

ASIBA

Association des Sections Internationales Britanniques et Anglophones

MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LYCEE HONORE DE BALZAC PARIS

THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2006 2pm

PRESENT

DONNA PHILIP	LYON	PRESIDENT
GLENYS KENNEDY	FONTAINEBLEAU	VICE PRESIDENT
IVAN KARAIVANOV	EAB ETOILE	TREASURER
PETER WOODBURN	FERNEY VOLTAIRE	
PHILIP SHAW-LATIMER	ST GERMAIN	
ANNE POTONNIER	SEVRES (proxy for Paddy Salmon)	
DEBBIE FORD	BALZAC	

In Attendance:

ROSS BLACK SEVRES

Absent excused:

DAVID GAGE ST GERMAIN SECRETARY

Donna PHILIP opened the meeting by thanking the Proviseur of the Lycée Honoré de Balzac, Mme MARGUIN, for kindly welcoming the ASIBA Board.

The Directors then proceeded to examine the points on the agenda.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of May 12th were unanimously approved.

2. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- a) The TREASURER reported on subscriptions to date and circulated relevant documents. He pointed out the difficulty in identifying the Sections for which payment had been paid in cases where the name was not clearly given. Direct debit payments were sometimes particularly confusing.

It was agreed that a reply slip will be attached to requests for membership payment. David GAGE will be asked to provide this.

- b) Clarification was needed to confirm that membership payments were correctly attributed and various Board Members agreed to contact individual Sections to

confirm that membership dues had been paid and, in the cases of schools new to the OIB circuit, to encourage them to join:

Donna Philip	Strasbourg, Grenoble, Clermont-Ferrand
Peter Shaw-Latimer	Nogent, Noisy le Grand, Bruxelles
Peter Woodburn	Valenciennes, Colomiers
Glenys Kennedy	Rennes

3A FUNDING

- The meeting agreed that collecting and accounting for all membership fees was a long and difficult process. ASIBA must ensure that, in cases of non-payment by due dates, there would be a strict follow-up procedure whereby Sections would receive official written demands for payment. The possibility of teachers from schools which had not paid the required fees being excluded from training was evoked but not voted.
- **Board members approved a firm policy requiring schools which have not done so to pay their dues for 2006. Forms for membership in 2007 would be sent in January 2007 and there should be a requirement to pay fees by the end of FEBRUARY.**
- Warm thanks were extended to Debbie Ford and the Balzac parents for their generous voluntary donations.
- Peter Woodburn was also thanked for the donation, financed by a Section drama production, made by Ferney Voltaire.
- All present agreed that such donations should be actively encouraged from all Sections.

3B FINANCIAL SITUATION

- The Treasurer reported that to date ASIBA has a positive balance of 2730€ However, fees had not yet been paid to Adrian BARLOW and Claire SLADDEN for the Autumn Training Sessions. Ivan Karaivanov and Philip Shaw-Latimer would follow up on this. This should mean a real balance of 1600€, plus any incoming late payments for 2006.
- In January 2007 annual subscriptions would be received. The budget would have to provide for 4 training sessions in 2007 (2 for H/G & 2 for Lang/Lit). It had been proposed that Mme KAMOUN (*Inspectrice d'Anglais*) might wish to visit Cambridge for the annual review meeting with Adrian BARLOW – if this goes ahead, ASIBA would pay costs incurred.
- Could ASIBA finance other aspects of the OIB operations?

The decision had been taken last year not to pay costs of teachers attending training sessions.

The Association was well aware that remuneration from the French authorities to teacher/examiners to cover real costs (travel, hotel) was frequently inadequate. Teachers could well find themselves out of pocket, paying for the privilege of being involved in examining. This situation is obviously unacceptable.

Could ASIBA help by making up the financial shortfall, thus ensuring that teachers were fully reimbursed for costs incurred?

It would be necessary to collect precise information to assess whether such funding would be appropriate and adequate.

- **Schools should make a study of the situation of the 2006 exam session and inform the Schools' Chair of costs incurred, payment received from CIEP and possible shortfall.**
- **The Schools' Chair will provide this information to ASIBA and a decision on this matter will be proposed to the Association Annual General Meeting.**

4. ASIBA WEB SITE

Peter Woodburn reported that the site has now been updated and upgraded and encouraged Board Members to consult the new version.

MEMBERS WERE ASKED TO PROVIDE PETER WITH 3 PHOTOS FROM THEIR SCHOOLS TO HELP ENHANCE THE IMPACT OF THE SITE.

Should the OIB Handbook be on the ASIBA site?

Cambridge must have ownership of the Handbook which should logically be available on the CIE site.

For the moment it was decided that the Handbook should be on the ASIBA site.

Members were asked to check whether Section staff consult the site regularly.

5. CIEP WEBSITE

- All present agreed that there was a need for a **document about OIB in French** on this site. Such a text would be useful in many contexts, including for applications to Grandes Ecoles and French universities.

Such a document would need official recognition and be relevant to ALL Sections.

Donna Philip & Philip Shaw-Latimer agreed to investigate this issue.

- Should the OIB Handbook be translated into French?

There was general agreement that this would be very useful, especially for the sections devoted to History/Geography.

Donna Philip & Peter Woodburn proposed contacting their Parents' Association to see whether a translation team could be found.

6. NEWSLETTER

It was decided that this issue could be discussed at the next AGA

7. SITUATION OF PRIVATELY-FUNDED SECTIONS

The AGA would be informed of all the actions undertaken at local & national political levels on this very important matter.

Members agreed that ASIBA, created well before the current situation developed, is a unique forum, uniting as it does both State and privately-funded Sections working together with the same objectives. Thanks to this Association, essential training is made available to ALL teachers.

8. RECRUITMENT OF TEACHERS FOR OIB PROGRAMMES

With the rapid growth of the OIB, some problems have arisen concerning the preparedness of colleagues for teaching and examining the 2 specific subjects.

ASIBA's role in this is obviously limited:

The Association can help improve the quality of the examination (provision of training sessions in both subjects) but has no decision-making power in the recruitment of *Education Nationale* teaching staff.

Cambridge thus has the problem of maintaining the quality of an examination without having any influence on the type of teacher profile most appropriate for the teaching of the programme.

10 HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY UPDATE

The questions relating to number of hours taught in the Sections and the length of the H/G oral examination would be raised at the Annual Heads of Section Meeting on November 24th 2006.

There being no other business, the President closed the meeting, reiterating the Association's gratitude to the host school.

Donna Philip, President

Glenys Kennedy, acting Secretary