



International Public School Education Association
BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA

IPSEA

IPSEA Meeting
Zoom Virtual Meeting
November 26, 2020
10:00am-11:30am

In Attendance: Kathren Clarke IPSEA; Raquel Steen, Central Okanagan; Faizel Rawji, Sea to Sky; Rebecca Rowley, West Vancouver; Marc Fryer, Alberni Valley; Amy Shoup, Rocky Mountain; Sheri Wakefield, Gulf Islands; Danielle Warren, Surrey; Colleen Hannah, Mission; Karen Symonds, Delta; Lynne Bolen, North Vancouver; Laura Schwertfeger, Sooke; Lorna Goulet, Langley; Jann Schmidt, Kootenay Lake; Glen Tiechko, Chilliwack; Liz Hollands-Gamble, Cowichan Valley; Kevin O'Donnell, Cowichan Valley; Josie Jiang, Comox Valley; Mark Leiper, Langley; Geoff Johnston, Coquitlam; Colin Guiguet, Saanich; Philip Parkes, Vancouver Island West; Tymon Hsieh, Maple Ridge; Steve Cann, Okanagan Skaha; Kent Brewer, Kamloops; Spencer Gray, Saanich; Paul Van Ryssel, Nanaimo; Sundae, Nanaimo; Jean Wong, Coquitlam; Troy Cunningham, Richmond; Laura Truong, Vancouver; Dean Eichorn, Delta; Elizabeth Cho-Frede, Abbotsford; Claire George, Delta; Marguirete Pearce, Maple Ridge; Carrie Li, Richmond; Michael Frankowski, West Vancouver; Rob Macaulay, North Okanagan; Ronda Bell, Qualicum; Ross Pepper, Qualicum; Kent Brewer, Kamloops; Tricia McCuaig, Maple Ridge; Shaun Sephton, Richmond; Corrine Hamilton, Delta; Brian Campbell, Peace River North; Mercedes Hayduk, Campbell River; Trevor Gee, New Westminster; Lois Leonard, Okanagan Skaha; Lori Sluth, Rocky Mountain; Tracy Godfrey, Vernon; Rob Hutchins, Nanaimo; Rob Macaulay, North Okanagan;

Welcome (Amy Shoup)

Welcome back Paul VanRyssel to Nanaimo and wish to acknowledge Carol Rimmer who has retired.

- 1) Additions to and approval of the agenda – Colin Guiguet
Motion to Approve –Liz Gamble, Second – Sheri Wakefield - Passed
- 2) Review and approval of minutes from last meeting – Sheri Wakefield
Motion to Approve – Liz Gamble, Second – Laura Schwertfeger. - Passed
- 3) President's Report – Amy Shoup
 - a) Member's check-in (roundtable Q&A)
 - b) Bi-weekly in-camera chats (explanation of purpose)
The next meeting is on December 1st at 10:00
 - c) Refund policies 2021?

Sheri Wakefield – Gulf Islands is on Course, the same as this year, some change in wording for West Vancouver, Delta and Cowichan similar to Sheri.

- 4) Executive Director's Report – Kathren Clarke
Virtual Fairs and webinars:

Webinars we participated in this quarter include:

- a) Mental Health and wellness
- b) Homestay

IPSEA only Agent workshops:

As the global market moved to virtual fairs, workshops and webinars it was becoming more and more difficult for IPSEA to stand out from the pack. We initiated IPSEA only events and are engaging in agent workshops with different vendors in different countries with the hope of attracting students for September 2021 and maintaining an IPSEA presence while we are restricted from travel.

- a) IPSEA/Alphito Agent Virtual fairs (currently in progress)
 - i) Oct 14 Western Europe
 - ii) Nov 18 Asia
 - iii) Nov 25 Latin America
- b) IPSEA/BCCIE: Vietnam Virtual agent fair January 7, 2021 (Ho Chi Minh/ Hanoi)
 - i) Registration sold out same day; wait list ongoing
- c) IPSEA/Bonard: Rescheduled to Virtual agent workshop:
 - i) Brazil April 7-8; Mexico April 14-15
- d) Currently Exploring options for future Missions (China/Japan/Korea/Taiwan)
 - i) Waiting on proposals for an IPSEA only virtual Mission for China in first quarter of 2021.

