



International Public School Education Association

IPSEA

BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA

Zoom Meeting
Moderated by Colin Guiguet
Minutes recorded by Sheri Wakefield

Attachments include:

- [Homestay committee update](#)
- [Joint Letter from the German Association of Student Exchange Organizations](#)

Date: April 1, 2020 (Wednesday)

Time: 11am – 12:30pm

Participants: (listed at bottom of document)

Welcome: Colin

- 1) Additions to the agenda (Colin)
- 2) Roundtable Attendance: Colin

Kathren – protocols for – when making a motion in camera.... Protocol: For the IPSEA meetings in person or conference call format, if we are having discussion “in-camera” and there is a recommendation requiring action, we will move the discussion out-of-camera, a motion can be made followed by discussion, and then members vote.

- 3) IRCC updates (Kathren)

These are the links that will be updated regularly regarding COVID19 and IRCC

- a) <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-special-measures.html>

- b) Recommendation to register your IE students who remain in BC with their home countries, and Canadian consular embassies. It is important for home country officials to know which of their students remain in Canada.

Please encourage your students to register with their home country.

- c) <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-special-measures.html>
- d) Recommendation to register your IE students who remain in BC with their home countries, and Canadian consular embassies. It is important for home country officials to know which of their students remain in Canada.

4) Medical / Health:

This link will be updated as the provincial health officer makes changes and recommendations.

- a) B.C.'s COVID-19 website has many resources available at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>
- b) The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) website COVID-19, at <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>
- c) Guard.me Q&A

Q. Will IE students that are currently in Canada and could not return to their home country, either by choice or because they had barriers not allowing them to return home, be allowed to continue on [guard.me](https://www.guard.me) under the following circumstances;

1. If school is not offering in-class instruction?

ANSWER: YES

2. If school is canceled for the end of this school year?

ANSWER: YES

Q. Can students who are currently in BC, have not left BC, and are enrolled on MSP using a valid study permit be allowed to register on [Guard.me](https://www.guard.me) if their study permit expires and cannot get an extension for a variety of reasons (back log in applications, IRCC not extending, student plans to return home when pandemic is concluded, etc.)

ANSWER: YES

Kathren is still waiting for feedback from the Ministry of Health (MSP division) if they can waive their conditions of a student having a valid study permit to extend their MSP. This is being discussed and she is just waiting for the formal answer.

Kathren noted the contact she uses to get MSP answers that are IE student based

Participant asked to please add the contact of Jonathan Foweraker (below) to the minutes

Jonathan Foweraker

He / Him / His

Director, Funding and Allocation | Funding and Financial Accountability Branch |

Ministry of Education

250-896-2673 | Jonathan.Foweraker@gov.bc.ca

5) Education (Kathren)

a) Understanding impacts of COVID19 to current enrolment

- i) Approx. what percentage of IE students remain in your district as of April 1, 2020?
- ii) Approx. what percentage of IE students that returned to home country are in grade 12 and are on track for graduation June 2020?
- iii) Approx. how many IE elementary students without natural parent or relative remain in your district?

The MOE is planning to do a survey from the ministry to the superintendents asking these questions (above). You can expect that to come from the Ministry to the superintendents down.

Kathren would still like that information from the questions above as it helps her advocate for the members when she has an understanding of how many of the students are here and how many have gone home.

b) Ministry of Education Update for week of March 27-April for school districts and independent school authorities. <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/bulletin/20200327/march-27-coronavirus-update.pdf>

These links will be updated as the ministry makes changes. What they will be doing, and they have done, there is confidential information that has gone from the deputy ministry to superintendents and then the superintends will send the information out. Probably weekly over the next little while.

Elizabeth from Abbotsford wanted clarification on elementary students K-5 or K-7.

Kathren believes it is K-7.

- c) Which districts plan to offer on-line educational course material/assignment for IE students out of country?
- i) Is the on-line material for academic credit, or, to the intent is to keep the students engaged (but not for credit)?
 - ii) What platform is your district planning to deliver your material to out of Canada students? (Moodle/zoom/etc.)
 - iii) Who in your district will administer the deliverance and performance of course material?

