



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF LOUISIANA

ISL-West PTO Meeting
Wednesday October 19, 2011 6pm

For notes purposes, please note all speakers names are in bold print.

Chantell Reed, PTO President, opens meeting by greeting everyone. She then calls meeting to order. **Mr. Nobert Estrella, Principal**, greets the audience and reminds everyone about next Wednesday's parent/teacher conferences. He then offers that parents are welcomed to schedule meetings at any time during the school year if there is a need. **Mr. Estrella** then relays to everyone that we are in the 9th week of school. He then states that report cards are broken down into GLE's, detailing skills acquired during the 9 week period. **Mr. Estrella** then requests volunteers for the Open House this weekend, and talks about the Open House Tour that ISL participated in last weekend. **Mr. Estrella** relays the importance of letting the public know that "we are here". He continues that the HNM fair was a success, and we made \$710 from that fair alone. **Mr. Sean Wilson, Head of School**, is handed the microphone. **Mr. Wilson** welcomes the audience. **Mr. Wilson** expands on the Open House being held this weekend. **Mr. Wilson** then talks about the 5 tenants that our school believes in and puts into practice. He states we offer Academic Rigor, then continues by adding Language Immersion. He comments that 80-90% of the day is taught in the Target Language. **Mr. Wilson** states that this provides students service for a lifetime, and gives the children a broader view of the world around them. **Mr. Wilson** continues that cultural fulfillment is integral in this process.

Mr. Wilson expands that Immersion is not a new idea, but for our country and community it can be considered "cutting edge". **Mr. Wilson** states that in order to remain competitive, we assess our students, and standardized tests are a way to do this. **Mr. Wilson** states that 2nd grade is the students first into English studies. He continues that in order for us to make this available to the broad community, we have to be able to say what we do works. He adds that we are responding to applying for additional charter schools. He states that there is a common thought that though we become one school, we are separate campuses. **Mr. Wilson** then asks if there are any questions. M. Porter, parent, asks if we are considering St. Tammany Parish for a school. **Mr. Wilson** states, yes, we are looking to expand but in the distant future. **Mr. Wilson** states that we talk about being competitive in the market. He states that we get top notch personnel and we make sure they have the training and professional development needed to do their job. **Mr. Wilson** then states we have been named one of the top 50 employers in the city by City Business. He adds that NOLA Marketplace will run an ISL spot on their television program on ABC 26 on Thursday of this week. **Mr. Wilson** states this is an opportunity for us to reach out to the general public. **Mr. Wilson** states that we receive 4 applications for every position in the school. Based on lottery, he adds that if the lottery passes, if you go to the bottom of the wait list, it can be overwhelming. **Mr. Wilson** then passes the microphone to **Mr. Estrella**.

Mr. Estrella says that the preview of the video on ISL is excellent, and gives applause to our DID team for their hard work. **Mr. Estrella** says Chantell Reed was on the video and did a wonderful job. **Mr. Estrella** expands that the video shines light on what we do at ISL. **Mr. Estrella** then states that we want to generate funds to do things as a PTO to benefit students. **Mr. Estrella** comments that we have an appreciation for diversity and cultural awareness, an example being our Dia de los Muertos celebration coming up Nov. 1. He expands that this is one step in making our students aware, and asks parents to please sign up for volunteering for this event.



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Mr. Estrella then introduces **Karla Rivera, from the DID team**, to the audience. **Karla** talks about the Open House this weekend. She states that current ISL parents will be giving tours to prospective families. She states that it will be an informative session, from 1-3pm, and adds that we will have another Open House on Oct. 27 from 6-8pm. **Karla** adds that we will give parents additional info.

Chantell Reed takes the floor and asks parents to volunteer. She states that this is why the Eastbank campus is so great, and again asks for parents to sign up. **Ms. Reed** continues that we will be in the Algiers Holiday event, stating that we need a chair person for this event. She continues that this event builds us in the community, and again urges everyone to sign up. She adds for everyone to share their strengths with the school as a whole. She adds that the Newton St. event performance has a committee being formed, and again urges parents to sign up to volunteer. **Ms. Reed** comments that the City Park Fundraiser will be an event for the entire school, and that it is a work intensive event. She expands that everyone will benefit, and that our role as parents is to get the word out, and to get friends and family to purchase tickets. She adds that this will take place in the spring. **Ms. Reed** comments that landscaping is a great need and we need volunteers to sign up. She adds that our ISL banner needs to be hung. Also, **Ms. Reed** states that we need 2 tall 10-12 ft. ladders to hang the banners. She adds Rubber mulching as a need.

Ms. Reed then hands the microphone over to **Aviva Le, Director of Facilities**. Aviva greets the audience and introduces herself. She states that the ISL banner needs 2 parents to be able to climb ladders to hang the banner. **Ms. Le** adds that both campuses need rubber mulching for the play areas for safety reasons. **Ms. Le** asks the audience if anyone has landscaping contacts to please let her know. **Ashley Menchaca, parent**, asked if Ms. Le and ISL had any equipment. **Ms. Le** responded that she has access to schools via a Nola tools loaning program. Aviva expanded by saying that we do not have the space to store large equipment. **Mrs. Menchaca** asked if ISL had a shed. **Ms. Le** responded by saying that we do not. **Mrs. Menchaca** offered that a friend of hers has a large storage unit that he is looking to get rid of, and Aviva asked for the info from Mrs. Menchaca to coordinate. **Ms. Le** relayed that she has to work with the Algiers Homeowners' Assoc. to gain approval for anything put on the property here at ISL-West.

Chantell Reed took the microphone and asked for volunteers for the Nov. 26th Holiday in Algiers event. A parent then asked why was there need for a chairperson. **Ms. Le** interjected and spoke again on the needs of landscaping. **Ms. Le** stated if she had a chairperson as a point person, planning and such would run much smoother. **Ms. Le** added that they could plan things like mulching day, planting day, etc. **Ms. Le** continued that we are partners with Parkway Partners and if we had the volunteers, we could benefit from the relationship by getting free plants and such. ISL does not have the staff to do all of the extra things that need to be done, which is why volunteering is so important. She continued that having a point person or chair person was important for things to run smoothly.



Mr. Estrella closes the meeting by stating the need for volunteers to sign up for the open house this weekend. He stated that parent perspective is an important asset to have at the open house. He expanded that we are looking to raise funds and build community.