General Business

- a) Website maintenance
 - i) Check your SD links on public webpage: www.studyinbc.org are your contact links current?
 - ii) Domain name purchase www.studyinbc.net (now linked to www.studyinbc.org)
 - iii) Review and update IPSEA member directory
 - (1) Please check the directory and send changes/edits to Kathren. I have had several updates sent over the past week. We will circulate the updated list with the minutes.
 - iv) IPSEA logo refresh/renew
 - (1) request for an experienced volunteer(s) to be on 'logo redo committee'. Ideally understanding of rebranding and some technical language that can assist in updating the current IPSEA logo to be modern and technically compatible for most platforms. If you have interest please email Kathren Clarke.
- c) International Liaison
 - i) Italian Consular – Both the Ottawa and Vancouver based consular send their thanks to the IPSEA members who assisted them in trying to determine how many Italian minors are in BC
 - ii) EU Privacy Act (BCSTA)
 - (a) The document that is being created by schools legal for BCSTA is complete and will be distributed as soon as schools legal has one last review of it. I expect it will be distributed early in January if not sooner.
- d) MoE update (report submitted by Dwayne Cover, MoE)
 - i) Health & Wellness guideline
K-12 International Student Health and Wellness Support Materials
 - The K-12 International Student Health and Wellness Support Materials are under development. The contractor for this project has completed collection of information and feedback from the K-12 sector and is in the process of finalizing draft materials. It is expected that these materials will be available to the sector early in the new year (2021).
 - Based upon feedback from the sector and the importance of this topic for K-12 international students, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry has asked for a phased plan that includes additional support materials which could be developed pending available funding.

- ii) IE student tracking and quarantine weekly reporting
International Student Arrival and Quarantine Weekly Reporting
 - All districts and independent schools must continue to submit weekly reports on international student arrival and quarantine, even if there are no new students arriving and no students clearing quarantine.
 - For context, as part of the weekly reports that go to central government, the submission rate (%) from the sector is included. As this rate falls (i.e. less districts/independent schools submitting) it raises attention and questions as to whether the reports accurately reflect what is happening in the sector.
 - There is now a new web-based weekly reporting form available that will replace the PDF form. Use this link: <https://www.awinfosys.com/surveyfull3/minofed/main/InternationalStudentTracking.asp>
 - Please do not submit the PDF document again.
 - Please do not submit an email saying “no change”. You must submit the web-based form each week.
 - This link is also available through the Deputy Minister’s Bulletin in the regular reporting section.
 - The required reporting period is being extended to January 31, 2021. This will capture international students who choose to return home for the winter holiday and then return to BC. These students must follow the federal and provincial quarantine requirements upon their return.
 - If there are any questions regarding the weekly reporting requirements, please contact Jacqueline O’Callaghan at Jacqueline.OCallaghan@gov.bc.ca
- e) DL options for offshore IE students
 - i) Feedback SD73 BC (pro’s & con’s)
 - i) Committee: future DL options?

Colleen Hannah– would like to also investigate the extension of on-line learning beyond January. Spencer Gray believes that the precedent is set, but worth looking into.

Kathren Clarke– the current school act does not reflect the world we live in and there is always room to advocate for change if that is what the group wants.

Motion to form a committee who will explore the history of SD73 and the possibility of expanding so that school districts can offer the same. Motion: Greg Kochanuk; seconded: Mark Leiper

Committee volunteers: Spencer Gray, Mark Leiper, Jann Schmidt, Faizel Rawji, Greg Kochanuk

If you want to be on the committee forward your name to Kathren. Also, if you want to chair the committee let Kathren know.

5) Treasurer’s Report – Ronda Bell

- a) Review Financial report to date

Everyone has paid their membership fees and very little money is going out. The closing balance is \$100,611.71

Moving forward we will need to decide if there are projects we should earmark these for or to use towards next year’s fees.

Motion to Approve: Colleen Hannah, Second: Jann Schmidt - Approved

6) True North Immunization module (Michael Frankowski)

Michael Frankowski encouraged members to adopt the immunization module. Some members gave feedback that the current system, mostly decentralized to the school for record production, works fine.

Members of the immunization module committee from a number of health authorities disagreed and sent some reasons why the current system does not work. Here are those reasons.

“There are so many reasons why the status quo is not working!”

- The records we receive are often of poor quality, not translated, difficult to interpret.
- The process to collect them from the SDs is onerous and time consuming and often does not happen in a timely way to ensure we have the records when we need them.
- Some schools will not share records at times as will not release information related to permission/privacy concerns
- We get a big lump pile of records from SDs and they are not clearly labelled as to when the student will actually be here and what grade they will be in.
- Schools are not always forthcoming with names and parent contact information
- The workload to sort and enter the records is incredibly time consuming and not done in time to use them when we need them – i.e. if there were to be a disease outbreak in a school we would likely not have an up to date list of who is not protected which would delay public health response.
- Many families are not submitting records at all as [the records] are not requested with authority at the time of registration
- The importance of collection of records is not impressed upon the families of international students – It may not be understood we use these records are required as a reference if a communicable disease outbreak occurs and this guides our process regarding who may benefit from vaccination as they do not have protection otherwise; the collection of records does not mean we are solely seeking to immunize
- Email is the primary means of communication, so issues with privacy/communicating via non-encrypted messaging
- [There are problems] translating PHN requests to families
- [There are problems] translating immunization schedules from other countries
- Clerical requires Nurses and time to interpret and then upload the records
- Inability for PHN to work directly with families. [We rely on others] to communicate PHN requests
- At times international families just say, “Give them all the vaccines”, not understanding that our best practices indicate getting records if at all possible

