



Board of Governors Meeting Summary, February 2025

On February 3, 2025, PSI Board of Governors held their regular monthly Board Meeting. The meeting was held in a hybrid format, with members joining at PSI campus and remotely on Zoom.

- **Voting Members in Attendance:** Floris Schuring, Nadiya Vershygora, Peter Erben, Robert McNeil, Lina Nemchenko, Tetiana Karlova, Andriy Dyshuk, Robert Koenig, Ashley Mulroney, Natalia Fiala
- **Non-Voting Members in Attendance:** Trae Holland, Rem Rusanov, David Freeman, Bryan Reardon, Julia Tupchii, Olga Berezchna, Polina Golubkova
- **Guests:** Tetiana Dronchak
- **Apologies:** Vitalii Voitovych



Consent Agenda Items

Director Report

PSI Director Trae Holland commended the community for striving on and continuing to inspire everyone with the loyalty of its families and the commitment of its staff. Mr Holland shared that it was amazing to see how excited our students were to return to school. Though the winter is unquestionably the most challenging period for the PSI community from an psychological and socio-emotional standpoint, the school continues to explore every available opportunity to support our students, faculty and parents. PSI continues to experience a great deal of growth as an organization, whether it be our team or our programmatic offerings.

Last month our school welcomed Vitaliy Yukhymenko, who joined PSI as a Science Teaching Partner. In the 25-26 school year (SY) Vitaliy will be taking on the role of IB Chemistry Teacher for the Diploma Program. Reporting directly to the Secondary Principal David Freeman, Vitaliy brings an impressive blend of academic achievement, research expertise, and practical experience to our team. Vitaliy holds a Ph.D. in Plasma Physics from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and has long-term experience in scientific research and engineering. His specialization in physical processes in non-equilibrium plasma and its applications in power engineering, environmental protection, and green chemistry is truly inspiring.



Primary Principal Report

In his report to the Board Bryan Reardon, Primary Principal, emphasized that It has been a positive start back after the winter break with students and staff arriving back rested and enthused about getting back into learning routines. The semester promises to be busy with plans for re-development of Literacy programs, Units of Inquiry and later in the semester, the initial implementation of an official Outdoor Play and Learn (OPAL) program.

Students in Primary are about to undertake their fourth Unit of Inquiry for the year. This comes under the Transdisciplinary theme of 'How the World Works'. The IB have recently made changes to the descriptors for each of the themes and schools have until September 2027 to fully implement the changes. PSI will look to transition over to the new descriptors this semester with Unit of Inquiry five and six being identified to use the new descriptors. A change to a theme descriptor can potentially mean a complete re-development of a unit which is a time consuming process.

On Thursday 23rd January, the Primary staff had a Professional development session with Krystle Marcis. Krystle is the literacy coordinator at Copenhagen International School, and, through ex PSI Principal Jan Humpleby, will initiate thinking and discussions required to bring the staff together on a greater understanding about best practices in literacy and latest research.

Progress reports were issued through the Toddle platform on Friday 24th January.

Secondary Principal Report

Dr David Freeman, Secondary Principal, shared that most parents accessed the report cards for semester 1 on January 24th. Secondary School will return to quarterly report cards instead of the current once-a-semester reporting. More frequent reporting increases academic accountability for students and increases communication between teachers and parents.

Three-way conferences amongst parents, students, and teachers will also support that communication. These conferences will happen on Thursday, 27 February. In addition to the scheduled meetings with PSI teachers, parents and students will have the opportunity to speak with their teachers in the Ukrainian Program without an appointment.

Teachers now have access to an easy-to-use reporting system to notify administration about students speaking Russian in class. Chronic Russian speakers will endure a silent lunch detention just outside the library. While they will be deprived of their devices, they will be encouraged to select a book from the library to read during their detention.

Not enough students decided to participate in our winter sports program to warrant travel to other CEESA countries for competition. We will, however, have local games and meets for those athletes



who are participating. On 22 January the student member of the Maths Club competed in the 3rd round of an international maths competition. So far all of the students remain 'alive' in the contest sponsored by the American Scholastic Math Foundation.

Items for Information/Discussion/Decision

New items on the Board's agenda

During the main part of the meeting PSI Board of Governors considered the academic calendar draft for the next SY presented by the School Director Trae Holland. After some discussion it was decided that a minor revision needs to be made and the Board will vote on the calendar via email in the upcoming days.

Board members unanimously agreed on the general format of the Open Board Meeting, which is planned for Monday, April 7th. This event is particularly special as it marks the 300th Board Meeting, a significant milestone in the governance of our school. The Open Board Meeting will provide an opportunity for community members to observe the Board in action and to ask questions directly to our voting Board members. The agenda and further details will be finalized and communicated to the community in the upcoming weeks.

Lastly, Board members engaged in a rigorous discussion of the potential approaches to the tuition fees for SY '25-26. The initial proposal was presented by the Chair of the Finance & Risk Management Committee (F&RM) Ashley Mulroney. Board members were given the opportunity to share their thoughts on the proposed openly. After careful consideration of various options, a decision was made via a majority vote. Details of the latter will be communicated via a separate email.

Prepared by
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