

MEETING MINUTES  
ISB BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR SESSION  
MPB 3  
Tuesday, 9 April 2013

Present: Dr. Sumiter Singh Broca  
Mr. Gurdist Chansrichawla  
Dr. Prathip Chiaravanond  
Dr. Ana Coghlan  
Ms. Joy Davy  
Mr. Marc de Vries  
Mr. Brent Gros  
Mr. Janewit Kraprayoon  
Mr. Eric Ma  
Mr. Michael Mussi  
Mr. Pravit Sukhum  
Mr. Kevin Sypolt

Absent: Mr. Ira Blumenthal  
Ms. Courtney Chubb  
Mr. John Heinecke

Administration: Dr. Andy Davies, Head of School  
Ms. Usa Somboon, Headmistress  
Mr. Graeme Scott, Deputy Head of School for Learning  
Dr. Ugo Costessi, Deputy Head of School/Chief Financial Officer  
Ms. Elizabeth Rossini, Director of Curriculum Development  
Khun Walairat, Executive Secretary

Guests: Ms. Amber Barnett, Student Council President  
Ms. Helen Chan, Student Council  
Ms. Benya Kraus, Junior Class President

## **I. OPENING**

Mr. de Vries opened the meeting at 6:06 pm.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the 19 March 2013 meeting were approved 9-0 as presented with 3 abstentions (Mr. Kraprayoon, Mr. Gros, and Mr. de Vries).

## **II. STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE**

Student council members presented the results of a survey they developed with Art Department staff members and distributed to all students currently in one of the arts classes at ISB, including music, drama, dance, drawing, jewelry, and others. Student council received responses from 403 students.

Responses were largely positive about courses helping to unlock creativity, giving students an opportunity to express their personal creativity. A large majority (360 students) feel proud about their own personal growth in the art field of their choice.

Several student suggestions for improvement centered on greater access to facilities after school and on weekends. There is an interest in expanding the diversity of courses to include ceramics, cooking, and film. (Next year ISB will offer two separate courses in IB film studies and sound engineering.) Drama students expressed interest in more opportunities to develop student-directed projects. Music students expressed interest in expanding musical choice. Students suggested increasing the number of competitions, showcases, displays of student artwork around school, and publicity of ISB's artistic activities. There were also suggestions to expand the opportunities for involvement in the arts at the middle school level.

As this presentation to the board was the student council's last of the year, members explained that they had been reflecting on the value of meeting with and presenting updates of their activities to the BOT. This is the first year the student council has made regular presentations to the BOT. Board members commented that it has been valuable to hear about student activities and perspectives on an occasional basis, and they recommend that the updates continue, possibly every other month, to keep in touch with what students are doing. It was raised that it may be more effective for the student council to present to the school administration on a more regular basis to build the lines of communication between the student council and the administration.

### **III. FUTURES EXERCISE**

Mr. Scott introduced a new graphic banner that the Futures team has developed. The graphic, entitled "Broadening Horizons, Opening Doors", provides the visual linkages between the Guiding Principles that have been gleaned from the Futures Exercise to ISB's mission and vision by way of a set of five enabling strategies, or bridges, that connect the principles to practice. He commented that there is still a need to link assessment, as it has not been incorporated into the graphic yet.

Mr. Scott discussed several examples of educational research that have been guiding discussion of how ISB can continue to foster student learning more effectively. The discussion included research by Tony Wagner, who has written about educational excellence in Finland, Howard Gardner and his book 5 Minds for the Future, Sir Kenneth Robinson's look at changing educational paradigms, and IBM's poll of CEOs from 60 countries that highlights a need for creativity in its new employees.

He raised the question, "What advantage does ISB provide to students when compared with students from other schools?" The stakes are too high not to continue to adapt in light of predicted increases in creativity-related professions. He explained that ISB continues to build on existing strengths, to learn from other schools, to seek partnerships locally and globally, to facilitate and manage change more effectively, to encourage community involvement. Components of the education ISB increasingly needs to provide students are adaptability and the development of each student's "transportable gift."

