

MEETING MINUTES  
ISB BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR SESSION  
MPB 3  
Tuesday, 18 November 2014

Present: Dr. Sumiter Singh Broca  
Dr. Prathip Chiaravanond  
Mr. Nimit Damrongrat  
Mr. Marc de Vries  
Mr. Brent Gros  
Mr. John Heinecke  
Mr. Janewit Kraprayoon  
Ms. Kristina Kvien  
Mr. Kevin Sypolt

Absent: Mr. Ira Blumenthal  
Mr. Gurdist Chansrichawla  
Ms. Joy Davy  
Mr. William Harvey  
Mr. Eric Ma  
Dr. Voraporn Socatyanurak

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

**I. OPENING**

Mr. de Vries opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the 14 October 2014 meeting were approved 7-0 as presented.

**II. PTA UPDATE**

The PTA President, Ms. Hallengren, provided an update on the PTA's current activities, initiatives and plans. The Board was informed that Principal Forums for the High School were being held on a regular basis and that two parent workshops, on resilience and on language acquisition, had been held. The adult education program had over 200 parents involved, in about 30 classes. The first edition of Touchstone was now out. The international family fair, involving about 400 volunteers, was planned for 20 February 2015. Ms Hallengren also explained that mid-year and end-year graduation ceremonies were being planned and that there were plans to invite about 35 new families to welcome events in January 2015.

### **III. High School Graduation Requirements**

Messrs Bradley and Rogers revisited their presentation from September 2014, with a focus on four key issues. These were: a) do the current high school requirements – which were last reviewed in the year 2000 – align well with the school vision; b) how to ensure a wide range of course requirements; and b) do they help students get into their desired universities and do they equip graduating students with the skills they require?

Under the proposed requirements, which have been prepared after an extensive consultation process, students would still be required to take 25 credits (in practice most ISB students take more), but the number of electives would be increased to 9 and 2 language credits would be required. Physical education would get 1.5 credits as opposed to 2 now (however, any regular program of supervised physical activity performed under supervision would be counted against this requirement). Students would have to take a minimum of 7 courses per semester in grades 9 and 10, and 6 per semester in grades 11 and 12. The proposed changes would give students greater choice and flexibility and help reduce some of the pressure they currently face, particularly in Grades 11 and 12 in the IB diploma program. The proposed changes should also help the large number of students who currently take a language but do not get any credit.

With regard to implementation, it was proposed to start from August 2015 for Grades 9 to 11, while the class of 2016 (Grade 12 next year) would graduate with the existing requirements. The new system would be completely phased in by Aug 2016, but there would be review of special circumstances in the first two years of implementation.

One question left unanswered is what should be done about requirements for which students do not get credit, but arguably should such as the GCW?

Concerns were expressed by Board members that some parents may think that the IB diploma was being cheapened and that most universities were looking for students with strong academic potential, not necessarily well balanced individuals. In reply it was pointed out that transcripts and the reputation of the school were crucial and that the ISB diploma had a certain reputation.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the proposed HS graduation requirements.

### **IV. COMMITTEES**

The Business Committee reported that the policy of dollar hedging had been reviewed in view of the fact that the Thai Baht was weakening. In fact ISB was hedged 71 percent for the year beyond next year. There is a cash balance of 1 billion baht spread over 9 banks.

As regards capital projects, no large projects are on the horizon, although some renovations will have to be done, e.g. to the center of the school, which cannot be closed easily. Renovations to the Chevron theater, will be consider over the next year, and could be significant if a decision is made to put in a second level.

There was also some discussion of enrollment capacity and whether it makes sense to start thinking about a new building at this stage. The main problems are in ES and MS. Several options were considered, including that of adding extra floors. However, a decision would depend on whether the

enrollment increase is temporary or permanent and this is not clear. One factor is that families seem to be staying longer than they did in earlier years.

The Business Committee will make recommendations on the ownership structure of ISB and related entities at the December Board meeting, at which approval will also be sought for the 2014-15 financial statements.

The SILC Committee reported that a SWOT analysis of the proposed wilderness campus had been conducted. The conclusion was that while there were certain benefits, the objectives were unclear. Instead of buying land, it might be worthwhile to explore other options such as a semester at sea or renting land for the wilderness campus.

The SILC Committee had also discussed ways of streamlining the process of teacher evaluations for teachers whose performance is not up to expectations.

In the ensuing discussion, the issue of traffic congestion in Nichada on school mornings was raised and a suggestion made to analyze it in the business committee.

The Committee on Trustees did not meet in November.

#### **V. MAP ASSESSMENT**

Students in Grades 3 to 9 had taken the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) test this fall. This test is given twice a year, on the computer which adapts to the level of difficulty and measures. The test is a measure of reading and mathematical skills and measures the growth of each individual student from fall to spring. The MAP also includes a comparison of ISB's mean RIT to the mean RIT at other schools in the US, including public schools. The results were reasonably stable this year and were broadly comparable to results from earlier years.

#### **VI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Mr Gros announced his resignation from the Board as he was leaving Bangkok.

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

*The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16 December 2014.*

Verified as approved by the Board  
at its meeting December 16, 2014



Sumiter Singh Broca  
Secretary, ISB BOT