

# ASA PTO Meeting - Minutes for October 6th, 2009

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**Time Start:** 3:00 PM

**PTO Present Officers:**

- Susmita Dastidar (Chair), Laura Miller (Vice-Chair), Elisabeth Turk (Treasurer), Flori Willard (Secretary)
- Special Guest: Pamela Ward, U.S. State Department Office of Overseas Schools

**Chair update:**

- Welcoming two new families to ASA.
- Announcement of bi-lingual (English/Malagasy) newsletter
- Restructuring the bulletin board
- Organizing classroom parents - coordinator: Elisabeth Turk
- Meeting of the Halloween Committee - coordinator: Britta
- Implementation of Bullying Workshops
- Book Fair: November 23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> 2009

**Treasure update:**

- Financial statement available

**Special Guest Talk: Dr. Pamela Ward: *Role of PTO/PTA in American International Schools Overseas***

- Dr. Ward explained the role of the Office of Overseas Schools, PTO's role in the American Schools, "We give support, facilitate support between the school and US embassy, offer advice, give materials and advice on educational topics. I spend 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the year in Africa visiting schools, helping schools to become stronger".
  - "Our job is to advise parents who want to go overseas, give them a firsthand impression of the schools available in the country they intend to live. We look at the strengths and weaknesses of each school and advise how a school can improve".
  - "PTO: it is very important for parents to have a personal relationship with school. In the US parental involvement is very normal. The PTO should strengthen relationships between parents, students, educators; conduct a wide variety of activities. The PTO doesn't establish policies, curriculum, etc. "
  - PTO can organize activities such as: Career days, International days, Parents can teach from their area of expertise, Halloween, Etc.
- PTO officers distributed the handout to the public and to Dr. Ward's titled: "What does the PTO do and doesn't do."

**New Business:**

- Develop PTO mission statement. Due to time concerns, the PTO executive board and the Head of the Administration agreed to postpone addressing this issue until another meeting.

**Adjournment:** 4:30 PM