

**Atlanta International School**  
**Parents Organization Meeting Minutes 2/28**

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**Dr. Brindley delivered a presentation regarding the new curriculum structure:**

- I. A board decision was made to limit the size of AIS to 1050 children. This allows us to predict, budget and structure better. What should we do with the campus expansion? This will make the school more balanced as each school head will have closer to 250 children within their program which is a good size.
- II. Parent Question: What are we doing about the lack of library space?  
Answer: Architects have finished the 4k – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade lower primary school design and are currently working on the design for the science and technology building. In the 4k-2<sup>nd</sup> grade building there will be a library/media center.
- III. Dr. Brindley accredits other schools and, in doing so, is able to see what other schools are doing. There is something called the “so what” factor. You make a change in the classroom and “so what”, will the learning actually improve? Many schools our size have hired 1 person to make sure that curriculum is continuous from 4k to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- IV. We also have to show and prove that we have made a value added change to a child’s life. You have to test the child against norms and track their results over time. Our data collection is currently inconsistent. There is only one correlation and predictor of success which is the thickness of the student’s file (sometimes an indication of lack of effort). Effort is the single most important factor in determining success for that child. We need to decide what data to collect and then figure out how to allow data to drive process in the classroom.
- V. Dr. Brindley did his thesis on curriculum change and not one change had stuck in any system he studied. If we are going to make significant change, it has to be data driven. We are creating a professional learning community using data. What are the trends, what is the curriculum, what is the outcome we expect at the end of each grade to achieve a certain level by the IB exams. For example, what must they achieve in 6<sup>th</sup> grade to get to a certain level by 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- VI. The intangibles are also very important to measure such as willingness to engage in community service activities, social skills, etc.
- VII. At the moment, division heads have to do all of the teacher appraisals. The heads of school have 30 to over 60 teachers to appraise. Next year, no one in the school will mentor, coach, and appraise more than 10 people. Dr. Brindley took away the students ability to review the teachers partially due to the timing around teacher

contracts. Patrick Hurworth is creating a student evaluation that will go to the mentor so that they can incorporate the feedback into the teachers' feedback.

- VIII. One parent brought up the idea of having an armed guard in the school for general safety purposes. There was additional discussion of safety options but the school does not plan to hire a guard.