



**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: 10th December 2012

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

PRESENT

1. James Cathcart (St. Germain-en-Laye), President
2. Rob Miller (Lyon), Vice President
3. Shaun Corrigan (Fontainebleau) Treasurer
4. David Gage (St. Germain parents), General Secretary
5. Ivan Karaïvanov (EAB Étoile)
6. Betty Lau (Sèvres)
7. Peter Woodburn, (Ferney-Voltaire)

ABSENT EXCUSED

8. Michael Segalla (Buc Parents)
9. Derek Erb (Balzac parents)

MEETING

The President opened the meeting at 10:20 and the President confirmed that a quorum was present.

1. Minutes

Board members agreed to give any further comments on the draft Minutes of the last meeting (24th September) within 7 days.

2. Membership

- 2.1 David Gage (DG), General Secretary, reported briefly on the status of 2012-13 Membership Subscription Renewals. The Board members had received via email the up-dated list of renewals. Payments are still coming in and the Secretary agreed to chase up outstanding amounts before the end of term.
- 2.2 DG reported that Lycée Jeanne d'Arc Clermont-Ferrand, APEL Notre Dame du Grandchamp Versailles, Lycée Franco-Hellénique of Athens and Lycée-Collège Auguste Renoir Limoges have recently become members of ASIBA. École Massillon, Paris and Notre Dame du Grandchamp, Versailles, had joined earlier in this current school year.

3. New Schools / role of ASIBA

- 3.1 James Cathcart (JC) reported that the DREIC (M. Jeannot) is working on an internal status report on the OIB which includes analysis on how new schools come into the OIB system and how teachers are recruited. Subject to approval JC would hope to be able to circulate to Board members some pertinent extracts.
- 3.2 It is hoped that ASIBA will have an enhanced role in the approval of new British OIB schools, under the aegis of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), and that this could be enshrined in the Memorandum of Agreement under negotiation between CIE and the French Ministry of Education (MEN), which could be signed within the next 6 months. An issue to resolve relates to the MEN's wish for "recognition" of the OIB on the British side.
- 3.3 The President confirmed that support is being given to new schools, a visit to La Celle St Cloud, for example, having taken place recently. The President envisaged implementing a regional support hub in each region of France (probably divided into four regions) operated by a mature local school / section and with an enhanced ASIBA website providing additional materials and information. He commented that new schools seem to need, in particular, advice on teaching resources, programmes of study, curricula, assessment criteria, text books, IGCSEs and library resources.
- 3.4 Work on an approved English Language and Literature Collège curriculum is progressing and will be put onto the website once completed.
- 3.5 Peter Woodburn has been in touch with Lycée-Collège Auguste Renoir, Limoges and will follow up on their recent letter requesting support. He suggested a standard letter to new schools providing information, links to resources and recommendations, for example that teachers meet with experienced teachers at an existing OIB school. Rob Miller suggested a booklet. The proposed new schools liaison officer could be Catherine Sagne (but is related to the proposed ASIBA re-organisation).
- 3.6 The President suggested that ASIBA should seek additional information from new schools when applying to ASIBA for example on the Application Form, such as projected dates, student numbers, contact persons, teachers.

4. Finances

- 4.1 Shaun Corrigan, Treasurer, gave a brief up-date on the Association's financial position and circulated a note of current balances.

- 4.2 The President reminded the meeting that, Adrian Barlow, consultant to CIE, had rendered services to ASIBA by attending an important and demanding meeting with OIB school *Provisseurs* to explain how CIE assures the British OIB conforms with UK assessment practice: the need for moderation, the role of assistant moderators and the national plan. This was outside his normal duties as a CIE consultant and accordingly he received no fee from CIE for this material extra work. Mr Barlow had demonstrated significant devotion to the OIB in agreeing to participate and it is in ASIBA's and the OIB's best interests to maintain the goodwill which exists with CIE and its inspectors. The Board agreed unanimously that it was fair and appropriate that he should be paid a normal one-day consultancy fee (at the same rate as CIE pay, subject to verification).
- 4.3 CIE have recruited an Associate Inspector to ensure that it can still fulfil the moderation process despite the growth in the number of OIB schools and candidates. It was noted that if the Associate Inspector attends the March teacher-examiners meeting then ASIBA would need to cover the travel expenses (as for the inspectors).

