

MEETING MINUTES
ISB BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION
MPB 3
Tuesday, 20 January 2015

Present: Mr. Ira Blumenthal
Dr. Sumiter Singh Broca
Mr. Gurdist Chansrichawla
Dr. Prathip Chiaravanond
Mr. Nimit Damrongrat
Ms. Joy Davy
Mr. William Harvey
Mr. Janewit Kraprayoon
Mr. Ken Ohashi
Ms. Kristina Kvien (came late)
Mr. Eric Ma
Mr. Kevin Sypolt

Absent: Mr. Marc de Vries
Mr. John Heinecke
Dr. Voraporn Socratayanurak

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. Krayapoon opened the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the 16 December 2014 meeting were approved 9-0 as presented.

II. PTA UPDATE

Ms. Hallengren presented highlights of PTA activities from November 2014 to January 2015. The HS Principal Forum had discussed how teachers recruited and retained; the ES International Day had been very successful, as had the MS Snow Ball – dances in Middle School run by the PTA. As regards the funding and grants program, about 50 percent of the budget had been spent, but THB 500,000 to 700,000 still needed to be allocated. However, several good proposals had been received. The mid-year graduation in December, organized by the Japanese community, had been a success. The second volume of the PTA magazine *Touchstone* had appeared.

Current planning initiatives included the international family fair planned for late February, monthly

parent workshops, the second semester adult education courses planned for March to April 2015 and for which signups would begin in February; the MS Neon night dance and, of course, ES, MS, and HS PTA meetings. Plans were also being made for the graduation week festivities.

III. SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND DRUG TESTING

Mr. Roback made a presentation on this topic. He explained that a health model approach to substance abuse and drug testing was being followed rather than a punitive one. He reported on a recent survey of HS students, to which about 40 percent of HS students in grades 9 to 11 had responded. The key findings were that about two out of three students said they had never been in an environment in Thailand where drugs other than alcohol were offered, while about half the surveyed students said that, based on their experience, their fellow students were not drinking on a regular basis. As regards their own habits, the vast majority said they never drank.

The MS Health Model covers a 4 day freedom from chemical dependency (FCD) visit planned for March 2015, faculty training and MS/HS training. There is a second step curriculum being followed in the US, under which there are individual lessons for each grade level, with a focus on substance abuse prevention with specific outcomes.

The HS health model includes a Grade 10 health course in which there is an alcohol unit focusing on refusal skills and reducing risks, risks associated with living in Bangkok and the effects of alcohol on the brain; as well as a relationship unit focusing on positive decision making, and signs and symptoms of alcohol abuse. Freshman seminar lessons are also offered on teens and substance abuse, alcohol and the brain, direct and indirect pressures on teens, refusal techniques and skills. There are also FCD small group discussions and presentations on brain research.

As regards the drug testing procedure, more than half of HS students are randomly tested over the course of the school year and there is also some testing of MS students. Parents have to countersign the parent communication forms after the test is completed. Alcohol is not tested for, but prescription drugs e.g. xanax are. Drug tests are designed to pick up sustained abuse, not a very occasional user. In case of a positive test result, the student is suspended for up to 10 days, must undergo counseling with an outside counselor, will be required to submit to focused testing in future and will be recommended for removal should there be a second positive result.

Future work will focus on a PK to Grade 12 health curriculum review, a panel presentation on raising children in Bangkok, and an FCD parent evening.

The ensuing discussion focused on the success of the drug testing program at ISB, the desirability of testing for alcohol abuse if technology was available, and the whether the policy of recommending removal after two positive tests was justified.

IV. COMMITTEES

The Business Committee reported that it had met earlier that evening and had decided the hedging policy for 2015-16. A more detailed presentation would be made in the Executive Session.

V. CAMPUS SAFETY

Mr. Nelson made a presentation on improving safety and security in the school. He explained that an outside consultant had been hired to conduct a safety audit and make recommendations. The consultant made a number of recommendations relating to enhanced perimeter security, procedural security and pool safety, better vetting of staff and strengthening of the school security force, better management of traffic and improved signage and communication. The full written report would be made available within two weeks. The next steps include a visit from *Keeping Children Safe*, a UK based organization from 26-28 January, and the development of an action plan by senior administration. BoT oversight of this process is critical.

The ensuing discussion focused on the performance of the surveillance system and the need to use modern software. It was explained that the consultant would be asked to make a follow up visit in 18 months.

VI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

There were none.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 17 February 2015.

Verified as approved by the Board
at its meeting February 16, 2015



Sumiter Singh Broca
Secretary, ISB BOT