If you are unsure, reach out to districts who are using it how they are finding it.

It is a low risk endeavor that will eventually help your health authorities in the future.

Feedback in chat from those using it that they are finding that there are no push backs or no complaint.

7) Homestay (Ronda Bell)

- a) Townhall panel review – Ronda Bell (Qualicum) and Ernestine (from Saanich) took part for IPSEA. People were interested in continuing to join in future workshops.
- b) Homestay committee

Meet on Mondays from 2:00- 3:00. A great sharing opportunity, still open to anyone who would like to be a part – just send Ronda an email.

BCCIE have offered their services to anyone wishing to do a workshop – if you have some ideas, forward to Kathren.

There is a good article on the BCCIE website on stress from Jennifer that Ronda also has a copy of that she can email to you.

8) Enrolling Canadian students from other Provinces (Sheri)

Do you charge fees to students who are not residents (provincial, but Canadian).

Raquel – believes it is a requirement from the government to charge fees

Jann – agrees, as they are not ministry funded so they then are charged an international fee or out of province fee.

The amounts districts charge vary – some charge the same as international students and some charge what would be the equivalent to what a ministry funded student would be given.

Liz Gamble – this is a decision made by the ST. There should be policy on this.

Raquel has noticed an increase of students coming from Quebec, asked if anyone is noticing that, Sheri Wakefield answered yes.

9) Executive position overview (2021/2022 term) (Michael Frankowski)

In our bylaws we are to announce executive elections take place next June. We are to give three notices, this is the first. It is encouraged that if you are interested in joining the Executive to talk to the members whose position you are interested in to hear what is involved or you can talk directly to Michael.

10) Potential Vaccine for International Students – Laura Schwertfeger

Has anyone had the conversation that when the vaccine becomes available, will it be available to an international student.

Gulf islands would ask for a parent's permission, Geoff Johnston from Coquitlam noted that children will not need a consent for the vaccination. When a vaccine comes, they would most likely just get vaccinated like all students.

Danielle Warren (Surrey) One of our homestay providers just informed us that they will not allow international students to get the vaccine as there may be complications – they will have to do it outside of Canada.

11) Messaging around International students wanting to study fully on line – Danielle Warren.

Surrey has been getting requests from parents and students to be able to go fully on line. Surrey do not have an online option. Question – is anyone else getting pressure on this? The answer from the remaining districts – no, not yet.

Coquitlam do have some international students who decided to go home with no refund. There are students doing courses through Coquitlam open learning, they are sticking through the policy that there are very few exposures through school and that it is a safe place to be. They are sticking to the refund policy as is.

Langley, Richmond and Abbotsford are also sticking to policy.

Mission is live streaming all of their courses, but students cannot leave and go home to do this. They have to stay in BC

12) Capsi Update (Mark Leiper)

Capsi Conferences:

2021 Virtual

2022 Halifax

2023 Whistler

2024 Niagra Falls

Capsi is continuing with the national stakeholder meetings and will keep us all informed.

13) Our March 5th meeting will be virtual.

Formal meeting concludes

*******In Camera session (no recording devices)**

Attachments:

- 1) Directory (please review your district and send changes to Kathren Clarke)

Documents sent prior to meeting:

- 1) Financial report (Ronda)
- 2) MoE update

Next general members meeting:

1. March 5, 2021 (Zoom)
2. June 4, 2021 (TBDVancouver School Board office?)

BC Ministry of Education Back to School plan: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>

IRCC study permit processing times <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/check-processing-times.html>

IRCC general information: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application.html>

IRCC All travelers prior to boarding flight to Canada must: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/arrivecan.html>

- submit your information before you board your flight to Canada
- be ready to show your ArriveCAN receipt when seeking entry into Canada
 - a border services officer will verify that you have submitted your information digitally

Centre Disease Control BC updates: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

BC Regional Health Authorities: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/partners/health-authorities/regional-health-authorities>

COVID 19 Public exposure (international and domestic flights) <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures>