

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL EAST

CAIRO

EGYPT

NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 2, 2020

INTRODUCTION

On November 30 – December 2, 2020, an online certification inspection was completed on British Columbia International School East (BCCIS) in Cairo, Egypt, referred to as the School in this report. The purpose of this inspection was to determine whether the requirements for the British Columbia (BC) education program have been met, according to the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement*. The inspection team (the Team), appointed by the Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education, British Columbia Ministry of Education (MoE) in accordance with the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement* (the Agreement), consisted of Laurie Anderson (Chair) and Dave Beeke.

The School's BC program has an enrolment of 787 students, in grades 1-12. The School also has an Early Childhood Education (ECE) program, starting at age 3. The ECE program has 110 students, and serves as a feeder school for BCCIS. With a combined total of 897 students, the School is close to capacity.

During their visit to the School, the Team reviewed all standards required in the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement* and *Operating Manual* and met with the School's Owner/Operator, Offshore School Representative (OSR), BC Principal and vice-principal, BC teachers, local support staff, students, and members of the Parent Advisory Committee.

The Owner/Operator, Karim Mostafa, is responsible for the BC program. Mr. Mostafa is the CEO of EduHive, a management company jointly owned by the Mostafa family and the private company, Cairo Investment and Real Estate Development (CIRA). EduHive is planning to build additional schools in Egypt, including a second BC offshore school in Cairo's west area.

The School's mission is "Striving for excellence today, preparing students to succeed in a



challenging world tomorrow.” The School’s primary goal for students is the pursuit of excellence in all areas, along with taking responsibility to enrich society.

The inspection took place just as the second wave of COVID-19 infections was occurring in Cairo. The School quickly pivoted back to remote teaching and learning to avoid virus transmission.

The Team would like to thank British Columbia Canadian International School East for its hospitality, cooperation and preparedness for the inspection visit.

The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<p>Comment:</p> <p>There were no requirements in the previous inspection.</p> <p>A number of the suggestions made in the previous year’s inspection have been addressed this year – a) enhancing IT resources; b) establishing a school-based budget within the principal’s purview; c) ensuring the School’s Student Records Policy is aligned with Ministry criteria; and d) re-affirming the commitment to Social Responsibility within the Annual Growth Plan.</p> <p>The other suggestions – e) additional professional development directly linked to new BC curriculum; f) teachers completing the Graduation Program Literacy and Numeracy Assessments – were deferred due to impact of COVID-19.</p>			

BUSINESS PLAN 1.0

The Owner/Operator has submitted a business plan to the BC Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the program.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The steady growth in enrolment at the School has led to plans by the Owner/Operator to build a second school in Cairo (BCCIS West) by September, 2021. This growth has occurred in the highly competitive international school market in Cairo.</p>		



Commendation:

The Owner/Operator and School personnel are commended for developing a highly successful and popular early childhood-to-grade 12 educational program.

INSPECTION CATALOGUE 2.0**2.02 The Owner/Operator meets all requirements as set forth in the BC Global Education Program Offshore Schools Certification Agreement (the Agreement).**

Requirement
Met

Requirement
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

The Owner/Operator meets the requirements set forth in the Agreement. The Owner/Operator works closely with the School's leadership team and the Superintendent/OSR.

2.03 The Owner/Operator has written approval from the appropriate government entity to operate the offshore school, as outlined in section 5.03 of the Agreement.

Requirement
Met

Requirement
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

The Owner/Operator has the necessary No Objection approval document from the government of Egypt to operate the School.

2.04-2.05 The School meets local building, safety and cafeteria codes and regulations. The facilities are deemed to be suitable to support the BC program.

Requirement
Met

Requirement
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

The School has officially translated documents demonstrating compliance with local safety, building and health regulations. The School has fire, earthquake and lockdown policies and procedures. The School has a dedicated medical facility onsite, with two doctors available for staff and students.

The School's Emergency Plan includes a contingency plan for relocation to another site in Cairo.



