

Council Meeting Summary

21 February 2019

The Council held its regular meeting on 21 February 2019. The following discussions and actions took place.

- Mr. Larson recommends a 2% increase in fees for 2019/2020 SY because of the volatility of school (Building project). He suggests that the Council conduct a review of fee structures in relation to program costs, future needs of the school and in comparison to other schools in Latvia and CEESA in the coming school year. The Council approved the 2% increase but will consider a larger increase for prekindergarten before setting the 2019-20 budget.
- The Council approved new parameters for the ISL Scholarship to include the following:
 - Scholarship recipients enroll at ISL beginning in Grade 10 (rather than Grade 11)
 - We widen our reach for scholarship candidates to the wider Riga region and Jurmala, in addition to our current pool of candidates from Babites vidusskolaCurrently, ISL awards two scholarships in Grade 11, enrolling in the IB Diploma program. These scholarships continue through grade 12. However, past candidates have struggled to integrate into a highly rigorous academic course load taught exclusively in English for their first time in their schooling. We propose that scholarship students instead join us in Grade 10; students have a softer transition into the final year of the Middle Years Program before taking on the intensive IB Diploma Program. This allows students more time to adjust to the demands of coursework and to familiarize themselves with the use of academic English in the classroom, as well as for the school to have sufficient data to make appropriate language course choices for these students. Socially, it is also an easier transition - students are established, have reflected on our community values, and are not balancing the challenges of socioemotional integration alongside academic integration. Additionally, as Latvian schools have a natural shift between grade 9 and grade 10, this makes this transition intuitive. With this proposal, it means that ISL will provide scholarships over a three year period, versus the current two year period. This will mean that the year after next academic year there will be a total of six scholarships versus the current four.
- The Council considered the possibility of having the school cover the costs of online courses in the IB Diploma if a schedule conflict necessitates that a student has to choose between two desired courses. After discussion, the Council decided not to cover these costs as there will frequently be times when such choice on the part of the student will be needed. It is felt that course offerings in the DP are substantial, particularly for a school the size of ISL.
- The Council reviewed a draft employee engagement survey which is planned to be distributed to staff in April.
- The Council reviewed the January financial management report noting revenues and expenditures are in line with the budget.
- The Council discussed the upcoming Annual General Meeting. The agenda consists of the Council's report, Director's report and report on the Annual reports of ISL and ABODE PROJECTS.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2019.

Please contact the school Director if you have any questions.