Kathren felt it was premature to ask the questions of 5C as the Ministry is still developing the strategic framework and what they will be putting into the resource folder for the district websites.

Scratch c) as for now, it is too soon to gather information.

Liz, Cowichan – Deputy Minister Bulletin for confidential will be coming out every Tuesday and Friday each week. Liz noticed a change in scripts between the confidential one and the one sent out to the public. She recommends that the educator on your team can get a copy of the confidential one. There is stuff in there that EI needs to be privy to. Kathren noted that some districts may not be ready to share with the school principals yet for a variety of reasons. She agreed that you should reach out and allow your superintendent to advise what they feel is best for your district.

Liz – says that the important information is on pages 19 and 20 and however you can do it, she recommends that there is information there that you need to be privy for. Kathren supports this.

- 6) Current copies of letters and communication to hosts/parents/students/agents/ (Kathren)
- Kathren is putting these letters and/or templates that members feel comfortable sharing with other IPSEA members, on the members website. You can send any you are willing to share to Kathren. Members website www.members.studyinbc.org/ knowledge base/COVID-19 folder

7) Pressure from Agents for recruitment strategies; Agreement for Refund Guarantees beyond district policies (Amy)

Amy is getting quite a few and imagines everyone is getting quite a few emails from agents and further to that the letter from the German consortium that came this morning.

Amy wanted to make it clear that they would a refund of homestay and not tuition.

Students who return home can still continue, whether students who return home can chose to do that is their concern. Students who stay here are to continue on with their learning. She feels with this, they have a case to not offer refund in tuition. It was then put out to the membership as a round table as to what other districts are doing.

Most districts are doing either homestay fees only OR homestay and unused medical. The only districts offering a refund in tuition were for short term programs. Philip – planning on refunding homestay and tuition for short term programs. Question – is anyone else running short term programs? Greg from Comox – group from Thailand, did not arrive and everything was reimbursed. Philip means students who are here already. Greg – Comox is not refunding for tuition for a program already in process. These educational programs are paid out at the beginning of the year, the money is already spent. He feels that this has been understood by the German agents he has responded to.

Kent in Kamloops. Have we heard anything on the Grade 10 numeracy assessment? Jan from Kooteney lake. All of the numeracy and literacy assessments have been waived.

Colleen – has anyone heard from MSP

Raquel – has a student planning on staying for the summer and then going to post-secondary – do they still qualify for MSP

Karen – Delta – the format has changed for the numeracy 10 assessment – they still do need to fulfill it. Liz – agreed - numeracy is still on. Karen from New West has the letter to parents dated March 27 that says the only graduation requirement for students is the Grade 10 numeracy and they will make sure the student's meet that requirement.

We are all clear that we will just be refunding homestay and, in some cases, medical.

What are people's thoughts on this letter? How shall we respond.

Amy – are people putting a date on when the refund will take place. Roundtable – accounting is working on a skeleton crew; students are still deciding whether or not to return. Recommended from Liz to make the date May 1st so that it does not become an accounting nightmare. Year end is July 1st and your accounting department will be up for audit after July 1st. They will want to be able to close up for the school year before that.

Agents are also asking about September. Amy states that her refund policy does not cover this particular situation, but they are sticking with just the homestay and application fee being kept. RoundTable – Mission, their refund policy will be the same as denied the visa, however they are giving dates for if they are unable to open September 1st and provide face to face instruction then they will have a refund except for the administration fee.

Re the letter that came from the German consortium this morning and how should we respond to it.

Lisa – Sea to Sky -

Lisa from Sea to Sky – we have not completed services and that is what we are doing. Amy – an educational program is being offered both to us in Canada and back home. Maggie MR – we also have a legal agreement with the teachers...we are not obligated to give their money back. Ronda – executive to write a letter from our membership.

