

IBARMS Minutes
September, 2006
Submitted by Glenda Nachtrieb, Secretary

We began the meeting discussing how meetings should run and how they might be focused during the year. Discussions were done by tables and then shared out to the large group. Main themes included general collaboration, sharing of ideas, and best practices. The idea was brought forth to set up student conferences/summits during our meeting times at some point during the year.

Goals for the year include: refining meetings, offering different levels of DP training, continuation of round tables, working more closely with IBNA, offer level 2 MYP trainings, work toward integration of programs at each level.

A conference report was given covering the preK-12 continuum and application to the learner profile to be covered at the Nov 3-5 conference. It was suggested that this is a good time to look at other levels of programs. The conference will be held at the Adams Mark Hotel. All are encouraged to register on-line at the workshop site. Laurie Dowd is the contact person for sign up on workshops@ibarms.com.

The conference at Keystone hosted 225 people June, 2006. The needs of those attending were served. We will again host a conference at Keystone next summer. The levels of training will be determined within the next couple of weeks.

Jan gave the treasurer's report. The conference netted \$86,148 with \$14,400 in expenses and \$13,500 payment made to IBNA. Our current total is \$124,375. Membership dues are due to be sent as soon as possible. Be sure to have the completed form with checks for dues.

Minutes from level breakouts need to be taken and emailed to nachtrieb@thompson.k12.co.us.

Motion for minutes from April to be approved was accepted, seconded and carried.

Roger gave a summary of the summer meeting he attended.

Jeff Beard is new director of IBO. Visions are for a future that is larger than the current small operation of IBO. Topics at the meeting included breaking down the barriers to access, mind set of IB, application process, and student types. Some more radical initiatives were discussed as well such as online academy =courses on line, addressing needs of more mobile families and students, and the logistical issues are growing. Where are we and where are we going?

An INBA paper is highlighting regional issues was discussed in an online presentation form.

Other discussion highlights included rapid changes in careers, globalization issues, international mindedness issues not being addressed in the US. Reference was made to

Bill Gates' concerns around our educational system being obsolete, students getting dumber, etc.

Roger shared thoughts from the conference:

How trends effect IB—skills in a rigorous curriculum, 2nd language cultural understanding, the mission statement, growth is high and steady since 1990s which has been a challenge for IBO to manage. IBO has been reactive, the need to sustain quality while preserving the mission, planned growth to enhance quality, access (NA leading w/public school growth), taking NA model to the world., build infra structure to support curriculum, professional development, online options and new subject development. Creation of teachers awards programs, student teachers with being credentialed out of college, consultant licensing, training, and online workshops for professional development (University of Melbourne is looking at the credentials).

Research consolidated at a central site covering topics such as how students are helped, CSAP results, the value of Diploma—newer information, university recognition policies on line, looking at key universities that are IB FRIENDLY to develop partnerships.

Official languages are growing. Mandrin Chinese is being added

Economics of the program is being reviewed as an access issue.

IB exams are being reviewed to become part of national exam in other countries—replacing national tests in some. Review of online testing the next two years.

Technical education is being discussed as a future direction-French model. Many thoughts for all to ponder.

Costs of testing are an ongoing concern in relations to access. Fundraising is going on in different parts of the world, foundations such as the Gates Foundation is being looked at as a sources.

The discussion turned to possible topics for future meetings to include establishing priorities, facilitate partnerships (recognize groups), what it means to be IBO, organize activities, messages, obligations to IBO, IBO to us, benefits to be recognized

Round tables werediscussed. IBARMS will subsidize the costs to keep them affordable. Most in attendance indicated they will attend the November meetings and are encouraged to bring others. Information is online for registration, reception, and rooms.

Reitired membership discussed to assure that experience and history are not lost. It was moved to change the by-laws to include emeritus membership—former members allowed to be involved, with no annual dues, pay their own costs of meeting, to have no voting rights, and take part in service opportunities. Motion to change by-laws was accepted.

The discussion turned to the pros and cons of book representatives attending conferences. Many felt there was a value to gaining information about resources without their soliciting sales through program presentations. The question was asked regarding IB Source. Do we want them at the November meeting and possibility others? Do we want them sponsoring some events? The motion was made “TO BE PRESENT” AT FUTURE

MEETINGS and approved. Others may be added later with the understanding that there is no official ties to IBO and no commercial spots will be given during the meetings, We need to communicate appreciation to the groups.

Break to MYP, PYP, DP

Break out agenda

DP—follow agenda

Introductions were made within the group.

Conference report on assessment issues by George Pook IBCA director was given.

DP assessment was discussed at the regional conference. The groups general feeling was that assessment is more reliable—differences between examiners, element of subjectivity, nature of program, balance reliability with skills (TOK example—not want formal assessment), don't always want objectivity on everything, EE issues—sufficient essay, some want more points 1.5 bonus increased,

Important to analyze the question, supervisors should conduct a short interview after completed, debrief, authenticate essay, helps with predicted grade—may require in the fall. Group 4—chemistry paper one, periodic table not being present. Did not think there was an effect, evaluated by school, understood the panic factor. Most were pleased with scores. IBO DEALT WITH THE SITUATION.

Group 4 IA, Problem with standardization. New perspective on how to prepare for samples. Work is about students devising their own investigations for the project.

Questions need to be addressed to assessments@ibo.org. Queries are coming back slowly. There was some frustration with examiners either commenting on every page or not at all.

The question was asked regarding how graduation covers are handled by member schools. Some have purchased covers for those who don't receive diploma for ceremony purposes. The argument being that the amount paid for exam same. Some use one large envelope.

3. PDF FORM for score reports, excel before, problem printing in pdf suggestions were offered including try printing again. Psychology scores coming as Ps. IA s requested late.

4. How are schools handling more advanced sophomores ready to test early? Language B students are coming in more proficient. It was suggested that they look at other languages. MYP programs may effect in the future. Others encourage college classes, online curriculum, AP alternatives. All acknowledged limits in the public school settings but the need to stick to IB regulations.

5, May sessions were discussed and DP rates shared.

\6. Use of learner profile was reviewed. How is it being used in schools? Many are given to teachers for staff use, questions to ponder for staff on what are they doing to promote the IB LEARNER. One person presents basics to parent group. One person expressed use as part of character education goals for entire school. Some posted in classrooms or on website as general information.

7. College admissions pitfalls to avoid were covered. SU is great with students, direct to honors program and sophomore status, college fair representatives may not address IB in their information so questions need to be asked. Stress with students and families that there are no guaranteed scholarships or admissions. ACT/SAT scores are higher generally for IB students.

8. Florida,/Texas, and state grad requirements are being considered. Watch legislation.
9. Round tables coming up include English in early December at THS. The recommendation was made to combine MYP/DP, to have examiners at the round tables, to get examiner information to Roger, schools will check on hosting different sessions. Greeley West will do the IB Art. CAS would be good in Nov, Niwot, Nancy, to review of groups with new guides. EE, Ft. Collin will host, Chris, tba. Greeley West will host Language B—Dan, second semester.

10. DP candidates should discuss the importance to have passion in their HL areas.

11. IB for School of Mines—credit is an issue, recognition is limited due to nature of the school, difference in departments, have executive board deal with Mines, CU engineering, emphasis on acceptance rates, recognition in ways other than credit.

12. Colorado fee reimbursement—ESCAPE program has expired. Dorsie will call to verify.

Discussion topics for the future: IB is more than scores, importance for students, reasons for the program, expectations set up early with parents, concern over future comparison between schools as a shopping tool, and same issues with standardized test scores. Remind students, parents and staff that testing is only one measure of the program. Be thinking about DP money and how to spend.