



School Inspection Report

March 20, 2013

International School of Bydgoszcz

Bydgoszcz, Poland

Goal:

To inspect curriculum delivery and assessment practices, particularly at the elementary and secondary level, to determine the suitability of The International School of Bydgoszcz as a school for dependents of Canadian Forces personnel.

Introduction:

A one day visit to the International School of Bydgoszcz was conducted by conducted by Director Superintendent of DND Schools, Europe/ Principal of AFNORTH Canadian High School, Dr. Constance McLeese.

Activities Included:

- Meeting with the school administrative team (Primary Years Coordinator, Middle Years Coordinator, School Principal, school teaching staff)
- Classroom visits to review instruction of curriculum expectations and assessment and evaluation of student achievement.
- Tour of school facilities/ sport fields, computer labs, library, cafeteria, play yard, University facilities shared by the school.

Description of School:

The International School of Bydgoszcz follows the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. The school was founded in 2009 as part of an agreement made by the Polish government to provide an international education for NATO members stationed at the newly created JFC Bydgoszcz. The school is affiliated with the University of Kazimierz Wielki which has a faculty of education. The schools advisory council is made up of members of the University Faculty. It was decided that the school would follow IB programming because of the truly international perspective of the IB curriculum.

The school is in the process of undergoing the accreditation process for the IB program and is regularly inspected by IB inspectors. They have just received Middles Years accreditation. Primary Years accreditation should be received in November 2013. Next year the school will start the two year accreditation process for the IB diploma (grades 11 and 12). This senior high school programming will be phases in gradually. Grade 11 will begin in September 2013 and Grade 12 in September 2014. Presently the school offers programming from pre-kindergarten to grade 10.

The school is also part of the Polish National system of education and is inspected by the Polish Ministry of Education. The primary language of instruction is English; however the school supplements this with First Language instruction for non-native English speakers. French language speakers are provided with programming to allow them to integrate back into the French National System. Curriculum for this is provided by the French Ministry of Education via AEFÉ. French speaking students also sit the French National Exams. Polish, Italian and German nationals are also provided with mother tongue instruction when numbers warrant. Polish students must sit national exams in grade 3, 6 and 9.

The school is primarily publically funded. It receives revenue for the Polish Ministry of Education and the Polish National Government. It is a registered charity and parents can donate 1% of their income tax to the school. The school also charges tuition of 950 zloty per month which works out to approximately 260 CAD at today's exchange rate.

The school shares the university sports facility which has been newly renovated. Presently the school is about three kilometers from the facility so the Polish Armed Forces provide bus transportation to students of the school free of charge. The school also shares the University Library, playing fields and science laboratories. The University also lends faculty to the school for Music, Senior Science and Senior English Literature.

The school is in the process of expanding and will be moving in two years to a site by the University Campus.

School Profile: (from Student Handbook available on school web sites)
ISOB Mission and Philosophy:

"The mission of the school is to educate independent, creative and responsible participants in social, environmental and cultural life. The school helps the students to build their own identities based on the respect of their national heritage and also of the representatives of different cultures. Our aim is to prepare children to become active and compassionate adults who contribute to the creation of a better and more peaceful world. ."

"The IB philosophy focuses on inter-cultural awareness, understanding and holistic education. It promotes student-centred programmes as well as individual approaches. Students are exposed to the interrelatedness of various disciplines, skills and experiences."

In 2012-2013 the school population demographics was comprised of 17 nations from a variety of NATO countries.

Payment policy is outlined in the Admissions package.

The school has a well-equipped cafeteria and provides balanced warm lunches and snacks for a minimal charge.

A full variety of extracurricular activities are offered including extracurricular music and clubs. These are provided at no extra cost to the parents. There is an active students' council and parents' council.

School excursions are included with a planning process to ensure the safety of students. Transportation is provided by the Polish Military.

Document Review:

We reviewed documents from the International IB website, the school website. Registration information and option sheets were also available in the school offices.

