

MEETING MINUTES
ISB BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION
Web 2.0 Room in MS/HS Library
Tuesday, 17 January 2012

Present: Mr. Ira Blumenthal
Ms. Aimee Cassulo
Mr. Gurdist Chansrichawla
Dr. Prathip Chiaravanond
Ms. Courtney Chubb
Ms. Joy Davy
Mr. Marc de Vries
Mr. John Heinecke
Mr. Janewit Kraprayoon
Mr. Eric Ma
Mr. Pravit Sukhum
Mr. Kevin Sypolt
Mr. Stephen Valen
Mr. Al Williams

Absent: Mr. Somsook Serthin

Administration: Dr. Ugo Costessi, Deputy Head of School/Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Andy Davies, Deputy Head of School for Learning
Khun Walairat, Executive Secretary

Guest: Mr. Philip Bradley, High School Principal
Dr. Cathy Curtis, Head of High School Counseling Department

Mr. de Vries opened the meeting at 6:08 pm.

I. OPENING

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 13 December 2011 BOT Regular Session Meeting were approved unanimously as presented.

II. CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS

Mr. Bradley and Dr. Curtis were present to discuss whether the current high school curriculum is optimal for students to do their best work and be as attractive as ever to colleges/universities around the world. The discussion was specifically targeted to higher education in the United States (US) because the majority of ISB students choose to further their education in that country. Dr. Curtis stated that the goal is for students to be successful in high school and attend a college/university that is a good, individual match. Schools in the US look for students who choose the most rigorous curriculum offered and perform to the best of their abilities. A goal for the curriculum is to offer the broadest opportunities possible to meet the needs of all students while maintaining challenge. It is believed that ISB students are well-prepared for

college/university and most perform well in higher education. College representatives are impressed that ISB self examines itself and one individual commented that “a school that does not self-examine is a school that is not growing.”

A discussion ensued regarding whether ISB students know which science subject to take because some believe that the current curriculum (specifically science) is not compatible with US boarding schools and timing of SAT 2 tests. It was questioned whether it is good practice for the same teacher to teach all sciences. Mr. Bradley stated that any grade 9/10 science course is expected to be taught by any high school science teacher. Now all science teachers teach at least one IB course and one grade 9/10 course. This practice strengthens the curriculum, the quality of teaching, and the level of instruction.

Another discussion ensued regarding whether or not the curriculum was diverting from the core of ISB towards IB and how that supports students. There are other IB focused schools in Bangkok, should ISB focus more on a traditional American curriculum? The response was that ISB can be an American school and still offer the IB program. In fact, ISB is the oldest IB school in Thailand and the IB diploma is a good fit for ISB's student body and ethos. The IB program meets the needs of almost all students and is well recognized throughout the world. It falls in line with ISB's definition of learning, community service, and the concept of educating the whole child. The IB curriculum is well understood in the US and the US is the fastest area for IB growth. Currently, only three ISB seniors are not taking any IB subject. It is believed that more ISB students are capable of completing the full IB diploma.

ISB sends a parent survey six months after students leave the school. A comment was made to consider adding more probing questions in the high school section regarding transition and preparedness for college/university.

Action: This highly important topic will be followed up with data including past leaver surveys and SAT scores. This will lay the foundation for the future direction of the school.

III. BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Sypolt provided an update of the 9 January 2012 business committee meeting.

The highlights of the 2012-2013 preliminary budget were provided. A proposed budget will be presented to the board at the 14 February 2012 meeting. The committee met with the assignment partner and manager from KPMG to discuss the audited financial statements of ISA and subsidiaries as of 30 June 2011. KPMG had no major findings to report. In terms of hedging, the school is on target based upon the following agreed levels:

- current school year – 100% of expected exposure hedged
- following school year – 80% of expected exposure hedged
- school year 2 years out – 50% of expected exposure hedged
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IV. COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES (COT) REPORT

Ms. Davy provided an update on the 7 January 2012 Special Meeting with Mr. Jim Ambrose and 11 January 2012 COT meeting.

7 January 2012 Special Meeting with Mr. Jim Ambrose of Search Associates

Ms. Cassulo, Ms. Davy, Mr. Sypolt, Mr. Williams, Dr. Davies, Dr. Gerritz, and a group of selected parents (Mr. Matt Lobner from HBSC, Mr. Tim Meisburger from The Asia Foundation, Mr. Will Wang from Nielsen Thailand, and Mr. Dustin Whiteley from Halliburton) met with Mr. Jim Ambrose to discuss possible board restructure to increase board continuity and stability and best support Dr. Davies in future years. After much discussion, the COT believes that the current structure is working well and that there is no compelling reason to pursue a change in board structure at present. The parents stated that increased board transparency and parent communication was much appreciated.

11 January 2012 COT Meeting

The COT would like to adopt four general practices to enhance the current board and to increase board culture.

1. Aggressively recruit prospective trustees, identifying and personally inviting talent in the community to consider running for the board. Appoint community members to board committees early in the year.
2. Strengthen new trustee orientation, implementing a buddy system pairing new trustees with mentors.
3. Strongly encourage prospective trustees to attend orientation sessions before election.
4. Strengthen board self-evaluation exercises and reinstate mid- and end-year evaluations using more structure. Develop metrics to support evaluation. Offer board training using external consultants.

MOTION: Allow COT to pursue the above four recommendations to strengthen board culture.

The motion was approved unanimously.

V. LEARNING SCORECARD RESULTS

Dr. Davies provided raw data from the recent International Schools' Assessment (ISA.) The ISA is developed by the Australian Council for Education Research (ACER) and is based on the 2000 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) examining math and reading framework. The ISA tests mathematical and reading literacy and narrative and expository writing. It provides international benchmarking reports that describe what students know and do. It tests over 53,000 students from 289 international schools in more than 50 different countries in grades 3, 5, 7, and 10. This year, raw data from ISB was not as good as desired and administration is waiting for better information on norming and needs time to disaggregate data before fully analyzing results. In general, ISB students are making progress in math and reading but writing scores are lower. Three writing consultants will visit the school next week and almost all elementary school teachers will attend a writing-focused professional development program at Columbia University in the summer of 2012.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 14 February 2012.

Verified as approved by the Board
at its meeting of February 14, 2012

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aimee Cassulo".

Aimee Cassulo
Secretary, ISB BOT