

MEETING MINUTES
ISB BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION
MPB 3
Tuesday, 18 December 2012

- Present: Dr. Sumiter Singh Broca
Mr. Gurdist Chansrichawla
Dr. Prathip Chiaravanond
Ms. Courtney Chubb
Ms. Joy Davy
Mr. Marc de Vries
Mr. John Heinecke
Mr. Michael Mussi
Mr. Kevin Sypolt
Mr. Eric Ma
- Absent: Ms. Aimee Cassulo
Mr. Ira Blumenthal
Dr. Ana Coghlan
Mr. Janewit Kraprayoon
Mr. Pravit Sukhum
- Administration: Dr. Andy Davies, Head of School
Mr. Graeme Scott, Deputy Head of School for Learning
Dr. Ugo Costessi, Deputy Head of School/Chief Financial Officer
Khun Walairat, Executive Secretary
- Guests: Ms. Diana Drummond, ES Vice Principal
Ms. Amber Barnett, Student Council President
Ms. Helen Chang, 9th grade Student Council representative
Mr. Dan Avraham Borenstein, 9th grade Student Council representative

I. OPENING

Mr. de Vries opened the meeting at 6:07 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 20 November 2012 meeting were approved unanimously as presented.

II. STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

Three members of the student council, including president Amber Barnett, presented results of a student survey the student council conducted of high school students on the topics of eLearning, life skills instruction and Senior Transition Day. The student council sent the survey to all students in the high school and received responses from 399 students. Students

also responded with general concerns and suggestions.

There were mixed perceptions about eLearning. When asked about the effectiveness of eLearning for a single particular course that will be piloted next year (film production course for up to 30 students), only 20% felt eLearning will be an effective method of instruction. But more than 50% of students responded positively to a general question about whether eLearning is an effective way to learn. Discussion ensued that last year's experience during the flooding may have negatively affected student perception about eLearning and that even though students are quite tech savvy, there is a discomfort with eLearning. The suggestion was raised that the school engage students with eLearning more to increase the level of student comfort.

A plurality of students thought that the administration's plan to extend the life skills instruction for graduating seniors from a single day to several days was a good change. Other students still feel that even more time is needed.

Students commented on the modified exam schedule. The expansion to two exam review days following exams was received positively. Many students did not seem to understand that even though there would be three exam periods scheduled each day, an individual student would have no more than two exams per day. Students living downtown felt disadvantaged because of bus/van travel limitations. Students suggested that concerts and sporting events not be scheduled too close to the start of exams, including the weekend before exams begin, so they have sufficient time to prepare.

Student council will distribute two more surveys before the holiday break: one for feedback about student council and the second for post-exam reflections.

III. PROJECT CHALLENGE

Ms. Drummond provided an update about Project Challenge, explaining that the team of teachers and administrators is working together to foster an inclusive, challenging learning environment at all levels and for all students. She commented on stats from last year's parent survey, citing that only 74% felt their children were challenged academically, and 10% were concerned about the inadequate level of challenge. Additionally, in a student survey, 48% of recent ISB graduates felt they could have learned more over their last year.

Ms. Drummond stated that flexibility and inclusivity are key; the model is to cast a wide net to include, enrich, and accelerate students. There has been a particular concern about the most able learners at ISB, so addressing this area is a key objective of the SLP. She described tiers of service based on an individual student's need, including the ability to access different programs at different times.

Professional development of teachers will be a critical element of the program. Communication and transparency will be extremely important so parents are informed. Care and sensitivity will be necessary as the school develops plan for external and internal branding and labeling of programs. The identification process must be flexible and multi-faceted, not

based on any single test score; a range of tools will be used.

Currently over 25 teachers have some level of involvement with students who receive customized instruction. More broadly, teachers continually face this in the classroom so they have the experience identifying a need and customizing instruction for students. The team is presently evaluating human resource needs and is confident that ISB has sufficient physical resources.

The Challenge and Enrichment committee has been formed, continues to research current enrichment programs, developed the role description for the enrichment specialist, and chose an expert for the position. Members attended the annual National Association for Gifted Children conference. The team will continue to refine the vision for the program and broaden awareness.

