



July 3, 2015

Parents' Bulletin No. 21

Re: Explanatory Note - AAVA Stickers, Traffic Situation and Other Issues

Dear Parents and Guardians:

At the risk of repeating information already known to many DLSZ parents and guardians through previous parents' bulletins, we are issuing this parents bulletin to address a few inquiries we have received regarding insinuations and statements made that stickers have been ready for issuance by AAVA since June 5, 2015. Past bulletins are available in the school website.

While stickers may have been printed and available for distribution as of June 5, 2015, it was and remains to be imperative that stickers be issued based on clearly laid out mechanics for the issuance of stickers. Mechanics include number of stickers, eligibility requirements, pricing, and application process.

The point of having clearly laid out mechanics is part of DLSZ's traffic management and community relations plan that aims to address issues affecting the neighborhood around DLSZ on a long term basis. Without clearly laid out mechanics and a carefully formulated traffic management and community relations plan, disputes may and are likely to arise between DLSZ and AAVA at the expense of our students' education.

The issuance of stickers without clearly laid out mechanics would leave those who have no or limited means to transport children to school, but do not fall under any of the category of stickers acceptable to AAVA, at risk of being disenfranchised.

The issues raised by DLSZ parents and guardians regarding AAVA's sticker policy are critical. While DLSZ had been initially eager to accept any concessions that AAVA offered, DLSZ could not ignore those issues, such as (i) the lower number of stickers allotted to DLSZ (relative to other schools) in proportion to its population, which is discriminatory, (ii) constraints on students' ability to carpool due to age, health, security, distance and other compelling reasons, (iii) the higher-than-market pricing for the stickers, (iv) the application form that required notarization and the acceptance of criminal liability by applicants, and (v) the ongoing lawsuits that DLSZ was hoping to settle once and for all.

The signing of a memorandum of agreement (*MOA*) between DLSZ and AAVA, which we have proposed since March 7, 2015, is indispensable. While AAVA's letter to DLSZ dated June 4, 2015 purported to summarize the intent of the parties regarding the types of stickers to be issued, the letter did not include (i) mechanics for the implementation of AAVA's sticker policy and other important details, nor (ii) the settlement of the controversy relating to the color coding scheme which has given rise to lawsuits.

Aside from detailing the mechanics for the issuance of stickers, DLSZ's proposed MOA seeks to create a framework for resolving traffic and other community relations issues. Specifically, in response to the views of DLSZ's neighbors, the MOA provides for DLSZ's commitment to a student population cap and a target volume of vehicle, and the creation of a multi-sectoral committee that will be empowered to adopt policies relating to traffic management and community relations issue. The MOA may also serve as basis for the disposition or dismissal of the ongoing lawsuit between DLSZ and AAVA.

A draft MOA has been presented to AAVA for review, and there will be a meeting on July 9, 2015, where AAVA and DLSZ may discuss comments on the draft MOA, and hopefully, resolve all remaining issues.

It is unfortunate that the validity of last year's stickers was not extended for a few days, as it could have avoided the traffic situation that occurred on July 2, 2015. We anticipated the situation and have previously expressed our concerns to AAVA regarding the possibility of causing long lines outside and inside AAV. However, as a responsible member of the community, we respected the decision, requested your full cooperation, and hoped that AAVA can manage any traffic situation that may arise on the expectation that its officers have made decisions based on a plan of action.


In any case, upon AAVA's insistence and with the hope that AAVA and DLSZ will come into an agreement, we will begin or have begun to distribute AAVA's Carpool Vehicle Application Pass and Sticker Application Form, subject to the instructions attached thereto by DLSZ—even if this form is deficient. The instructions attached to the forms will highlight the need for clearly laid out mechanics.

We have called a general assembly of parents and guardians to be held on **July 6, 2015 (Monday), at 5:30 p.m., at the Sylvia P. Lina Center for Performing Arts**. In this general assembly, we will (i) discuss the situation relating to the expiration of stickers (including what has caused and is causing delay in the issuance of new stickers), (ii) solicit your insights and opinion regarding the approach that we are currently pursuing as a community to address the issues, and (iii) explain the mechanics for issuing stickers.

We regret that the traffic situation significantly affects all of our lives, especially those of the children. However, while it is possible for DLSZ to have avoided the traffic situation by simply distributing sticker application forms, we were unable to disregard the issues that parents and guardians have raised, both during the last general assembly and in writing.

We fully appreciate your patience, cooperation and understanding. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to communicate with DLSZ's Advancement & Communications Office at 771-DLSZ local 748 or adcomm@dlszobel.edu.ph.

Yours in St. La Salle,


Br. Bernard S. Oca FSC
President