Documents included:

- *Primary Years Programme* (Handbook for Parents and Students 2012-2013)(<http://www.isob.ukw.edu.pl/en/School.html>)
- *Middle Years Programme* (Handbook for Parents and Students 2012-2013) (<http://www.isob.ukw.edu.pl/en/School.html>)
- International IB programming (<http://www.ibo.org/>)
- Registration Documents (<http://www.isob.ukw.edu.pl/en/School.html>)
- ISOB documents for Assessment and Evaluation (<http://www.isob.ukw.edu.pl/en/School.html>)

Teaching Staff:

Teaching staff is recruited by the school and hired through interview process by a local hiring committee. All teachers must have teacher qualifications. Competition to work at the school is stiff since teachers are paid well above the Polish national standard. All teaching staff is IB trained. The principal is responsible for supervising teachers and performing performance appraisals at set intervals. Unsatisfactory teachers are documented and can eventually be removed from their position.

Instruction of Curricular Expectations/Assessment and Evaluation of student Achievement:

Primary Years Program:

The primary school operates from kindergarten (4 years) to grade 6. The average class size is approximately 10 to 12 students. This would allow for peer interaction and collaborative.

Classroom visits revealed a strong focus on literacy and numeracy. Teaching was curriculum driven and generally child focused. Teachers evaluated using IB standards. Teachers provided descriptive feedback on written work. There was ample evidence of project based learning, incorporation of media communication and 21st century critical thinking skills as per the IB curriculum. On-going assessment and tracking of achievement was conducted by the teacher and monitored by the primary program co-ordinator and ultimately the IB inspection process. Report cards are issued twice a year. Parents can track weekly performance of students through a web based mark entry system.

The school was extremely well equipped, with SMART Boards, media centre, gymnasium, a library, and playing fields. Classrooms were well resourced. There was evidence of student learning displayed throughout the school.

Teachers participated in on going professional development which was provided by the administration and by the IB organization.

Middle Years Programme:

The middle school offered programming for students from grade 6 to grade 10. The curriculum was varied and was supplemented by national programming from various NATO members. All classrooms were well equipped and there was evidence of investigative and collaborative enquiring teaching approaches. The library was well equipped. There was a media centre, and state of the art gym facilities available at the University of Kazimierz Wielki.

The following evidence was gleaned on the visit:

- Lessons were planned to relate to the IB curriculum.

- Strong communication between school and parents exist.
- Technology and teaching resources were excellent and up to date.
- Learning was project based, collaborative and promoted critical thinking
- School has excellent sports facilities.

Students returning to English language programs in Canada up to and including grade 10 would integrate fairly seamlessly. French second language programming is available and students would also have the opportunity to learn Polish and perhaps German.

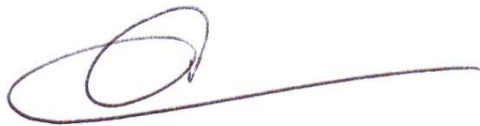
French First Language students could receive French First Language instruction based upon the French Ministry of Education National Standards. Students functioning with this level of French language proficiency should have no difficulty integrating into French language programming in either Quebec or Ontario.

Students returning to Ontario, who wish to obtain an OSSD would be required to pass the OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) and provide evidence of completion of 40 hours of community service. Compulsory course requirements (e.g. Canadian History, Canadian Geography, Careers and Civics and French Second Language) could be completed synchronously at the International School of Bydgoszcz I through ICL or AMDEC (AVON Maitland Distance Education Centre). The staff at the school are prepared to provide teacher supervision in order to facilitate this programming. The computer area is well equipped to support this programming.

Conclusions:

The International School of Bydgoszcz would provide education whereby English and French language students can integrate relatively seamlessly until grade 10. Gaps for specifically Canadian content could be made up via ILCs or Avon Maitland Distance Education Centre. Once the school fully implements grade 11 and grade 12 programming students could graduate with an IB diploma. Canadian Universities recognize IB graduation diplomas; however some Canadian post-secondary programs may have specific requirements which are not met with the IB diploma. Students attending the International School of Bydgoszcz School would benefit from access to a Canadian qualified guidance counsellor to ensure that they choose courses which will allow them to follow their chosen post-secondary pathway.

Respectfully submitted,



Constance McLeese Ph.D.

Superintendent DND School Europe

Principal AFNORTH Canadian High School