The priorities for the new expert will be: 1) establish structures needed to support challenge for all, 2) develop programs to challenge the most able learners, 3) implement program of professional development to building teacher capacity.

BOT members stressed the importance to improve learning and increase challenge for all students and not only to focus on the most able students and to devote attention to how ISB markets and brands these new capabilities to attract new students.

IV. BOT COMMITTEE UPDATES

Committee on Trustees

Discussion of board vacancy to take place in executive session.

Futures Task Force

Major guiding principles success criteria for the FTF are: greater individual choice, appropriate levels of challenge, eLearning as a standard practice, greater opportunities to learn in authentic situations, develop the whole student while balancing academic and co-curricular activities. ISB needs to develop students with a growth mindset, believing that dedication, resilience and positive attitude will bring success.

The FTF will receive feedback from the student council, faculty, BOT, LT, and participants in the Futures activity last August. The FTF will finalize the draft in March, distribute it widely, and begin to use for LT and BOT planning.

Strategic Improvement and Learning Committee (SILC)

Ms. Chubb discussed SILC interest in encouraging the increase of opportunities for students to participate in arts programs of many types, inside and outside the school. The SILC has discussed increasing the availability of the Chevron Theater for activities and events and discussed opening opportunities for students to display visual arts creations.

SILC's goal is to encourage the growth in opportunities for students to develop interest and potential in the arts, broadening and deepening areas in which students can participate and grow. The SILC will develop a list of low-hanging fruit, both inside and outside of school, to

open up for students. BOT members raised the benefit involvement in music has been shown to have on student academic learning and a concern that time for this has been limited, particularly at the MS level.

Business Committee

Mr. Costessi provided an update on ongoing capital projects. Work on the Invention Center continues. The library has opened, and a large number of students has been enthusiastically using the library rooms. Administrative staff has moved into the office space. Touch ups remain. The building is a great success for the school.

As for the sports facility, it was discovered that the large support columns for the tennis courts were not installed in the correct spots, so there will be a delay in the completion of the tennis courts, likely into early March. The pool and indoor facility should be ready for use by the middle of February.

Mr. Costessi recommends a time of reflection once the sports facility is completed. Previously there has been a clear need for a new facility, but currently there is not. During the summer the MS furnishing project will be carried out. A consensus on the use of the current tennis court space has not yet developed.

The problem of traffic circulation and parking at ISB was raised once again. This is not seen to be an urgent problem and is one with many variables, some of which are beyond the control and influence of the school.

V. NEW PARENT SURVEY

Mr. Davies shared results of the 2012 new parent survey, which was distributed to 251 expatriate families and of which 137 completed surveys were returned. Top factors influencing families' decision to enroll their students at ISB included: strong academic programs, campus and facilities, low class size, broad offering of activities, numerous computers/tech resources, IB program and class offerings, and diversity of the student body. Top factors causing hesitation to enroll at ISB were location and cost (32 and 9 respondents respectively). Families widely viewed their campus visit as a positive experience.

VI. PSAT

Mr. Scott shared results of the fall PSAT (Preliminary SAT) test, taken by nearly all 11th grade students and some 10th grade students. The PSAT is part of ISB's learning scorecard. The test covers three areas: critical reading, math, and writing skills. It is primarily a self-learning tool and is not used to guide teacher instruction at ISB.

The primary purposes of the test are to qualify for scholarships (National Merit Scholarships) and to provide a comparison data point with other college-bound students in the U.S. The test also provides an opportunity to practice skills required for the SAT test. ISB average scores show an increase in all three areas from last year: critical reading from 49 to 51, math from 57 to 59, writing from 50 to 51.

The issue of SAT prep course opportunities provided by ISB was raised. Mr. Davies said that ISB is in the process of following up with an SAT prep course provider and students; ISB will offer space for a course if there are sufficient students for the provider to offer the course.

VII. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

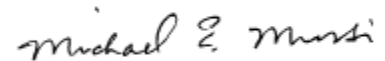
None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 22 January 2013.

Verified as approved by the Board
at its meeting of January 22, 2013



Michael Mussi
Secretary, ISB BOT