
WEEKLY NEWS

The International School of Bergen

36

Learning for Life

14th June 2007

From the Director's desk

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AWARDS NIGHT TONIGHT 18:00

Don't forget to come along to Awards Night this evening. We have many achievements and people to celebrate in our ISB community and we will take the opportunity to do so this evening. In addition to celebrating our graduating Grade 10 students, our choir will sing and we will present awards to students for sports and for Learner Profile recognition.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY, JUNE 5TH

Attached to today's Weekly News is a summary of the information presented by the Board of Trustees at the Annual General Assembly last week. We congratulate Mr Rolf Andreas Wigand and Mrs Jennifer Trittschuh-Vallès on their election to the Board of Trustees as Parent and Company Representatives respectively. We also extend our grateful thanks to Katrine Trovik and Eric Toskey for their invaluable contributions, inspiration and enthusiasm for the ISB school community during their time on the Board.

SPORTS DAY

We had a glorious afternoon at our Sports Day on Monday. The fabulous weather ensured that spirits were high. I was particularly impressed with the way in which students cheered one another on. Mr Sanford introduced a couple of new activities this year. The Lower School students had great fun "wrapping the mummy", while Upper School students (and their teachers) revealed their true competitive spirits in the Tug of War. Thank you so much Mr Sanford for organising this event for our school community.

SUMMER CLOSING

Please note that the school office will close next Friday, June 22nd. It will reopen on August 6th. We will be reading our e-mail frequently and you can always reach us at: post@isob.no if you need to contact us.

HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK

Our Upper School students have focussed this week on Freedom of Speech. They have worked in six different multi-grade groups to produce music, dance, writing, drama, propaganda, and artwork to illustrate

their learnings and understandings of this complex, but very relevant topic. This afternoon, they will share their work with one another and other students in the school. The entire week has been organised by our Grade 10 students, and, I must say, we have all been very impressed by their professionalism and skill. The group leaders, also Grade 10 students, have done a magnificent job of keeping their groups on task and of providing help and encouragement. Well done!

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 15: Noon dismissal. Last day of school. Report cards home.

June 22: School office closes.

August 6: School office re-opens

August 13: First day for staff

August 20: First day for students

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

If you wish to advertise items for sale or wanted, or if you know of a house to rent, why not post the

information on our
Community Notice board in
the main entrance hall?

FANA FOOTBALL CAMP

Fana Idrettslag will be
arranging football camps
during the summer vacation.
Any level of player can take
part. The camp is held from
09:00 until 14:00 each day
for age 7 to 13 years. Two
camps will be held during
June 25 – 29 and one
between August 13 and 17.
Cost is 800 kroner per week.
More information on the
community notice board.

CAPOIERA SUMMER CAMP

Capoiera is a martial art
without kicking or hitting
from Brazil, which combines
acrobatics, rhythm,
improvisation and play.
Summer camps will be held
during the period June 25 –
July 6 for students age 10 to
15. More information on the
Community Notice Board.

FINALLY.....

They do say that as you get
older, time moves faster.
That is certainly my
experience! This year seems
to have flown by even faster
than last year, but when I
reflect over all the things
that have happened this year
(the renovation work, the
further implementation of
the PYP, the first report to
our accrediting agencies, the
arrival of new staff and
departure of others, the
arrival of new students and
the departure of others), I
know that our school
community can now wind

down for a few weeks with a
well-deserved sense of pride
and satisfaction over a job
well done.

Thank you to all parents and
students for your hard work
and for making I SB such a
fabulously rewarding and
enjoyable place to work.

Thank you to the Board of
Trustees who work tirelessly
in the best interests of our
school community.

Thank you to the teachers,
assistants, counselor and
office staff for providing
such marvelous support for
all our students.

Thank you to my two
Deputies for the stimulating,
challenging, good spirited
and child-focused meetings
we have enjoyed together
and the confidence and skill
they have shown in leading
their sections of the school.

Our best wishes go with Miss
Geraldine and Mrs Andås
who will be at home
preparing for the arrivals of
their babies in July and
October, respectively.
Finally, our very best wishes
go to all those who are
leaving us at this time.
Special wishes go to Mr
Jones, Mr Clarke. Mme Perez
and, of course, Miss Holm.
We know how much your
presence in the I SB
community has meant to us
and we hope that I SB will
remain a special place in your
hearts in the years to come.

Have a good summer and we
look forward to welcoming
new and returning staff and
students in August.

MINUTES

ISB ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

VENUE: ISB GRADE 2 ROOM

TIME: JUNE 5, 2007 18:00

Attendance: Eighteen members of the ISB community attended the Annual General Assembly in addition to the Board of Trustees and the Director.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Stephen Williams, Chair, opened the Annual General Assembly by welcoming those present

Curriculum development work throughout the Lower School had been focused on continued implementation of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme with effect from school year 2005 – 06. Significant progress has been made in developing a Programme of Enquiry. The Learner Profile is now widely known among the student body and has become part of the institutional language of ISB. All grades have used student-led conferences this year and these had been very well received by parents. The progress achieved is the result of the culture of collaboration that has developed within the school. Professional development and training of staff had taken the form of in-service workshops, participation in training workshops and visits to authorized schools. The objective is to receive authorization in 2008.

