

## Minutes of the North India IB Heads meeting – 25 April 2023

Venue : The Shri Ram School, Mousari

Attendees : 25 Heads of IB schools

- Ms. Anju Soni, Shiv Nadar School, Noida
- Ms. Anvita Gupta, Sancta Maria International School
- Mr. Atul Khanna, Strawberry Fields High School
- Ms. Daisy Rana, Heritage International Xperiential School
- Ms. Gurjeet Kaur, International Fateh Academy
- Ms. Harmeet Kaur, DPSG Palam Vihar, Gurgaon
- Ms. Jayati Mazumdar, Delhi Public School Ghaziabad Vasundhara
- Dr. Kartikay Saini, Scottish High International School Gurgaon
- Ms. Lakhwinder Kaur, International Fateh Academy
- Mr. Mahesh Prasad, Step by Step School, Noida
- Manika Sharma, The Shri Ram School

- Ms. Meeta Sharma, Mussoorie International
- Ms. Monica Sagar, Shiv Nadar School
- Ms. Navina Chadha, GD Goenka Global School DLF3
- Ms. Neha Nagarsheth, K R Mangalam Global school – Gurugram
- Ms. Rima Singh, DPS International
- Ms. Ripple Sethi, The Shri Ram School
- Capt. Rohit Sen Bajaj, Pathways School Gurgaon
- Ms. Rupa Chakravarty, Suncity school
- Ms. Soma Singh, DPSG International
- Ms. Sonali Sinha, GDG World School
- Ms. Sonya Mehta, Pathways World School
- Ms. Uttara Singh, The Shriram Millenium school
- Mr. Vineet, Vidhya Global School Meerut
- Mr. Yogesh Sindhwani, Lancers International School

## # Welcome

- Capt. Bajaj welcomed everyone and thanked Ms. Manika Sharma, Director of Shri Ram Schools for their warm hospitality and generously hosting the IB Heads North India regional meeting.

## # IB Heads association

- Capt. Bajaj stated that the IB heads meeting is only for school heads. A separate PD session is being planned for the IBCs in the three regions.
- Capt. Bajaj shared that the IB Heads Pan-India meeting held on 10 – 11 February 2023 in Pune was a great success and a wonderful learning opportunity. Candidate schools will now be a part of the Association. The Association of Heads of IB World Schools in India is now officially recognised by IBO. There are 210 IB schools in India. Details of the subscription fee will be shared. The association is growing and looking to recruit an administrator and a bookkeeper. Details of EC election will be shared at the next meeting. The next Pan-India meeting is scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024 in Kolkata and Capt. Bajaj encouraged heads to attend the same.
- The IB Conference at Adelaide was enriching. The conference featured 95 sessions to gain insights into the IB. The **PDP session** was focussed on **Design thinking approach** and participants discovered how to create effective programme development plan to ensure a positive impact on student learning.
- **Association of Heads of IB World Schools** in India gets **officially recognised** by the **International Baccalaureate Organisation** to become the **inclusive Association of Heads of IB World Schools in India and South Asia**. An **agreement** in this regard was signed by Haif Bannayan Global Director Business Development at the IB in the presence of the IB Director General, Chief Business Development Officer and the Association which was also witnessed by **almost 100 delegates** attending from these countries. Our ever-growing association **will now welcome schools from Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan as Associate Members**. With this move, **the Association will also strengthen leadership**, across **South Asian countries**.
- Capt. Bajaj spoke about **Festival of Hope** and invited schools to join the Pathways to Hope scheduled on 29 May 2023 at Pathways School

Gurgaon. The sessions will be curated by students collaboratively. 26 schools have already registered. A detailed agenda has been shared with all the schools on 02 May 2023. Capt. Bajaj informed that the festival of hope is for Middle and Senior school students. The IB Schools with national curriculum are welcome to register and attend. Mr. Olli-Pekka Heinonen (Director General, International Baccalaureate) will be interacting with the heads of schools and the heads are requested to share anything that they want the DG to speak on.

### # IB learning

- Keynote speaker Mr. Rajiv Makhni, MD NDTV, was welcomed. Mr. Makhni's session on Chat GPT and AI with special emphasis on its impact on education and life was informative and appreciated by all.

