

Diploma Program Breakout Session November 17th

Patricia had us begin by introducing ourselves and our positions.

Chris Sundberg and students from Hinkley High School shared their CAS experience with the landmine project in Africa. They spoke to their changing perspectives as their involvement increases and how they carry the experience on after high school.

They do their walk to raise funds for the project as well as a radio show that helps raise funds from the community. They will be bringing in a person from the African project to speak to their students and community. Chris will keep us posted so that all interested people may take part as well.

Kari stopped by to share some additional information about her school and detail a bit more how she sees the sister school concept developing.

Roger and others attending a recent meeting in Chicago briefed us on that meeting.

The Program Manager did address concerns of quality assurance process for assessment. There is now online training for examiners and site visitors.

Dorsee is taking the online History course offered by IB and finding it well done.

Anyone interested in being an examiner for Language Arts, Psychology or Math is encouraged to apply by the January deadline.

Several expressed that the new Extended Essay guide is better worded for clearer understanding of the criteria, supervisor's role and for listing references. An interview with the supervisor at the end is highly encouraged. Other points such as assuring it is independent research, not to demand multiple drafts and up front discussions were discussed. There is a new guide.

ToK is new for 2008 seniors. Watch for new Philosophy, Business and Management, and Art curriculum guides.

Recent program visits and related topics were discussed.

IB is stressing concurrency of curriculum, international mindedness, collaboration time for teachers, and community. SL's are encouraged to be 2 year courses and we discussed both sides of that issue. We discussed the problems when you have a 4x4 block and HL is to extend over two years.

IB is encouraging MYP programs to be whole school approaches which could impact high school programs and this was discussed. Lou is getting clarification on this issue.

Time during the day to work on the EE is being encouraged by IB while ToK may be out of the regular day.

Concerns were brought up over the American school schedules and how they relate to new philosophies coming from IB.

Pilot programs with trans-discipline programs were discussed.

There is a new CAS guide coming for 2010, ToK in 2009 and EE for 2009. Purpose and quality of activities is emphasized.

We discussed how the membership is addressing the use of the Learner Profile and being sure that students are aware. Site visits are addressing this topic. Some are being encouraged to demonstrate the correlation with school mission statements. Most members are introducing this to staff, students, parents, and administrators.

The fact was shared that there was a high rate of non-diploma completion last year due to students not completing their CAS requirements.

There was also a discussion regarding how the US scores are generally lower than other parts of the world. We do give out more diplomas than the other countries.

Patricia reminded members that the B2 forms need to be sent to her to compile information for the Legislative Committee. Her fax is 1-720-886-5408.

Patricia shared the information from their MYP visit. Whole school approach is being highly recommended for middle schools and MYP. Their visiting team encouraged high school to follow as well which was of concern. Methodology is what we value over scheduling concerns.

Susie brought up the idea of Level 3 DP training at Keystone with a focus on Chemistry HL or the center of the hexagon.

Happy Holidays to all.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Glenda Nachtrieb