The local authorities ordered schools to be closed and instruction delivered remotely during the first and second waves of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commendation:

The School is commended for its smooth transitions back and forth from in-class instruction to remote learning twice. The patience, cooperation and resiliency of the School's teachers and leadership team during this stressful, uncertain period is commendable.

2.06 Offshore School Representative (OSR) - The Owner/Operator must appoint an individual to act as offshore school representative. This individual must be confirmed by the province and must meet all of the requirements set out in section 14 of the Agreement.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Offshore School Representative (OSR) is an experienced BC trained school principal who works closely with the School's leadership team and the Owner/Operator.

Commendation:

The Team commends the OSR for his instrumental role in establishing a sustainable teacher and administrator recruitment and retention plan. The plan is attracting increasing numbers of BC trained educators willing to commit to the School for longer periods.

2.07 The Principal meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.07 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Principal meets the requirements of 2.07 in the inspection catalogue. The Principal is in his second full year at the School.

The Principal brings years of school-based leadership experience in the BC context to the role. The Principal's goals include making quality teaching and learning the shared priority for everyone in the School, an emphasis on social responsibility, and introducing critical organizational structures that support student learning (school-based and school leadership teams).

Commendation:

The Principal and his leadership team are commended for providing competent, focused, accessible and sustainable leadership to the School.



2.08 The School meets the administrative support requirements as outlined in section 2.08 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement
Met

Requirement
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the administrative support requirements. The administrative team includes the Principal and two vice-principals, a Director for the ECE and K program, two administrative assistants and several other staff involved in various aspects of school operations.

2.09 The School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in section 2.09 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement
Met

Requirement
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

The Team noted that the School's student records are well organized, securely stored and include all the essential legal and education documents. Random samples from various grades were examined and found to contain current versions of key documents, including colour coded files for students with special learning needs.

2.10-2.18 The School meets the teacher certification requirements as outlined in sections 2.10-2.18 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement
Met

Requirement
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that all authorized persons under the Agreement possess valid and current certification under the Ministry of Education.

There are three teachers on staff with current and valid letters of exemption. All personnel files are organized and complete.



2.19 The School meets the requirements for curriculum implementation outlined in section 2.19 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School continues implementation of the new BC curriculum. The Team noted evidence of student self-assessment of the core competencies was in place, and that the core competencies and the Big Ideas are being explored at each grade level at various levels of implementation. The Team also noted that the School has taken initial steps to embed the BC First Peoples Principles of Learning into the educational program.

Commendation:

The School is commended for implementing a student self-assessment-of-core-competencies initiative as a summative and diagnostic exercise.

2.20 The School meets the requirements for English language assessment and acquisition as outlined in section 2.20 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School has made English language proficiency a major priority. This includes Annual “Grade-Wide Writes”, additional support to struggling ELL learners, and increased collaboration between support teachers, enrolling teachers and the teacher librarian.

Commendation:

The Team commends the School for establishing the Connections Department and school-based teams to support the learning needs of all students

2.21(a-e) The School meets the course credit requirements (equivalency, challenge, exemptions and BAA courses) as outlined in section 2.21 (a-e) of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the course credit requirements. The following approved BAA courses are offered: Arabic 10 (YLOE10A); Arabic 11 (YLOE11A); Peer Tutoring 11 (YIPS11B); Peer Tutoring 12 (YIPS12B); Leadership 11 (YIPS11A); Leadership 12 (YIPS11B); Psychology 12 (YPSYC12A).



Exempted courses offered are PHE 10-12; Arabic 10; Arabic 11

2.21(f-g) The School meets the course overview/course planning requirements as outlined in Schedule B Part I, 2. (e) of the Agreement; namely, that all BC program courses offered in the School meet or exceed the ministry learning outcomes/learning standards identified in the educational program guides for each course.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team reviewed course overviews and a sampling of unit plans and lesson plans. The Team also interviewed select teachers at each grade level to review and discuss planning, assessment, resources and assorted School-wide matters.