Lisa also heard from Mexico with a similar request. Spencer – needs to be 100% backed by the Ronda questions if IPSEA should write a letter on behalf of the membership. Amy likes the approach as she is concerned about different messages being sent back to them. Lisa noted that an Agent in Mexico sent an email with the same type of situation.

Spencer – feels that as we can't even agree on commission that we can only do this letter if we get 100% of the membership wanting to do so. Steve from Penticton feels that we need more information of what they are asking for before we answer.

Liz – Cowichan – would like a few days to think about this. Personally, would like to show it to her secretary treasurer. Would like a couple of days.

Amy – to be discussed at our next meeting. Kathren – individual districts can reach out as they feel necessary.

8) Homestay Committee update (Ronda)

Big thank you to everyone for those who have joined the committee. They are divided into 2 sections; one group is the CAPSi committee and the others are going to do a separate call. We have not had a chance yet to meet as a group in IPSEA. 5 of the group came up with some questions - Please refer to the document sent by Ronda this morning.

#1 How do we continue to support our homestay families? How and when do we send information to our homestay families? Across the country, some are doing daily, weekly updates. Newfoundland did a questionnaire...with things such as can you keep your student past summer, who is willing to do respite, etc. Elizabeth is sending the information to Bonnie to be sent out. The newsletter would contain things such as updates from the ministry and student expectations at this time.

Questions or comments...

#2 How do we manage moves from one homestay to the other and how are those moves managed. Some are using homestay coordinators for the moves and giving recommendations on how to do that. Some are using drop off services, transportation shuttles. Things to consider is space between the driver and student.

Comment – Amy touched base with the homestays – you are either in this or out for the long haul as they will not be facilitating moves, due to safety issues. Amy finds it interesting that people would even consider a homestay move. Ronda checked with the Vancouver health authority – they felt it was okay to do so as long as the student is not sick.

#3 What is your plan for student care if the family cannot take care of the student. Again, Ronda spoke with island health. Basically, they are saying that they are a family unit. They can do the online self-assessment, if sick, public health will work with them. Either that one person is self-isolated or if there is a positive test then the whole home is quarantined. Basically, health authority looks after the family unit. Would they differentiate between a Canadian student and an International student – the person Ronda spoke with said NO.

Comments -

Karen, from Delta, did check with Fraser Health and waiting for confirmation about the International students in a household where the adults are not able to take care of a

student. At the time of her call they were not willing to commit to answer that the student would be considered part of the household.

There was a lot of conversation nationally about this – should we be looking for hotels in case this becomes an issue? Hotels do not have food, so chaperones would need to make do with take out – knock on door – drop off. This is something we may want to look at in our own communities. If you do this, you need to make sure you need to have a cleaning crew. Keep in mind, which families you have that could take respite.

Would a hotel take a person who is a positive case? That is something that you need to look at in your own communities.

#4 How are we compensating for homestays at this time. Some districts are feeling pressured to pay homestays until the end of June, even if the student has gone home. The discussion is that this is a fee held in trust and is given back to the student if they go home. One homestay (in another province) was giving their homestay an additional \$150 per month.

#5 What are the academic requirements for homestays. This will be discussed further on in more detailed by the group as we find out more about how the educational piece will look. Homestay families may need help with schedules.

#6 Will you have any other online activities as a program. One district through their homestay program set up a virtual home room. It was optional for students – it was working well; the students took it on. Another group had Google Classroom, Trivia contests, online contests with photos. Have fun with this in any way you can.

Kent – has anyone had any homestays asking for additional compensation, they have said no for a number of reasons.

Cowichan is giving Thrifty gift cards to the homestays. (first month \$50, second month may be more, they are going to change the amount over the months so there are will not be an expected value). This is also a way of putting money back into the community.

Maggie – thank you card to homestays and put all of the names in for gift cards – they drew 20 – people appreciated getting thank you cards for the recognition.

Colleen – from the chat – is anyone increasing homestays temporarily to help with the new added costs? No comment from members, Colin mentioned that we had touched on this a bit.

Amy proposed we set a date and time for a meeting next week.

