



**ASSOCIATION DES SECTIONS INTERNATIONALES
BRITANNIQUES ET ANGLOPHONES**

Association subject to the law of 1st July 1901 and the Decree of 16th August 1901
Association régie par la Loi du 1^{er} juillet 1901 et le Décret du 16 août 1901

Registration no. / *No. d'enregistrement*: **28028455**

Registered address / *Siège social*: 21 allée de Bourrienne, 92500 Rueil-Malmaison

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PROCÈS-VERBAL DE LA
RÉUNION DU CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION**

DATE: 5th December 2011

PLACE: Lycée de Sèvres, 21 rue du Docteur Ledermann, 92310 Sèvres (Salle de réunion, Bâtiment D).

PRESENT

1. Paddy Salmon (Sèvres), President
2. Ivan Karaïvanov (EAB Étoile) Treasurer
3. David Gage (St. Germain parents), General Secretary
4. James Cathcart (St. Germain-en-Laye)
5. Shaun Corrigan (Fontainebleau)
6. Derek Erb (Balzac parents)
7. Rob Miller (Lyon)
8. Anna Parry (EAB Étoile, parents)
9. Peter Woodburn, (Ferney-Voltaire)

IN ATTENDANCE

Anne Potonnier (Chef de Section, Sèvres)

MEETING

The President opened the meeting at 10:05.

1. Minutes of last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed. The Secretary will verify if all Minutes are now on the website and if not will up-date through Derek Erb, the webmaster.

2. Photos for website

The members concerned were reminded about providing a photo (not obligatory) and a very short biographical summary for the website.

3. Renewals

The Secretary reported that the renewal forms for the current year had now been sent out and that non-member OIB schools would be contacted soon and invited to join.

4. Potential New members / Collège level

4.1 The meeting was informed of a new school, Ecole Massillon, a private Catholic school (with primary, Collège and Lycée levels) in Paris (4th arrondissement) which is planning to present students for the British OIB in the coming years.

4.2 Derek Erb mentioned that Camille Sée (which only has Collège students at present) had enquired whether it should get involved with ASIBA at this stage.

4.3 A discussion took place on how to help Collèges and the importance of extracurricular activities, such as drama, and taking exams such as IGCSE (language & literature) was raised. Perhaps ASIBA could take a role in suggesting or recommending these and other initiatives to new schools entering the OIB system.

4.4 The experiences and practices of different schools were discussed. Paddy Salmon advised that at Sèvres the preparation is done but that students are not obliged to take IGCSEs, there is a question of exam cost. Derek Erb advised that IGCSEs are no longer taken at Balzac, it was mainly an issue of cost.

4.5 Shaun Corrigan advised that the fees of Cambridge were something like €900 in advance and then €60 per student. Other UK examining bodies validating IGCSEs might have different fees.

4.6 The meeting considered IGCSEs useful for students (exam techniques and exam culture) and giving students an objective in 3^{ème} / Seconde) and Anne Potonnier mentioned that parents appreciate having some external indication of the level their children have achieved. Peter Woodburn and Paddy Salmon agreed to look further into this.

4.7 James Cathcart referred also to the Brevet International which has grown organically over the years but the curriculum varies from one Académie to the next.

5. Website

5.1 Derek Erb explained that, with succession planning in mind, his intention is to keep the website simple from a technical point of view so that it remains relatively easy to maintain. ASIBA would be likely to require the services of an external professional if programming were to be needed in the future.

5.2 James Cathcart raised the possibility of using a wiki system. Derek Erb explained the advantages and disadvantages, for example the need for an editorial board to control content.

5.3 The Board agreed that the cost of an external professional should be looked at in the not-too-distant future.

6. Visits to new Schools

6.1 James Cathcart advised that the Heads of Section body has started drafting a document on what is needed to start a new international section. It was envisaged that part of the recommended procedure would be a visit to one of the well-established lead OIB schools. In the past, for example, representatives of the Boulogne school visited Sèvres.

6.2 Paddy Salmon referred to the DEGESCO document on this and it was agreed that co-ordination would be needed, although some overlap would be likely. Peter Woodburn will liaise with Catherine Saigne (OIB coordinator) and Les Albiston (Colomiers) the new schools co-coordinator.

6.3 Peter Woodburn raised the question of schools situated abroad (Singapore, possibly South Africa etc.) where there would be material cost implications.

6.4 The meeting suggested that the ASIBA website should have the name of a new schools' contact person indicated prominently.

7. Heads of Section Meeting & Paris Meeting

7.1 Peter Woodburn reported on the Heads of Section meeting held in Lille.

7.2 Various Board members also reported back on the important international sections meeting held in Paris at the Lycée de Janson de Sailly on 23rd November attended by a full range of important figures in the domain of internationals sections, including representatives of DEGESCO, DREIC, SIEC and so on, and heads of section / representatives of the various international sections (with Russian sections and US sections among those well represented). Helen Eccles represented Cambridge as Diane Palmer had been unable to attend.

7.3 There appears to be a firm intention to continue to develop internationals sections, including in French schools abroad. The Board noted that this has cost implications for the British OIB (such as moderating exams in a place as far away as Singapore).

7.4 Rob Miller pointed out that some schools were not represented at the Lille meeting due to funding issues and some attendees had been obliged to fund their trip personally. It was acknowledged that the fee structure for the running of the OIB needs to be clear. James Cathcart indicated that about half of the time of Catherine Saigne (member of St. Germain administrative staff) is devoted to OIB matters from which the whole network benefits.

8. Logo and Name

Board members were reminded to put forward all and any suggestions. Derek Erb raised the question of re-naming ASIBA as part of the exercise. No decision was taken.

9. Recognition of OIB

- 9.1 Peter Woodburn advised that the issue of the recognition of the British OIB (for example as regards entrance exams / preparatory classes for the Grandes Ecoles) had been informally raised again at the Lille meeting.
- 9.2 Derek Erb suggested that the British OIB should at least be recognised as proof of a certain language level. Paddy Salmon indicated that Cambridge believe that OIB students should be recognised as having attained C2 language level within the European Language Framework. To have this recognised officially would require costly formalities but Cambridge is exploring this possibility. Hopefully even without such formalities Cambridge could issue an internal document which would be useful to OIB schools.

10. History-Geography

Work is on-going on the exam papers but the syllabus has been settled. The Bac S students will receive 2 years of H-G courses.

11. Next Board Meetings and AGM

It was agreed that the next Board meetings would be held in Sèvres on Monday 6th February 2012 and the AGM on Monday 14th May 2012 starting at 10 a.m.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 12:20

Signed

Paddy Salmon, President

Signed

David Gage, General Secretary