Mr. Scott discussed current and upcoming projects, including pilots in grades three and five in metacognition development and an increased level of student choice in reading classes, writing workshops in the elementary grades, the new high school level courses in film and sound engineering, introduction of a "Passion Day", during which students will have a chance to discuss and demonstrate an activity they are passionate about but which are not taught at school

The question was raised about how metacognitive skills are assessed. Ms. Rossini described teachers bringing “mindfulness” into their instruction and leading students in self-reflection about challenges faced in learning. Students are exposed to topics such as the role of sleep in thinking, memory and how the brain works, and the effects of drugs and alcohol on our brains. ISB is working on a metacognition continuum for students at each grade level.

#### **IV. COT UPDATE**

Ms. Davy explained that the year-end evaluation for Head of School has been reviewed and finalized. In May, Mr. Davies will present his self-assessment of his goals for the year; BOT members will receive the HOS evaluation document and be asked to submit it one week before the August 23 retreat. The BOT self-evaluation document will also be distributed.

Ms. Davy raised the prospect that KPMG monitoring of BOT elections may revert back to the PTA as had been the practice up until a couple of years ago. She also brought up the question of whether the BOT should consider action to extend the period to submit ballots longer than only the day of the AGM. Recent BOT election response rates have been around 20%. Currently BOT by-laws only provide for submission of ballots on the day of the AGM.

The question was raised whether ballots should include the words “currently serving” next to BOT candidates who are present members of the BOT. The listing of “currently serving” may influence voter choice, so it was asked whether the listing should be retained as has been the practice in the past. Arguments were made on both sides that the listing might influence choice in a positive way and also in a negative way.

**MOTION: To retain the language “currently serving” on the election ballots next to BOT candidates who are present members of the BOT.**

**The motion passed with five votes in favor, two opposed, and four abstentions.**

The suggestion was presented that next year the April BOT meeting be held after Songkran rather than before.

#### **V. PSA 2550**

Ms. Somboon explained that she had attended a meeting earlier that evening with the Education Minister and the OPEC director and their staffs. Representatives from several schools raised the issue of transfer of assets, explaining that it would be premature to submit a school charter before the tax implications were clear. An attorney from OPEC said he understood the concern, but the focus was only on the transfer of land and not other assets. The Minister then said that he would ask OPEC to make a formal recommendation to him that schools requesting a postponement of implementation of the PSA, including submission of a school charter, be granted another two year postponement. Ms. Somboon explained that the Ministry of Education would send an announcement to schools and each school would submit such a request to OPEC individually. She said it was unclear how long this process would take, but that she would encourage the OPEC attorney to see that it happen as quickly as possible.

Mr. de Vries advised that even if a postponement is eventually granted, ISB should still have an approved charter and by-laws (by ISA members at the AGM) just in case the postponement is not granted before the June 9 deadline. It was suggested that agenda items at the AGM relating to the school charter and new by-laws be listed as conditional items, their activation being triggered if the postponement were delayed or not granted. Mr. de Vries asked Ms. Somboon whether she could request an official copy of the minutes of the meeting so ISB would have a record of the discussion. Ms. Somboon agreed and expressed confidence that the letter from the Ministry outlining the extension request process would be issued before June 9.

## **VI. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

One comment from the public relating to the Futures exercise was that students are more able to express and develop their creativity in the elementary, middle school, and early high school years, but once they reach 11<sup>th</sup> grade and start the IB program, their flexibility and freedom to select classes is limited, and they have fewer opportunities to develop creatively.

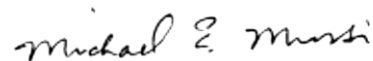
Another comment expressed the preference that names of present BOT members not include the description “current BOT member” on the election ballot.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

*The next meeting will be held on Friday, 31 May 2013.*

Verified as approved by the Board  
at its meeting of September 17, 2013



Michael Mussi  
Secretary, ISB BOT