

APPENDIX D

THE PARENT NETWORK CHARTER

The vision of IST school is to provide an outstanding international education. The IST Parent Network will provide a forum to actively engage all parents in the school in the achievement of this vision.

The IST Parent Network is a school-wide umbrella organization, which serves to promote positive involvement within the school learning community. It has two branches – the Elementary Parent Network (EPN) and the Secondary Parent Network (SPN), and is recognized by the board as the official Parent Group.

The School Administration will work in partnership with the IST Parent Network as the official parent mechanism through which voluntary school-wide parent involvement is coordinated. This is distinct from the Home/School Link, which is the learning partnership between individual families and the school.

1. Role

The role of the Parent Network is:

- To enhance communication and cooperation within the school community and promote the involvement of parents in the school;
- To provide a forum for structured dialogue and consultation among parents, teachers, administrators and board members and students and enhance partnership among all stakeholders;
- To be involved in upholding and shaping the visions, goals, and policies of the school and collaborate in developing new initiatives and school-wide shared understandings;
- To promote a sense of community within IST;
- To embrace and celebrate the school's diversity.
- To welcome new families and involve them in the school community;
- Provide a social and learning support for and by parents;
- To assist with the well-being of students by promoting their interests and developing opportunities within the wider school community
- To compliment learning going on in the school through different structured and unstructured channels.
- To provide active support to the school through volunteering and social events.
- The Parent Network activities are self-funded where possible.
- Coordinate and maintain the homeroom parent/grade level networks
- The Parent Network is not a place for individual complaints and does not substitute for the established channels for communication between the parent/teacher/administration.
- The Parent Network is not a decision-making forum for the school.

2. Structure

The structure will be as follows:

- The Principal of each campus will invite the appointed coordinating committee from the year before to convene the Parent Network at the beginning of each school year.
- All IST parents are members of the Parent Network.
- The Principal and a Board member, nominated by the Chairman of the Board are invited to attend and participate in the meetings. Other members of the IST community attend by invitation
- The Parent Network will meet on a regular basis.
- Each Parent Group will have an account within the school, which can be accessed by two signatories: one parent and an administrator
- The Parent Groups will devise an internal structure, which best meets its needs.
- The two networks will collaborate on issues of common interest in a manner best suited to the occasion and meet on an ad hoc basis
- Each branch of the Parent Network will be entitled to send non-voting liaison (liaisons) to the board meetings. These liaisons will work as a link between the parent community and the Board, who will also consult the Parent Networks when opportunities for co-option to board subcommittees and /or working groups is appropriate.

Partnership Agreements:

- The respective campus administrative teams must approve the use of school employees, facilities and resources.
- All communication will be facilitated through the various channels as described in the Parent Handbooks.
- The Norms of Collaboration as agreed in policy by the school board will be adhered to.

Revised by the Board of Directors, November 10, 2011