

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

CANADA WEIFANG SECONDARY SCHOOL

WEIFANG, SHANDONG PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 16-17, 2015

INTRODUCTION

On November 16 - 17, 2015 a Certification Inspection was completed on Canada Weifang Secondary School in Weifang City, Shandong Province, People's Republic of China, termed 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 Director of International Education (the Director), British Columbia Ministry of Education (MoE) in accordance with the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement (the Agreement)*, consisted of Dr. Terence Sullivan and Mr. Ron Wallsmith. Dr. Sullivan served as Chair of the Team.

The School's BC Program has an enrolment of 115 students, in Grade 10 (40), Grade 11 (44) and Grade 12 (31). The host school, Weifang #1 Middle School, has provided the school with a generous allotment of space spread over four floors in a building situated on a spacious and beautiful campus. The entire School, which houses the BC Program, enrolls 6500 students.

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 Program Consultant (OPC), BC Principal, BC Teachers as well as the Principal and Director of International Education for the host school.

The Owner/Operator, John Zhu, is responsible for the BC Program and is also the Owner/Operator of several other BC School including the new BC Offshore School in Yantai

The BC Program's philosophy, objectives and special features include:

providing educational opportunities for all students to experience success, to strive for excellence, and to appreciate the value of learning. These opportunities will be offered in an environment characterized by caring, respect, cooperation, and personal integrity.



The Team would like to thank Canada Weifang Secondary School for its hospitality, cooperation and preparedness for the inspection visit.

The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The school has previously allowed students who have not passed the English Language Assessment Test to enter the school as ESL students and enter a Foundation Program to update their skills. These students were then required to rewrite the English Language Assessment Test. Those who passed the test were admitted to the BC program and those who did not pass the test have not been admitted.

The school has eliminated the Foundation Program and the existing practice requires all students who want to enter the program to pass the English Language Assessment Test. Those who pass the test are admitted to the program and those who do not pass the test are not admitted.

Since the last inspection the BC Program has been allotted a room for a library, has been provided with bookshelves, has been provided with computers for the library, has been provided with a whiteboard for the library, a television monitor, some e books and graduated readers. In addition, the principal has met with the staff to develop a strategy for the further development of the library.

Daily Physical Activity (DPA) is now being recorded on each student's report card each term.

Commendations:

The school is to be commended for its action in meeting the requirements from the previous inspection.



OWNERSHIP AND AGREEMENTS / BUILDING AND SAFETY COMPLIANCE 2.0

2.1 The Owner/Operator meets all other requirements as set forth in the BC Global Education Program Offshore Schools Certification Agreement (The Agreement).

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Owner/Operator was present with the Offshore Program Consultant throughout the Inspection Process. The positive engagement and cooperation by the Owner/Operator and OPC with the administration of the host school was noticeable throughout the process. The Owner/Operator is meeting the requirements of the BC Global Education Program Offshore Schools Certification Agreement

Commendations:

The Owner/Operator was present throughout and was actively engaged and supportive of the inspection process.

2.1 (v) The Owner/Operator has completed and filed the Business Plan section with the BC Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the Program.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Owner/Operator has filed a Business Plan with the BC Ministry of Education. The School seeks to maintain the sustainability of the program by presenting to parent groups in the Weifang area, placing advertisements in local newspapers as well as promoting the program through its website. It has also received considerable support for promoting the school through the Director of International Education from the host School. Its public promotional presentations have also been covered by local television.

2.2 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 Not Met

Comment:

The Team reviewed the documentation from local government authorities. The school has compliance documents permitting it to operate a school cafeteria and also has approval from the Shandong Weifang Bureau of Education giving it the authority to operate the BC Program in the Weifang Number 1 Middle School. The school has also indicated to the team that Chinese Education Leaders in the school have indicated that fire and compliance documents are not



used in Chinese Schools in their area and they do not have the authority to issue them. However, the school does conduct fire drills and emergency earthquake evacuation drills. A comprehensive log is kept for each drill. The log for the October fire drill was examined by the team.

The school has been provided with extensive space on four floors in an existing building. The space includes 9 classrooms, a Learning Resource Center, a Computer Lab, 3 Science Labs, an auditorium, a teacher staffroom and a principal's office.

The facilities are suitable to support the BC Program.

ADMINISTRATION 3.0

3.2 Offshore Program Consultant (OPC) - The Owner/Operator may appoint an individual to act as Offshore Program Consultant. 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 Not Met

Comment:

The Owner/Operator has appointed Mr. Rodger Lindstrom of North Vancouver as the Offshore Program Consultant. Mr. Lindstrom remained at the school and supported the team throughout the inspection and meets all the requirements referenced in section 14.00 of the Agreement.

