

CIBO General Meeting Report

Riverside Mission Inn, October 16-17, 2005

The conference began on Sunday evening at 5:30 with participants self selecting to join separate discussion groups of PYP/MYP peers, CAS, Recruiting and access issues (AVID and the Diploma), IB Parent support groups, and Topics for the Orientation Workshop. Discussions were lively and the general feedback was that this was a productive and pleasant way to meet. Before breaking for dinner, each group made a report to the entire gathering. These reports were then shared at the general meeting the following day.

Monday morning the first speaker was Suzanne Knowlton, Program Associate at IBNA. She began by discussing personnel changes and new directions in the New York and Geneva offices, then gave a very clear and compelling presentation on the structure and goals of “pre IB” programs (which tend to be a weeding out process) and the MYP (which is inclusive and strives to bring all students along to where they can complete the program successfully and be prepared to do an IB Diploma). Her PowerPoint, “Access,” is available by request from the CIBO Office.

Anne Evans, CIBO’s PYP Board Representative, recounted, with illustrations, her work on two trips this year with schools and training teachers in the Tsunami-ravaged area of Sri Lanka. Photos of laughing children playing with a parachute which Anne had brought were in stark contrast to the tiny tents or shelters where entire families live crowded together.

Anne spoke of the Schools to Schools Project (STS) which is being overseen by Peter Kenny of the Asia IB Office to link IB students with schools in areas where there has been disaster or there is ongoing need. What began in Sri Lanka and Indonesia has branched out to include schools in Tanzania and Cambodia, and can move into other areas where IB classes would like to become involved. This is truly a program which can involve and broaden the horizons for children and young adults in all three of the IB programs. The rewards are enormous, for the IB students and teachers as well as those whom they contact and nurture. The personal touch is the important factor, much more important than the funds, which are of course useful to provide educational resources and infrastructure.

Many CIBO schools have been very creative and generous in raising funds for Tsunami relief. Most of this money has gone directly to specific schools. Money given to the IBO appeal has been used to fund IB teachers who travel to donate their time for training and to build infrastructure. The CIBO Board recommended, and the meeting approved, contributing \$2,800 to the IBO Schools to Schools Fund. This amount represents 10% of the income last year from the two CIBO professional development workshops and is similar to the amount designated by CIBO several years ago towards IBNA-sponsored landmine projects.

Nancy Forster suggested that some California schools might like to seek linkage with ones in communities in Guatemala which were destroyed by mudslides during the recent hurricane. Several people expressed interest in this idea and Nancy will ask her daughter, a professor of Latin American History at Scripps College who has spent many years living and doing academic research in the area where this happened, to find an appropriate group to work with.

The special guest speaker for the conference was David Conley, Director of the Center for Educational Policy Research at the University of Oregon. His recent book, *College Knowledge: what it really takes for students to succeed and what we can do to get them ready*, documents a multiyear research project shared by a number of prominent universities. He provided examples of their findings, many of which affirm the philosophy and programs of the IB. His PowerPoint for this meeting may be found on line at <http://cepr.uoregon.edu>, or will be forwarded on request by the CIBO Office. Conference attendees found this a very useful presentation.

Peter Birdsall and his assistant, Barrett Snider, described the proposed legislation which they plan to navigate through the State Legislature this coming session. Information on the specifics will be forwarded to those on the list which receives updates from Ed Marquez. If you are not on that list and would like to be, please notify Ed (emarquez@smuhdsd.org).

The main goals are to mandate full funding for all authorized schools, to shift the funding process from a grant system to an apportionment system, to clean up the law to eliminate obsolete language, and authorize funding for PYP. Action will begin in November, seeking 20-30 co-authors of the bill, and IB schools are asked to notify Ed if they or others in their community know legislators who might be willing to join the effort. In December there will be a meeting with the Secretary of Education; in January or February the bill will be introduced; and in March there will be a series of mini hearings. The Legislative Committee, which Ed chairs, will be working hard on our behalf, with your assistance.

The Asilomar Teacher Training and the Orientation Workshop are important sources of funds for CIBO's ongoing expenses and netted a total of \$27,931 during the past academic year. It was proposed and approved that another 10% of this amount be set aside for "scholarships" for teachers from CIBO schools to attend the Level 3 Seminar, "Teaching International Mindedness," which will be led by Sue Bastian next June. There will be 7 scholarships of \$400 each (2006 workshop fees are \$610). First priority will be given to teachers from the authorized schools which have not yet been funded under the State grant. Teachers of all subjects and at all levels are encouraged to register for the seminar, and if there are more than 7 requests for the scholarships, the winners will be selected by lottery at the February CIBO meeting.

Sixty one people were registered for the meeting on Monday the 17th and forty attended the dinner on Sunday the 16th. (Representing a CIBO list of 134 schools, 79 of them authorized). The CIBO Board makes a concerted effort to provide stimulating speakers and these meetings are the time when schools may make their desires and frustrations known and learn from each other as they assemble. We hope to see more of you in February when we bring Jay Matthews from Washington DC to San Francisco to speak to us.

Respectfully yours,

Nancy Forster
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