After some discussion in the chat it was decided next meeting:

Wednesday, April 8 12:00pm

Amy ended the meeting by thanking everyone for being on the on the call.

Sheri asked if the members wanted minutes or would like the recorded meeting. Colin asked for minutes without in camera. The recording will not be shared, it was just to be used for minutes and anything in camera will be excluded.

Kathren confirmed that the in-camera section will not be recorded. The feedback Kathren is getting from Members is that these meetings are really helping them with their individual programs and tackling some of the questions they are getting.

Members are really appreciating these meetings.

Conference call ended:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Kathren Clarke
ABBOTSFORD #34	Dave Ryder
	Elizabeth Cho-Frede
ALBERNI Valley #70	Marc Fryer
	Barb Witte

	Greg Smyth
BURNABY #41	Angela Ferraro
	Sally Stacey
	Richard Payne
CAMPBELL RIVER #72	Kim Stix
CENTRAL OKANAGAN #23	Rick Oliver
	Carol Rimmer
	Raquel Steen
CHILLIWACK #33	Glen Tiechko
COQUITLAM #43	Geoff Johnston
	Jean Wong
	Shawn Silverstone
	Wendy Clark
	Troy Cunningham
COMOX VALLEY #71	Greg Kochanuk
	Steve Knight
	Josie Jiang
	Youn hee Edmonds
COWICHAN VALLEY #79	Liz Gamble
	Kevin O'Donnell
DELTA #37	Karen Symonds
	Israel Aucca
	Dean Eichorn

	Bob Thompson
	Corrine Hamilton
FRASER CASCADE #78	Kevin Bird
	Darlene Smith
GREATER VICTORIA #61	Jeff Davis
	Rob Tucker
	Zihan Shi (Mary)
	Pilar Divoky
	Reid Litster
GULF ISLANDS #64	Sheri Wakefield
	Lina Martens
KAMLOOPS-THOMPSON #73	Trish Smillie
	Kent Brewer
KOOTENAY LAKE #8	Jann Schmidt
	Michele Lelievre
LANGLEY #35	Mark Leiper
	Kim Luteijn
	Lorna Goulet
MAPLE RIDGE/PITT MEADOWS #42	Maggie Pearce
	Tricia McCuaig
	Tymon Hsieh
MISSION #75	
	Colleen Hannah

NANAIMO-LADYSMITH #68	Rob Hutchins
	Lisa Sunde
NECHAKO LAKES # 91	Manu Madhok
	Denise Dowswell
	Patti Dube
NEW WESTMINSTER #40	Karen Klein
	Trevor Gee
	Yiwen Zhang
NORTH OKANAGAN/SHUSWAP #83	Rob Macaulay
NORTH VANCOUVER #44	Lynne Bolen
OKANAGAN-SKAHA #67	Steve Cann
	Kathy Levesque
PEACE RIVER NORTH #60	Brian Campbell
	Cheryl Anthony
POWELL RIVER #47	Brin Bymin
QUALICUM #69	Ross Pepper
	Ronda Bell
RICHMOND #38	Shaun Sephton
	Carrie Li
	Ramona Hamilton Cook
	Kyle Urquhart
ROCKY MOUNTAIN #6	Amy Shoup
	Lori Sluth

	Ulli Murtagh
	Monica De
SAANICH #63	Spencer Gray
	Colin Guiguet
SEA TO SKY #48	Faizel Rawji
	Lisa Bartlett
SOOKE #62	Laura Schwertfeger
	Amber O'Quinn
SUNSHINE COAST #46	Paul Bishop
	Lorna Van Diessen
SURREY #36	Angela Olson
	Shannon Spencer
	Danielle Warren
Vancouver #39	Iris Leung
	Vicki Swan
	Barbara Onstad
	Lara Truong
Vancouver Island West #84	Philip Parkes
VERNON #22	Tracy Godfrey
WEST VANCOUVER #45	Michael Frankowski
	Rebecca Rowley
	Martina Brazeau
	Dona Wang