3.3 The Principal meets the requirements as outlined in Section 3.3 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The principal has 7 years experience as an administrator of BC Offshore schools in China including 3 years of experience as principal of Canada Weifang Secondary School. In addition, he has had teaching experiences in Canada and the United States. The principal has the requisite qualifications and meets the requirements outlined in Section 3.3 of the Inspection Catalogue.

Commendations:

All teachers on staff are new to Canada Weifang Secondary School. However, it is commendable that in planning for improvement, the principal has ensured that all teachers have had a preliminary teacher evaluation prior to the time of the inspection.



3.4 The School meets the Administrative Support requirements as outlined in Section 3.4 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The school has 1 FTE secretary and an allocation for a Vice Principal position which is presently vacant. It is the intention to fill the Vice Principal position when a suitable candidate becomes available. The school also receives very significant administrative support from the host school. It uses the Windsor TESS system and has the necessary internet connectivity to fulfill the data requirements of the Ministry.

3.5 The School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in Section 3.5 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

A random sample of 32 student records were examined which included 9 Grade 10 records, 11 Grade 11 records and 12 Grade 12 records. All student records examined included the student registration form, the English Language Assessment for each student, the student PSR Record, the two most recent academic reports and a personal consent form. The school meets the student records requirements outlined in Section 3.5 of the Inspection Catalogue.

3.6 The School meets the Teacher Certification requirements as outlined in Section 3.6 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

All Authorized Persons under The Agreement, with one exception, possess valid and current certification under the BC Teacher Regulation Branch. One teacher has received an exemption from the Ministry for a period of eight weeks from November 6, 2015. The application of that teacher for certification is in progress.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM 4.0

4.1 The School meets the requirements for English Language Assessment and Acquisition as outlined in Section 4.1 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

Canada Weifang Secondary School offers a comprehensive English Language Assessment consisting of a reading, writing, speaking and listening component. This assessment is the tool for selecting students who are able to enter the CWSS BC Program. Only students who score 50% or above are taken into the program. This year the school dropped the Foundation Program that they had run in previous years for students in the 40% to 49% range. The Principal oversees the English Language Assessment exam and the Principal decides which students are accepted based on the exam results. As there are three sittings of the exam (May, July, August) a student who fails the exam on the first try may have a second chance to pass the assessment.

All students take English every day all year. Gr. 10 students take a BAA ESL 10 course in semester one and English 10 all year. In Gr. 11 students take Communications 11 in semester one and English 11 in semester two while in Gr. 12 students take Communications 12 in semester one and English 12 in semester two. In addition to this all students take a reading program in their English courses where they read a small passage and answer questions on the passage on a regular basis. Students who do not complete the questions are made to come in early the next morning to do so. This continuum of English courses, plus the reading program, ensures that students are receiving exposure to the English language and are being prepared to write the English provincial exams.

Commendations:

CWSS is to be commended for its emphasis on English acquisition. The double English courses plus the reading program ensures students have excellent preparation for the English provincial exams.

4.2 The School meets the Course Credit requirements (equivalency, challenge, exemptions and BAA courses) as outlined in Section 4.2 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that CWSS meets the course credit requirements for equivalency, challenge exemptions and BAA courses. All students in Gr. 10 take an approved BAA ESL 10 course. The school has received permission to exempt Mandarin 10, 11 and 12. Those courses are delivered by certified teachers from the host school



4.3 The School meets the Course Overview requirements as outlined in Schedule B Part I (d) of the Agreement; namely, that all BC Program courses offered in the School meet or exceed the learning outcomes identified in the Educational Program Guides for each course, with a course overview for each course that includes content, teaching strategies, evaluation and assessment methods which are clearly linked to the BC learning outcomes.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that all BC Program courses offered at CWSS have course overviews as outlined in the Agreement. Each course overview included content, teaching strategies to be used, assessment indicators and links to the prescribed learning outcomes. Most of the course overviews demonstrated alignment between long term plans and short-term unit plans. All teachers had daily lesson plans and organized mark books for each course. The Team requested that some course overviews be rewritten in a more organized fashion and be returned to the Principal in short order after the Team's visit.

4.4 The School meets the Instructional Time Allotments requirements as outlined in Section 4.4 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), of Ministerial Order 41/91, the Educational Standards Order, enacted under the Independent School Act.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

It was confirmed by the Team that CWSS meets all the instructional time and learning requirements for the BC Graduation Program. The Daily Physical Activity requirement is met by a regular exercise regimen that happens every day. This year CWSS has an entirely new staff with many of the new teachers having had little experience teaching in the BC Offshore Program. The staff meets on a regular basis to discuss ways of improving English Language acquisition for their students which is important as so many of the staff are new to China. Informal discussions also take place in the staff room with experienced teachers assisting those teachers with less experience. The Principal, who is also the English 12 teacher, is the only returning staff member and offers suggestions on teaching strategies in staff meetings.