### # Best Practices

- Presentation on Learning support (extended service programme) by Dr. Cdr. Kartikay Saini. A video on Barcelona Olympics was shared where athlete Derek Redmond pulled a hamstring and was helped by his father to reach the endline but completed the race on his own. In life too, children with special needs need support but should be empowered to live life on their own. Dr. Saini shared inclusion needs to happen every day. Some of the practices he touched upon were:
  - A Deep Dive by Leadership into Inclusion System: need for constant revisiting of inclusion policy by leadership.
  - Showcasing commitment to inclusion: exhibitions, student council positions, celebration of achievements or participation
  - Year Round and whole school engagement: awareness campaigns: include in Curricula/Calendar/Plan
  - Unify through sports - Special Olympics, Unified Sports & Unified Champion Schools: push IB students to volunteer as this is a recognised service programme
  - Workplace training: need to develop workplace skills and life skills to ensure employment

- Ms. Manika Sharma – parent support groups (Caring for Carers) at The Shri Ram School help parents understand and cope with demands of their special needs child.
- Ms. Jayati Mazumdar – shared that though DPS, Ghaziabad has no lifts and is not equipped to take in special needs students, they took in a student as no other school was willing to do so. Requested her teachers be allowed to visit Scottish High to learn more about inclusion.
- Ms. Monica Sagar – shared that parents often do not want to get children diagnosed. There is a need to change this mindset. Shiv Nadar school offers functional curriculum for those who cannot be accommodated in the normal curriculum.
- Ms. Anvita Gupta – denial by parents to accept their child’s limited abilities is a practical issue.
- Mr. Mahesh Prasad – At Step-by-Step School, Noida there was resistance by parents when SEN was initially offered. There is a need to sensitise mainstream parents.
- Ms. Uttara Singh (The Shriram Millennium school) – shared how a child with special needs from a village in Faridabad was shunned by his family. After being trained as a weightlifter and winning a gold medal at the Special Olympics, he has become the pride of the village.
- Ms. Sonya Mehta – shared that an almost completely blind student is taking on the IB journey at Pathways World School

### # Conversations

- Next regional meeting – Capt. Bajaj thanked Dr. Cdr. Kartikay Saini for being kind to host the regional heads meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> August at Scottish High International School. The Pan-India DP+CP Coordinator meeting will also be hosted on the same day. Suncity School will connect to help. A hybrid model may be considered for the coordinator meet. Capt. Bajaj will request the for their representation.
- Capt. Bajaj proposed considering sessions for HR/ Library/ Special Educators/ Counsellors/ best practice sharing. Details may be discussed at the next meeting.
- Upcoming PD events

- IC3 Conference - 23 and 24 August - Hyderabad
  - TAIISI conference - 07 to 09 September - Mumbai
  - IB Heads Conference - 05 to 07 October - Dublin, Ireland
  - Leading to learn (NEASC Conference) - 03 and 04 November at Pathways School Gurgaon
  - PAN India and South Asia IB Heads Conference-09 and 10 Feb' 24 - Kolkata
  - IB Global conference - 21 to 23 March'24 - Daegu, Korea
- Ms. Rima Singh shared that elections for the executive chair for the Association need to be held. Capt. Bajaj was unanimously requested to continue as the Chair.
  - The heads shared how tutoring, and plagiarism are challenges faced by all schools. Ms. Ripple Sethi shared that tutors have pitched themselves as ones getting results, so it is not always possible to dissuade parents. It is also not possible to stop teachers from giving tuitions – though they are not allowed to give tuition to their own students at The Shri Ram School. The case is the same for career counsellors – where parents prefer to hire professionals to write SoPs, college essays.
  - Ms. Anvita Gupta requested regional IB workshops in the Delhi/NCR region. Capt. Bajaj asked everyone to share their needs so that a combined request is shared with IBO. A specific North India survey form may be created or the existing PAN India form may be used. Capt. Bajaj mentioned that Mr Basu had shared a link for the PD requirements. All heads are requested to fill it so that it may be analysed and planned together.
  - MYP workshops are already scheduled in North India in June. Ms. Sonya Mehta shared her concern about the high cost of outsourced PD by IBO. Ms. Rima Singh added that the workshop leader quality is also deteriorating. Capt. Bajaj to take up these concerns with IBO.
  - Ms. Rupa Chakravarty requested that no teacher / bad vendor names be mentioned on WhatsApp groups if they leave school / provide poor service. This was agreed upon.

- Best wishes for the upcoming exams were conveyed to all the schools.
- Capt. Bajaj volunteered guidance with the CP journey.
- Ms. Rima Singh and Mr. Atul Khanna gave the vote of thanks. They thanked the host school for its hospitality and the participants for a good session. Special mention was made of Dr. Cdr. Saini and Mr. Makhni for their respective sessions.

Click here to view the photographs for this event:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JOX47a8Wsl-BvBd7UQRtFRAOnw5oCl74?usp=share link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JOX47a8Wsl-BvBd7UQRtFRAOnw5oCl74?usp=share_link)