5. IGCSEs

- 5.1 The President reminded the meeting of the proposal for CIE to delegate to ASIBA the administration of IGCSEs in France. The main objective for ASIBA is to reduce the cost to OIB schools so that all can put forward candidates. This would assist students and teachers in their progress towards the OIB notably by gaining valuable experience in British-style exams and understanding assessment criteria.
- 5.2 CIE would be willing to waive the annual registration fees for individual schools which is a material cost currently preventing a number of schools from offering IGCSE exams. ASIBA would need to assure the initial inspection visit, annual verification (of teacher qualifications) and the administration (receiving and dispatching exam papers, invoicing per student fees (exam entry and administrative charge), payment to CIE of its per student fee).
- 5.3 A discussion took place on the practicalities, the meeting felt that taking on an employee would be too heavy a burden; concerns were expressed about the demands of administration and whether there would be any financial advantage (or risk) for ASIBA. It was suggested that Catherine Sagne (St. Germain employee who already devotes a material part of her time to the OIB) could administer with support from the bursar at St. Germain as regards invoicing. In this case ASIBA would be invoiced a fee for the services thus rendered by St. Germain. The financial side is also interconnected with the reorganisation of ASIBA and the possible rate of membership fees.
- 5.4 The expectations of CIE were discussed and notably whether they expected IGCSEs to be offered in European Sections but it was believed that these mother tongue exams are not suitable for those sections and, in any case, should not be administered by ASIBA.
- 5.5 James Cathcart agreed to work further on the project notably as to financial matters with a view to establishing a budget. It is hoped to propose the finalised proposals for formal approval at the ASIBA meetings in May.

6. Comparative Study

- 6.1 Betty Lau referred to a comparative study of national A-Level achievements in the UK compared to those of the French Baccalauréat conducted by a parent of the SIS Parents' Association (who would be willing to make a presentation to ASIBA). This study could prove useful to ASIBA for the next edition of the OIB Brochure and for distinguishing the OIB from the standard Bac to University Admissions Boards. A copy of the draft presentation will be circulated to the Board.
- 6.2 Peter Woodburn pointed out that the figures in the Handbook date from 2006 (last freely available published data). Betty Lau mentioned that it costs €1,200 to obtain the data since 2006.

7. Logo

The Board approved Derek Erb's suggestion (as per his recent email) to request further logo designs from the selected designers.

8. Reorganisation

- 8.1 A discussion took place on the reorganisation proposals. David Gage agreed to start work on the revised Articles of Association based on the latest memorandum as revised. It is envisaged that there will be an annual separate Schools Forum meeting (being in effect an EGM of Heads of Sections members only?).
- 8.2 The President will continue working on the financial aspects of the reorganised association.

9. OIB and DNB

- 9.1 Michael Segalla (unable to attend due to traffic problems) called in. He expressed the concern of Buc parents as raised in his email of 26th November (pressure on students within the OIB programme with extra hours for the national section curriculum, issues related to Bac S in this context). James Cathcart commented that the programme leading to the OIB is demanding and has been made more so by the recent reform that seeks to enable students in Terminale to specialise and hence bridge the gap between secondary school and higher education – this places more pressure on students, especially in the scientific stream, because they have to continue studying History-Geography (when their peers in the general stream give this up in Première).
- 9.2 MS raised the issue of the changes to the Diplôme National du Brevet (DNB) and asked whether any schools were boycotting it. James Cathcart confirmed that the schools represented at the meeting were all continuing with the DNB despite the unsatisfactory nature of the reforms unexpectedly imposed by the authorities during the summer. The President added that it is understood the DNB is still under review by the authorities and the situation may evolve before too long.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 12:55.

Signed

James Cathcart, President

Signed

David Gage, General Secretary