

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of  
Austin International School  
November 12, 2014  
6:30 pm; Adelphi Campus**

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**Board Members Present:** David Arnow, Sophie Cano, Barksdale English, Ana-Barbara LLorente, Ricardo Sanchez, Dina Sherzer, Liz Wiley

**Absent:** Guillaume Hennion,

**Proxy:** Guillaume provided his proxy to Dina

**Quorum:** Yes

**Visitors:** Hanifa Smine, PTO president,  
PTO parents: Kate McCarthy, Stacey McDougal, Marcus Simpson

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

The agenda having been circulated prior to the meeting, the November 12, 2014 meeting of the AIS Board of Directors was called to order at 6:39 pm. With a quorum present the Board convened in executive session at 6:45 pm to discuss matters pertaining to the Head of School evaluation.

**Proceedings – Public Session**

At 7:12 pm the Board returned to public session. The chair called up the minutes of the October 8, 2014 regular meeting of the Board. David moved to approve them, Ricardo seconded. With no further discussion the motion passed on a unanimous vote of 8-0 with no abstentions and no dissents (with Dina voting for Guillaume who had given his proxy to her)

The chair confirmed that the next meeting of the Board will take place on December 10, 2014. But due to anticipated absences the January meeting will take place on January 7, 2015.

In order to give the Board members the time to be better prepared, the chair recommended that the documents to be discussed be distributed on the Friday before the next Board meeting.

## 1. HOS Report to Board

### a. Enrollment

An open house is scheduled for Saturday November 15. A lot of preparation went into it, and the staff is comfortable with the format. 10 families have already signed up. Whether the open house format is the best will be decided later on.

### b. Marketing and Communication

Sharon Munroe created an ambassador program that is now in full swing with 12 parents having taken upon themselves to tell their story about AIS.

The admission team received training to talk effectively to different prospective parents.

AIS will have more visibility thanks to several initiatives such as a KUT advertising campaign and various events.

### c. Development

i. The Gala is a good venue to make the school known. We should make an effort to invite many friends to it. Tickets are on sale.

ii. Less money was raised for Fun Run due to the fact that many parents were out of town that day.

iii. One family is putting its name on the science lab and this represents funding for the lab.

iv. Christophe made a presentation to the PTO where he explained how and where the money generated by the tuition and various funding drives work for the functioning of the school, and the education, and well being for the children.

### d. School life

i. AIS hosted the Cordell Hull Foundation Seminar for teachers holding a J1 visa on Sunday October 19<sup>th</sup> and welcomed teachers from Dallas International School and Magellan.

ii. A delegation of 5 school administrators from Lille visited the school on Monday November 10 and 11. They were anxious to learn about AIS and how it educates the children. They reported

that they had a most positive and enthusiastic experience, underscoring that AIS is a happy school. They noted that the students' level of French was amazing and were impressed by the fact that students could switch easily from one language to another. They also praised our teachers. They were puzzled by the fact that the smart boards were rarely used. Then they realized that technology is everywhere in the hands of the kids, thus minimizing the amount of frontal instruction.

iii. The partnership with Lille is very promising. It will give access to a pool of teachers to recruit for AIS. In addition a future exchange with their international section will be very significant.

iv. Gerard Vincent, our science specialist from France, spent a week at AIS. He worked with Cedric on adapting the NGSS and train mostly CE/CM French teachers. Now the school has a solid road map to finalize its Science Curriculum. The next Curriculum Brochure scheduled to appear this summer will take into account the changes in the science program.

v. Christophe facilitated The Second and Third Critical Friend Group on October 22 and November 5th. It was a success. 8 teachers have committed to be part of the group for the rest of the year.

vi. The fourth graders spent two nights at Fort Davis for an Astronomy trip. For their graduation trip next year they will visit an Observatory in the Pyrenees.

vii. The first learning journey that enables parents to come to school and observe what their children are doing took place on October 23. While not as well attended as last year, it was successful.

viii. The parents-teacher conference has vastly improved since parents could now register on line for this event.

## 2. Review of FY 2014 financials

Ana-Barbara offered guidance to the Board as to how to interpret the financial statements of the school.

3. PTO Report

The PTO is working on various issues and will report at the next meeting of the Board.

There being no further business before the Board the public proceedings concluded and the meeting recessed at 8:15 PM.

**Approved on December 10, 2014**

**Signed:**

*Dina Sherzer*