

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of  
Austin International School  
October 7, 2015  
6:30 pm; Adelphi Campus**

---

**Board Members Present:** David Arnow, Kathleen Baireuther, Amy Brown, Barksdale English, Sophie Cano, Stacey McDougal, Ricardo Sanchez, Dina Sherzer, Liz Wiley

**Absent:** Guillaume Hennion, Ana Barbara Llorente

**Quorum:** Yes

**Visitors:**

PTO Members

Natalie Anderson, Gabriel Cepeda, Kate McCarthy, Philippe Montillet, Marcus Simpson.  
Hanifa Smine

**Resources:** Christophe Bonnet, Head of School.

**Proceedings – Public Session**

The agenda having been circulated prior to the meeting, the October 7, 2015 meeting of the AIS Board of Directors was called to order at 6:33 pm. With a quorum present the Board convened in a public session. Guillaume had given his proxy to Sophie, and Anna Barbara had given hers to Liz.

**I. Approval of minutes**

The chair called up the minutes of the **August 12, 2015 Executive meeting** of the Board.

Liz moved to approve them, Barksdale seconded. With no further discussion the motion passed on a unanimous vote with no abstentions and no dissents.

The minutes of the **September 9, 2015, closed and public session** of the Board needed some amendments. They will be brought to a vote at the November 11 meeting.

**II. HOS Report**

**a. Enrollment**

214 perhaps 215 students are expected in January 2016.

**b. School life**

i. Laurence Raud has become a certified trainer on Positive Discipline for parents and teachers. She will lead the first training session for the teachers on November 9.

ii. The first professional development day will be held October 9 facilitated by Laurence and Olivier. Teachers will participate in workshops to take stock of the current situation concerning, the vision, the mission, and the goals of the school, as a follow up of the 12 teaching practices they had co-elaborated in May. Discussions will focus on topics such as:

-What are good teaching practices that teachers must have?

-How do we value the kids' efforts to become trilingual?

- How to work on assessment across languages?

-What worked and what did not?

-What does it mean to state our mission as: broaden perspectives, broaden minds? Old and new teachers will be asked to offer their answers.

iii. Barksdale and Hanifa reported that their children were very pleased with the collaboration between the old and the new teachers, and the performance of the new teachers.

iv. Various representative of the MLF (Mission Laïque Française) visited AIS. Three top leaders discussed the IB in French and the MS.

v. On September 25 Christophe collaborated with the Cordell Hull Foundation in a workshop designed to help teachers acquire visas and adjust to a new culture. Faculty from AIS as well as from other international school in the area attended.

vi. 4<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed a fantastic trip of a week at Fort Davis during which they worked on science and astronomy. This is a preparation for the longer trip they will take in France as graduating 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

A one nighter trip for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be organized next year so that they are accustomed to be away from their families.

v. Christophe reported that a pattern is emerging in all the private international schools: In April their enrollments is 20% below projections, yet in September it is at projection. The practice of open house does not work as it did before.

### **III. PTO report**

Philippe reported that the first month went well.

-They are working on the fun run.

-They want to improve communication between parents thanks to Periscope.

-They joined mail chimp.

- They want to continue building relationships between parents and teachers.

- Pains au chocolat, croissants, and pizzas are excellent fund raisers and bring people together.

- Philippe noted that it is amazing how much parents work for the school.

- Hanifa pointed out the necessity of having better signage on campus.

### **IV. Committee Reports**

#### **a. Finance**

Barksdale reported that 1.we ended the year with revenue to pay the mortgage and some additional money; 2. The finance committee is making progress; 3. Atchley & Associates will be the auditors again this year.

#### **b. Audit Committee**

Deidre Ryan, Gabriel Cepeda and Janet Shotwell are the members of the committee. Liz moved to approve this slate of officers, David seconded. The vote was unanimous with no abstentions and no dissents.

Barksdale pointed out that 1. the Form 990 is part of the audit and should be reviewed by the BOD; 2 to avoid a stiff penalty we should report to the IRS in June that we have a foreign bank account.

*Ricardo arrived at 7:35*

At this point it was agreed that a BOD approved checklist of activities that have to be performed during the year needs to be drawn up. Christophe and Liz will compile this list.

**c. Update on chief officer search**

The committee identified two outstanding candidates out of 35 applicants who will be interviewed by a wider committee, then an offer will be extended to the candidate chosen. Amy was praised for her excellent job in organizing this search.

**d. Question from a PTO Parent**

Hanifa enquired about the MS. Will it be created and when? The answer was that the BOD is currently working on this very question.

There being no further business before the Board the public proceedings concluded at 7:47 PM.

**Approved on, 2015**

**Signed:**