In the Upper School, the staff continues to develop the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme in accordance with the guidelines provided by the IBO. ISB staff members are actively involved in the further development and promotion of the programme through their involvement in monitoring and moderation of assessment, the production of documents for the IBO, the training of MYP teachers and their participation in authorisation and evaluation visits. The next scheduled evaluation visit is in September 2008 and the staff have already started preparing for this.

Positive community relations within the school community have been furthered throughout 2006 in a variety of ways involving the Parent-Teacher Organisation and the Student Council. The Parent Teacher Organisation has arranged many successful activities for the students and the school community. The Director extended her thanks to the PTO for providing these excellent opportunities for the development of community spirit in a good balance between social and fund-raising events. The Student Council has also been active in organizing events to benefit students and to raise funds for external organizations. In addition, the two groups have collaborated on some projects.

The Director also emphasized the importance of good community relations with local schools, other international schools, Bergen Kommune, the Chamber of Commerce and local school authorities and programmes.

4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2006 AND BUDGET 2007, MR. MICHAEL SHAVER

Unfortunately, Mr Shaver, Board Treasurer, was delayed and the Treasurer's report was given by Mr Williams. The Board of Trustees had adopted a budget for 2006 with a planned surplus of 224 000 NOK. The actual result of a surplus of 345 000 NOK was slightly higher due to additional income from interest and slightly lower costs. The surplus is used to fund general improvements in resources.

Mr. Williams presented a historical perspective of the school's financial results linked to staffing and enrolment levels. As the premises continue to limit growth in enrolment, the ability to increase income is limited. Therefore both long and short term growth require a solution to the premises issue.

The 2007 Budget was constructed based on an operational income of 15.8 million kroner, and an enrolment level of 223 students. A deficit of 350 000 NOK has been budgeted. A thorough revision of single line items was carried out as part of the budgeting process. Tuition rates were raised across the board by 3% and the need to focus on the enrolment of more company sponsored students was recognized. Significant marketing and development plans have been put into place for the coming year to address this issue and to redefine the school's financial structure. The Treasurer concluded by emphasizing the key role ISB has in the local community by providing support to internationally mobile families, an education to a higher standard than the local norms and in the development of Bergen as an international centre. The future holds many opportunities for ISB but these are dependent on unlocking the premises situation, successful marketing and the implementation of strong strategic plans while maintaining a focus on short term issues.

5. THE FUTURE OF ISB, MR STEPHEN WILLIAMS, BOARD CHAIR

Mr Williams reported on several items which have defined a year of change at ISB. He paid tribute to the staff and board members who had worked so hard to achieve such high standards.

Mr Williams outlined changes in the Board composition and the depth of experience there is on the ISB Board.

Mr Williams presented an overview of the Marketing Survey, which was constructed and analyzed by the Marketing Committee under the capable leadership of Mr Toskey. Good progress has been made in meeting the needs of the stakeholders as identified in the Marketing Survey.

In regard to premises, Mr Williams reviewed the progress made in previous years. However, it was now clear that further expansion on the Slettebakken site would not be possible and an alternative long term solution was necessary. Through several meetings with the political leadership of Bergen Kommune and the Chamber of Commerce, the importance of ISB as a key feature of the infrastructure of the Bergen region has been reinforced. This has led to the proposal that ISB move to the Hunstad School facility from 2009. The Kommune are working actively to find a short term solution for the two intervening years. Negotiations will also have to take place regarding the terms of the future agreement between ISB and the Bergen Kommune.

The Board intends to adhere to placing highest value on the quality of education being offered through following and maintaining the strategic plan.

6. APPROVAL OF STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR 2007 – 08 SCHOOL

YEAR

Two minor changes to the Code of Conduct were proposed and accepted. Approval of the ISB Student Code of Conduct for 2007 – 08 was proposed by Michael Shaver and seconded by Walter Wheeler. The Code of Conduct was approved without objection.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A question was raised from the floor regarding the increased transport costs to some parents with a move to Hunstad. Information was given regarding the different transport options available.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Annual General Assembly adjourned at 19:50.

ISB CODE OF CONDUCT



The following guidelines for conduct were drawn up and agreed to by the Student Council. They are reviewed annually and approved by the school community at the Annual General Assembly.

1. We should be punctual at all times and be equipped and prepared for lessons.
2. We should demonstrate mutual respect at all times.
3. We should not make fun of one another.
4. We should think before we speak.
5. We should not spread rumours about one another.
6. We should be truthful to one another.
7. We should not use bad language.
8. We should respect personal space and the privacy of others.

We should respect the privacy of others and always ask before borrowing.