



IPSEA

International Public School Education Association

BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA

IPSEA Minutes

Zoom conference call April 16, 2020

Time: Apr 16, 2020 12:00 PM

1) **Additions to the agenda (Colin)**

- 2) **Participants:** Lisa Bartlett, Philip Parkes, Sheri Wakefield, Karen Symonds, Colin Guiguet, Ronda Bell, Angela Olson, Steve Cann, Amy Shoup, Karen Klein, Sally Stacey, Greg Kochanuk, Marguirete Pearce, Shaun Sephton, Lisa Sunde, Tracy Godfrey, Raquel Steen, Kathren Clarke, Michael Frankowski, Amber O'Quinn, Kevin O'Donnell, Kent Brewer, Laura Schwertfeger, Angela Ferraro, Tricia McCuaig, Corrine Hamilton, Geoffrey Johnston, Troy Cunningham, Shawn Silverstone, Wendy Clark, Elizabeth Cho, Monica Dee, Lori Sluth, Ulli Murtagh, Tymon Hsieh, Youn Hee Edmonds, Danielle Warren, Ramona Hamilton-Cook, Glen Tiechko, Jean Wong, Carrie Li, Lynne Bolen, Terri Szlovicsak, Rob Macaulay, Iris Leung, Dave Ryder, Josie Jiang, Troy Cunningham, Mark Leiper, Lorna Goulet, Kim Stix, Jann Schmidt,

*additional IPSEA members joined in with their district representative and listened in.

Discussion Topics

- 3) Roundtable district check-in following up from previous meeting:

The intention is for anyone wishing to speak on any of these points, to do so.

a) Supporting students academically (inbound and outbound)

Question:

Sheri Wakefield (Gulf Islands) – do any school districts buy technical devices for their International students?

Responses:

- West Vancouver bought 15 Chromebooks 2 years ago. Most other school districts have the school's handle it.
- Amy – Rocky Mountain, no they do not nor do they intend to. The student is a student and it is up to the schools to provide these for the students.
- Kevin – we have asked our schools to hand out to students, however they also have some iPads that they hand out to some students as well.

Question:

Ronda Bell–Marks before and after spring break. Wondering if anyone has had any discussion as to what the mark will look like for the students who have returned home. Are we just giving that for the full year? It doesn't seem to be a true indication of what has taken place.

Responses:

- Raquel Central-Okanagan– it depends on what the purpose of the mark is for. They can give an interim report based on the marks at that time and the dates for that course. They do not say it is a final mark, but rather the mark given for that time.
- Shaun from Richmond – have not come to a 100% conclusion. The focus is on continued growth of learning, hoping that student marks do not drop. Brazilian students for example will get a report card that states what they have done, the hours they put in and the course grade. Richmond did not recommend that students go home as they were aware that students would have trouble with on-line learning when they return home. The Ministry recognises that there are unique circumstances as well, not all students will fit into the cookie cutter box, there will be some unique circumstances and it is up to the individual schools to decide how to give them marks. This is a case by case scenario.
- Karen Symonds – If students are not continuing with online learning, we are withdrawing them, and they do not receive a final report card.
- Elizabeth Cho-Frede– students who returned home and went back to school in their home country withdrew from our program. They didn't need their marks for the current semester.
- Steve Cann – Pre-spring break will be our term 3, after spring break will be term 4. Final Mark will be the teacher's professional discretion.

b) Marketing communication with agents

No discussion – no changes since we last met

c) Communication with senior staff – budgets

No discussion – no changes since we last met

d) Homestay

No discussion - no changes since we last met

4) Update on MSP – Kathren

a) Trying to get a formal response to the question:

- i) if an IE student is unenrolled from MSP after returning to home country during COVID19, returns to BC in September and reenroll, will MSP back date?

(1) There are some members that have been told an IE student cannot unenroll from MSP if they are planning to return in September. Others cannot get a concise answer.

- ii) Kathren is not getting consistent messaging on whether or not this is the case. She has asked MoE to assist. She will update us as soon as she hears.

5) Numeracy Assessment Update – Kathren – the minutes to our last meeting included the April 9th Deputy Ministers Bulletin (Q and E) Section 2, Learning and Assessments had an answer for this question.

19) What about Grade 12 students who are ready to graduate but haven't yet completed the Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment? Are they still able to graduate? [Revised 09-04-20]

- The previously scheduled April 2020 graduation assessment administration has been cancelled. The Ministry is assessing a range of options to ensure this graduation requirement can be met by those students who are otherwise on track to graduate this year. Grade 10 and 11 students can meet this requirement in future years.

****This document that Kathren was able to share with the IPSEA membership is confidential and for internal use only. Members are not to make public. The document is still be updated and when complete, the Deputy Minister will make a public document available. There is a public Q&A available on the MoE website.

Comments:

- Shaun – understanding that not required unless they do not have the Grade 10 GNA.