4.5 The School meets the Assessment Methods requirements as outlined in Section 4.5 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that CWSS meets the Assessment Methods requirements of the Inspection



Catalogue for Offshore Schools through observations of student work, classroom visits and a review of course overviews. These observations also confirmed that teachers used formative and summative assessment strategies. Teachers clearly used BC Performance Standards and outcome based rubrics. Prior to the inspection many students had already written some provincial exams. Teachers are responsible for exam invigilation and assessment in appropriate examinations. Students write practice exams for the provincial exams and the school uses the Key program (sample questions from old exams) for more practice.

There was a noticeable improvement in examination results in the 2014/2015 school year and the discrepancy between course marks and examination marks was greatly improved. This will hopefully be a continuing trend.

4.6 The School meets the Learning Resources requirements as outlined in Section 4.6 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

CWSS is well supplied with appropriate textbooks for the BC Program. The English Department has an adequate supply of class sets of novels and other assorted textbooks. Classrooms are equipped with smartboards and LCD units that are compatible with teacher computers or USB's. Some teachers use the smartboards but others prefer to use the regular whiteboards which are in every classroom.

Last year the school had a designated area for a Library/Learning Centre. That space is now in use and there is a more than adequate supply of print material for startup. There are a number of novels, graded readers and classic storybooks which students may sign out. There are also 5 computers with internet access available to students. English teachers in particular are encouraging library use with their classes. Teachers take turns supervising the library in lunch hours and after school. A long term plan is in place for the further development of the Learning Centre.

The school has one computer room with forty computers that belong to them. They also have access to a second computer room if needed during exam time. Some provincial exams have already been written in the computer room.

CWSS has access to Physics, Chemistry and Biology labs. All these labs are adequately equipped for the requirements of the BC Program.

Commendations:

CWSS is to be commended for making its school feel like a BC School. The hallways have art displays and samples of student work on the walls. At the time of the inspection the halls



were decorated with a Halloween theme and there were Halloween decorations throughout the school.

4.7 The School meets the Student Progress Report requirements as outlined in Section 4.7 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that CWSS meets all the Student Progress Report requirements. The school used the Windsor Tess report card module showing grades, percentages, work habits and attendance. Comments are in both English and Chinese. The Daily Physical Activity is reported on each formal report card.

Report cards are sent out four times per year and are handed out to parents at parent meetings. At that time parents can meet with individual teachers. Parents receive written communications from teachers throughout the year. Parents may also request meetings with teachers at any time throughout the year through the homeroom teachers. Teachers also take time to discuss report cards with their students at the end of each term.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT 5.0

5.1 The School meets the Parent / Student Handbook requirements as outlined in Section 5.1 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Parent/Student Handbook is current and contains policies on assessment, student admissions, student discipline and parental appeals. The Handbook is provided in both English and Mandarin. It meets the requirements outlined in Section 5.1 of the Inspection Catalogue.

5.2 The School meets the Teacher Handbook requirements as outlined in Section 5.2 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Teachers Handbook has been updated for the current school year. The school has comprehensive polices on administrator and teacher evaluation which are being utilized as evidenced by evaluation documentation on all personnel files. The school has also developed a



policy for dispute resolution which is being distributed to staff.

Appendix 5 The School meets the Distributed Learning requirements as outlined in Section 18 of The Agreement and Appendix 5 of the Inspection Catalogue for Offshore Schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met Not Applicable

Comment:

The school does not have any Distance Learning students.

CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal and staff of Canada Weifang Secondary School for:

- The school is to be commended for its action in meeting the requirements from the previous inspection.
- The Owner/Operator was present throughout and was actively engaged and supportive of the inspection process.
- All teachers on staff are new to Canada Weifang Secondary School. However, it is commendable that in planning for improvement, the principal has ensured that all teachers have had a preliminary teacher evaluation prior to the time of the inspection.
- CWSS is to be commended for its emphasis on English acquisition. The double English courses plus the reading program ensures students have excellent preparation for the English provincial exams
- CWSS showed a marked improvement in lowering the discrepancy between exam marks and course marks in almost all courses, especially English 12.
- CWSS is to be commended for making its school feel like a BC School. The hallways have art displays and samples of student work on the walls. At the time of the inspection the halls were decorated with a Halloween theme and there were Halloween decorations throughout the school.



SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Director of International Education that, the British Columbia Program offered at Canada Weifang Secondary School be recognized as a British Columbia Certified Program.

