to know the maintenance costs.
 - It was suggested to the group that all of our gatherings and events could be an opportunity to fundraise for the Green Roof.

- **International Food Fair:** *Needs new leader*
 - This very successful PTA event is usually held in Feb. or March to showcase the multicultural aspects of the school.
 - Location to be determined (possible location options include: junior or senior campus cafeteria, junior campus rooftop, OLC, senior campus courtyard with a party tent.
 - It was suggested that we change payment for the event to one entrance fee instead of purchasing tickets for each entree item.
 - This event will need several leaders to organise the sub group leaders that are in charge of their country/region volunteers. We can also utilise CAS students again and we will need lots of physical help on the day of the event.
- **End of Year BBQ:** *Needs new leader*
 - This event is held for students at the end of the school year during school hours. In the past the PTA has provided food, drink, and entertainment.
 - Last year the school hired a food truck and provided students with fun activities and games. This year staff and parents could collaborate more. We could have a combined family and staff event or parents could have their own end of year get together.
 - It was suggested that we have a Brazilian or South African - inspired cook-off.

❖ **Social Groups**

- **World Food @ Rotterdam:** - Leader is *Carlos*. The goal is to socialise with parents and staff, eat good food, enjoy learning about a particular cuisine, region, dish, culture etc. We discussed if it should be potluck style or have the food prepared by one or two families from that country for a fee.
 - The first event will be Sept.15th (Mexico), Oct. could be (USA), Nov. Wine and Cheese Night or have a separate event, Dec. could be India Diwali and/or Dutch & German X-mas cookie fest, March could be Japan & Korea - cherry blossom festival etc.
- **Sports for parents** - Leader is *Carlos*
 - The goal of this group is to get parents socialising by moving or attending sport events. Some parents are interested in walking, bicycling, or playing tennis.
- **Yoga Club:** Leader is *Morana*
 - Yoga will be for all levels. Yoga enhances the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of the participants.
 - Most people seem interested in having class one time per week. The final details are still being discussed with the RISS Leadership team.
 - Most likely yoga will be held in the flex room at the senior campus after school has finished for the day.

- Moreno asked that participants provide their own yoga mat. She also mentioned some props and other accessories may be provided, but if you have your own please bring them.
- **Culture Club:** *Needs new leader*
 - The goal of this club is to get parents/families together to attend cultural events in Rotterdam and surrounding areas. This group visits museums, festivals, workshops, music concerts, and can attend movies together.
- **Book Club:** *Needs new leader*
 - This group reads educational or entertainment books and discusses them as a group. This club could be held at the RISS senior campus library, a cafe, or in a parent's home.
 - More information to follow once we find a leader and confirm with RISS leadership that this type of group can be held inside the school.
- **Dutch/English language Club:** *Needs new leader*
 - The purpose of this club is to offer conversational Dutch or English by Dutch or English speaking parents at the school to help improve our language skills.
 - It was suggested that we hire a tutor or students to help the learning process
 - We could host this in the library, available conference room, cafe, or parent's house. More information to follow once we find a leader and confirm with RISS leadership that this type of group can be held inside the school.
- ❖ **New and Forgotten Projects:**
 - **Teacher Recognition Coffee/Breakfast:** It was discussed that we offer this event multiple times per year, possibly quarterly.
 - **PTA Community Wellbeing:** The group has added yoga and sports for parents. A dance class/club was suggested. If you have any additional ideas please feel free to share them with the group at our next meeting or on WhatsApp.
 - **Movie Night and Music Appreciation:** This has been added to the Culture Club group
 - **Zero Waste Community and Green Thumbs:** We are looking into collaborating with the Green Team staff and students to see if there is room for parents/families to help/attend some Green Team activities.
 - **Science Fair:** There is a science fair for 7th and 8th grade students. We are looking into collaborating with the staff to see if parents can assist/help with the event.
 - **Art Cafe:** This is an activity we are currently researching. We know that it was supported by the art and music department. We will present our findings at the next PTA meeting.

- **Senior Parents Club:** It was suggested that parents could do more for seniors for the 12th grade walk through. The PTA will clarify our role in senior activities such as graduation, the walk through, and the gala, etc. to see if we can make these events even more special.

❖ **PTA Finances**

- At the beginning of each school year the PTA receives an annual budget of (€20 per student) by the Wolfert Group to support projects and to organise events at RISS. Based on the current number of RISS students we will receive around €8,000 from the Wolfert Group.
- Carlos will meet with the finance people at Wolfert Group to define the current budget and outlook.

❖ **Upcoming Events**

15 September	Place TBD	Mexican food and culture evening
21 September	School	Back to school evening
2 October	School	Second PTA monthly meeting
?October	Place TBD	Coffee Morning with ACCESS
? October	Place TBD	Halloween/USA food evening
6 November	School	Third PTA monthly meeting
? November	School	Wine and Cheese evening

Next PTA meeting will be held on Monday, October 2nd at 7pm (first Monday of the month)