- Steve Cann – estimated to be 800 students province wide that need to do this.
- Karen Symonds – they expect an announcement next week about numeracy exams. There are apparently 800 students in the province (not necessarily IE) who need to do this for graduation this year.

6) CAPS-I Update: Angela Olson:

Bonnie McKie the Executive Director reports that IRCC has acknowledged receipt of CAPSI's latest list of questions, however we are still waiting on a reply.

The questions are related to:

- Authorization for Natural Parent to Enter Canada to Care for Minor Child/Student in Case of Emergency
- Study Permit Renewals Needing to be Completed Before Visa Renewals
- Acceptance of Virtual Notarization of Custodianship Documents
- Requirement to Provide Proof of Academic Standing from Institution to Renew Study Permit
- Visa Extension for Accompanying Parent of Minor International Students
- Extension of visas for short term groups

7) Planning for the future: (Sheri Wakefield) Online marketing strategies and virtual fairs

I am sure many of you are getting quite a few emails from agencies and recruitment organizations such as Edu-Canada wanting for us to take part in virtual affairs or to arrange some form of on-line marketing with them.

Question:

- a) Has any of you taken part in any virtual fairs, and if yes, what advice and recommendations would you share?
- b) My second question would be the same but in regards to online marketing with agents?

Comments:

- Amy from Rocky Mountains – Yes. I am doing meetings by Zoom or Microsoft Team with agents. Amy has trips planned for the fall already, but unsure if these will happen and so need to make sure that there are other options. There is so much wait and see right

now It may be that all of a sudden in June there have been a lot of deferrals and cancellations. Still need to recruit.

- Greg – was in a recruiting Zoom session with an agent in Germany. Still ironing out the tech issues. Working on a plan on how to recruit.
- Jann from Kootenay Lake is hoping to join in on the virtual fair by Alphe in London.
- Lisa from Sea to Sky asked about how many meetings – right now she has 30 meetings set up – and is hoping by the weekend it will be full. They are 20 minute sessions done through Skype.
- Shaun – throwing this out there – if IPSEA has the budget – could we do a virtual fair?
- Kathren – we have been looking into this opportunity for both the cancelled Mission and future IPSEA Missions. Areas she has been focusing on include:
 - If the current IPSEA Mission that was postponed cannot go forward this maybe something we could consider. This option would be a conversation with the group that have already committed to the Chile/Brazil/Mexico mission. Kathren has had a brief conversation with Bonard about virtual mission replacing the current postponed mission and will do a more in-depth conference call with them next week and then will reach out to the IPSEA MISSION participants
 - Options for IPSEA ProD and IPSEA Missions: preliminary discussions with the BCCIE team for planning a ProD on Virtual marketing and to discuss what the options are for planning a BC IPSEA Virtual Mission. Kathren will update the executive and then the membership at next meeting.

8) Joint Letter German Association of Student exchange Organizations update: Steve

Question: Any feedback from districts as how they are responding to this?

Comments:

- Laura Schwertfeger: Sooke Board met last week and will meet again as to what they will be providing, this is in regards to homestay. It is likely that they will be providing something (a fixed amount) for students who have returned and do not require formal report cards. This is because they advised their students to make swift arrangements and return to their home countries as soon as possible. They went through the natural parents directly which caused some problems for their agents.

- Ronda Bell– most districts held off during the last strike and it proved to not be a problem. Recommended writing a letter for the agent to give to the parents explaining the situation and how the fees were already allocated.

Sidebar Chat:

- *Many of the school districts on the side bar chat wrote that they will only be refunding unused homestay and medical.*
- *Sheri Wakefield noted Just note when giving a medical refund that you may not get it back from Guard.me if they have used it, however, you would get MSP back*
- *Karen Symonds responded If students have made a Guard Me claim we are NOT refunding them medical ... because we won't get it back from them.*

9) Homestay committee update (Ronda Bell)

IPSEA Homestay committee update was sent out as an email earlier – if anyone has any questions' they can reach out to Ronda directly.

CAPSI homestay committee recap:

Question: When does custodianship end?

Response: The answer is when they have left Canadian airspace. The need to consider the risk of travel as a student may be stopped in Toronto for example you are still responsible for their safety.

Question: How do you deal with the backlog in CRC (university adult students who have returned home, new families)–

Response: You can do back checks (this was brought up by CHN) who also checked with their insurance provider for those that they could not get the CRC back in time, they are still covered. This would be for new family members.

Validation of Student Report Cards: Ronda

Global affairs have changed their policy as of April 1st – anything that we send to them MUST be notarized and it must be done by a registered notary.

In Camera session (no recording)

Next Meeting – April 29th 11:00 am. (this is an updated date and time).

Log in details are:

Next update meeting date has been changed to

Date: Wednesday April 29, 2020

Time: 11:00am

Colin Guiguet is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96649857632?pwd=NytMZWpiMVpWdTUzOURHeW1ZRTY3dz09>

Meeting ID: 966 4985 7632

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