The Team noted that course overviews generally follow templates provided by BCCIS which addresses big ideas, curricular competencies, learning intentions, teaching/learning strategies and assessment methods linked to the BC curriculum.

2.22 The School meets the instructional time allotment requirements as outlined in section 4.5 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools, including the requirements set out in sections 1.1 to 6, with the exception of s. 4(5)(b), 4 (6), 5 (8)(a) and (d) and s. 5.3 of Ministerial Order 41/91, the Educational Standards Order, enacted under the Independent School Act.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School's instructional time allotments – 937 hours in grades 1-7, and 979 hours in grades 8-12 - both exceed the Ministry's minimum requirements of 850 instructional hours.

2.23 The School meets the assessment methods requirements as outlined in section 2.23 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the requirements of section 2.23. The Team observed sample evidence of the use of formative and summative assessment, as well as evidence of student self-reflection and self-assessment. Student-led conferencing samples were shared. The School participates annually in the grade 4 and 7 Foundation Skills Assessment, and holds grade-wide writes after which teachers provide formative assessment.



2.24 The School meets the learning resources requirements as outlined in section 2.24 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement
Met

Requirement
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the learning resource requirements in section 2.24. The Team noted that the School has focused on acquiring learning resources that support literacy development. The Team also noted that the newly created teacher-librarian position is using the library's extensive collection to collaborate with classroom teachers. The School has several computer labs and increased bandwidth to increase access to digital learning resources.

Commendation:

The Team commends the School for hiring a BC-certified teacher-librarian.

2.25 The School meets the student progress report requirements as outlined in section 2.25 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement
Met

Requirement
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the student progress report requirements. The School provides 3 formal reports per year in elementary and 4 formal reports per year in secondary. There are two formal student-led parent teacher conferences per year.

The Team confirms the School provides descriptive written comments that reference the grade appropriate curriculum standards, and that the School provides student self-assessment of the core competencies in a summative report to parents.

Commendation:

The School is commended for the meaningful end-of-the-year student self-assessment of core competency growth communicated at the end of the school year despite the unique challenges presented by COVID-19.



2.26 The School meets the parent/student handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.26 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team noted the thoroughness of the 2020/2021 parent/student handbook. It includes school vision and goals, student code of conduct, Ministry of Education policies appeals process, school calendar and other important information.

2.27 The School meets the teacher handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.27 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that the teacher handbook for 2020/2021 is comprehensive and current. It contains COVID-19 protocol information (respiratory etiquette, handwashing advice, etc), student rights and responsibilities, information on how the school-based team functions, and a section on the purpose and processes involved in the annual MoE inspection.

2.28 The School meets the distributed learning requirements as outlined in section 18 of the Agreement and section 2.28 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Not Applicable

Comment:

The School does not offer distributed learning courses.



CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal, staff and Offshore School Representative of British Columbia Canadian International School for:

- developing a highly successful and popular early childhood-to-Grade 12 educational program (in the very competitive international school market in Cairo).
- its smooth transitions back and forth from in-class instruction to remote learning and/or hybrid instruction twice. The patience, cooperation and resiliency of the School's teachers and leadership team during this stressful, uncertain period is commendable.
- the OSR's instrumental role in establishing a sustainable teacher and administrator recruitment and retention plan. The plan is attracting increasing numbers of BC-trained educators willing to commit to the School for longer periods.
- having a principal and leadership team that provides competent, accessible, focused and sustainable leadership to the School.
- for the meaningful end-of-the-year student self-assessment of core competency growth communicated at the end of the school year despite the unique challenges presented by COVID-19.
- hiring a BC-certified teacher-librarian.
- providing all teachers with discretionary professional development funds.
- maintaining a strong focus on numeracy and literacy during the COVID-19-related disruptions.
- establishing the Connections Department and school-based teams to support the leaning needs of all students.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education that the British Columbia education program offered at British Columbia Canadian International School continues to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.

