

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2019 10:23 AM EDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [External] meeting

I'm not sure it would be useful to have a meeting with the principal without your being there. I am ready to try just about anything, though, to move this along.

I'm particularly concerned about these reports from TJ parents. If I can get more details (in addition to the upside down logo), I can try to fix things. I don't need actual copies of letters or names of people, just details of the offenses. I also think that problems like these can be avoided with better communication with TJ people. A lot of people I've encountered in China do not have the sensitivity about such things that we take for granted over here.

The most important points:

- In terms of influence, we could give you guys millions and still we would not be able to influence what happens at TJ. It's the opposite that we need, i.e., TJ's influence over our schools.
- This is an opportunity to spread its philosophy worldwide.
- This is an opportunity to improve Chinese people's sensitivity to ethical matters, which hasn't had the highest priority in that country.
- In 2-3 years, I am hoping we will see joint (or at least parallel) experiments at TJ and Thomas Schools.
- And, the big win, is changing the educational culture of China, which in turn, over a generation, change the culture and thus the relationship with the U.S.

These are the things I would say to her. It seems to me that doing something is better than doing nothing.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2019 8:48 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: [External] meeting

Could you? Maybe. She may or may not take the meeting. She may refer you to me. Or she may accept, and then she'll listen and be polite and then provide guidance behind the scenes to her leadership staff and to the PF. From what I've experienced you won't learn anything real about her perspective and direction in a meeting.

Should you? I'm not convinced it's the right strategic move.

At this time, our current Board chair is seeking a meeting with her and is patiently waiting for a response. The PF Executive Committee wants to reset and reevaluate with her basic ways we work together and communicate. This is a whole new era. Collaboration with the PF and even with important US donor technology companies isn't even remotely a given. She made it clear that she has concerns about outside financial influences at the school. It's not clear to me that a meeting with you would help advance the conversation around these larger issues (much bigger than just limited to Ameson).

Then, specifically on the topic of Ameson, she's seen some things forwarded to her by TJ Chinese American parents about how Thomas Schools are using the TJ brand and ranking, and the logo upside down, etc. And I can see she's not comfortable.

I think my board needs to solve some of the bigger questions and issues related to outside groups (including tech companies around things that used to be a slam dunk like internships and mentorships) and collaboration with the school and then we'd be in a position to specifically tackle with the Principal next steps pertaining to international education collaboration and Ameson.

That's my take. Happy to discuss.

On Jul 26, 2019, at 4:39 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Can I get a meeting with the principal to discuss our proposal? I think she should be ready to meet with outside people by now, right?

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2019 3:00 PM EDT

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [External] Question about Thomas Jefferson School

You may reply on my behalf:

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for inquiring about Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and any affiliation or association with schools in China. I forwarded your questions to [REDACTED] and am responding on her behalf.

Our school does not have formal partnerships with institutions in China. A local non-profit organization (TJ Partnership Fund) who supports TJHHST has occasionally crafted business partnerships with organizations in China including Tsinghua University, Ameson and Shirble. Those external business partnerships have resulted in some periodic collaboration between TJHSST and designated schools in China, most often entailing mutual site visits, as well as some TJHSST staff members having the opportunity to teach summer sessions in select schools in China.

There are former employees associated with TJHHST, including [REDACTED], who have been instrumental in guiding Thomas Schools. However, TJHSST does not have any ongoing relationship, communication or affiliation with those individuals or Thomas Schools. Any suggestion or promotion of such a relationship would be highly inaccurate.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Principal
Thomas Jefferson High School
for Science and Technology
6560 Braddock Road
Alexandria, VA 22312
(703) 750-8300

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2019 2:37 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [External] Question about Thomas Jefferson School

Do you want to respond? Refer to [REDACTED]?

[REDACTED] used to be a teacher here and had spent a few years in China at Tsinghua School helping them to develop their program. He also recruited some of our teachers (at least 3) to go to a Chinese-run school near Rutgers. [REDACTED] almost went a few years ago and did go to China for 2 or 3 summers at [REDACTED]'s urging.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2019 1:52 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: [External] Question about Thomas Jefferson School

To [REDACTED],

I have a question concerning your school that would be of great help to me if you could answer. Do you have any affiliation or association with schools in China? I have been offered a job at a "Thomas" school and it concerns me because I don't see any real affiliation with any schools in China on your website despite them telling me so. Please let me know.

Also, they have used a man named "[REDACTED]" as a go between concerning the program and your school. Does anyone with this name strike a bell with you?

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2019 5:23 PM EDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [External] Question about Thomas Jefferson School

I'll take care of it.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Principal
Thomas Jefferson High School
for Science and Technology
6560 Braddock Road
Alexandria, VA 22312
(703) 750-8300

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