INTRODUCTION

On November 18-19, 2019, a virtual certification inspection was completed on Lanzhou Oriental Canada Secondary School (LOCSS) in Lanzhou, Gansu Province, China, 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 Mr. Dave Beeke and Mr. Hugh Gloster (Chair).

The School’s BC program has an enrolment of 129 students, in Grades 10, 11 and 12. The BC program operates within the host school, the Lanzhou Jiaotang University Oriental Middle School, which enrolls students in Grades 1 to 3 and Grades 6-12. The intent of the host school is to add grades 4 and 5 in the future so that they may offer a Grade 1-12 program. The entire School, which houses the BC program, enrolls 3,500 students.

During their inspection of the School, the Team reviewed all standards required in the BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement and Operating Manual and met virtually using online software with the School’s Owner/Operator, Offshore School Representative (OSR), BC Principal, BC Vice Principal, BC teachers, students in all three grades, and Chinese support staff in the roles of Director and Student Records Supervisor.

The Owner/Operator, Mr. Hong Zhang, Canada Horizon International Education Incorporated, is responsible for the BC program. Mr. Zhang has an established agreement with the host school owner and principal, Mr. Tang, to operate the BC Program on the same campus.
The BC program also has an established relationship with Thomas Haney Secondary School in SD No. 42 Maple Ridge, BC. Each year, the majority of the Grade 10 students attend a summer program where they take a course toward their graduation requirements and participate in various cultural activities and university visitations.

The Team was able to confirm that the School continues to be focused on supporting students in acquiring the skills, knowledge and work ethic “to become contributing members of an evolving society”. They provide a robust extra-curricular/co-curricular program to further enrich the lives of their students. The School strives to have 100% of its students both graduate and gain access to an appropriate post-secondary program. To date they have been successful in achieving this goal. The change for the current year is the incorporation of the core competencies as a focus for student development within the BC program.

For the 2019/20 school year, the School has established four major goals:
1. To implement the “new BC curriculum” for Grades 11 and 12
2. To introduce a new baseline assessment for all students in the areas of reading comprehension, writing and oral skills that will be administered twice a year
3. To develop and implement a range of ESL teaching strategies to improve overall language acquisition
4. To ensure all Grade 12 students will graduate with a Dogwood Diploma

The Team would like to thank Lanzhou Oriental Canada Secondary School for its cooperation and preparedness for the inspection, especially being one of the first schools to participate in the virtual inspection process. The Principal was proactive in sending as much information as possible in advance of the inspection and was responsive to questions and requests from the Team during the virtual process.

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<th>The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report.</th>
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Comment:
There were no requirements listed in the previous report, however the School did provide a response to suggestions made during last year’s onsite inspection.
BUSINESS PLAN 1.0

The Owner/Operator has submitted a business plan to the BC Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the program.

☑ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:
The Owner/Operator is actively engaged in promoting the School to ensure the sustainability of the BC Program. The business plan contains a number of strategies that are employed to attract new students in Grade 10 and to support them through to graduation. It is also noteworthy that the Owner/Operator is onsite to support the students when they are in BC to complete their summer program.

The Team noted that 42 students entered the Grade 10 program this year and the overall enrollment in the School remains relatively constant with a total of 129 students spread over the three grades. A significant part of the business plan involves efforts to recruit new students from Lanzhou and the surrounding area in an effort to reach the target capacity of 200 students for the BC program. The Owner/Operator and the administration of the School believe that having an established record of students graduating with a Dogwood Diploma and gaining access to quality post-secondary programs will help to increase enrollment over time.

Commendation:
The Owner/Operator is commended for his active involvement in both supporting the School and encouraging its future growth and sustainability.

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 Not Met

Comment:
The Team confirmed that the Owner/Operator meets all the requirements set forth in the Agreement with the Province of BC.

The Owner/Operator works closely with the owner/principal of the host school and the partnership was reported to be working well with good support for the BC program.
The Owner/Operator is also credited with having been highly supportive of the efforts of both the Offshore School Representative and the Principal to ensure the success of the School.

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 Not Met

Comment:
The required documentation confirming the approval of the BC program to operate in the local area was on file.

2.04 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:
Recognizing that this was a virtual inspection, the Team was limited to reviewing the documentation provided and viewing pictures and video supplied by the School. Based on this information, the Team was able to confirm that the facilities are suitable for offering the BC program.

The School is currently housed on two floors in one of the host school’s middle school buildings. LOCSS also has access to other facilities on the campus including a large auditorium for assemblies, a sports field, running track and stage.

The Team confirmed that the School has emergency plans in place, including a protocol with appropriate response scenarios in the event of an unplanned temporary or permanent school closure.

2.05 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 Not Met

Comment:
The Offshore School Representative has an extensive background in education in B.C., having previously held the role of superintendent of schools at the K–12 level. Following his
retirement as a superintendent he accepted a position as an offshore school principal and then moved into the role of OSR. He is well connected within the B.C. and offshore education communities and is actively engaged in providing direct support to the staff, administration and Owner/Operator of LOCSS. The Team confirmed that this support takes many forms, including almost daily contact using platforms such as WeChat, Skype and email, as well as traveling to China one or more times each year.

The Offshore School Representative is aware of his obligation to report critical information relating to changes in the operation of the school or ownership structure that could significantly impact the School’s operation.

2.06 The Principal meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.06 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

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Comment:
The Principal is an experienced educator having worked for many years both offshore as well as in BC. Along with other areas of responsibility, she has extensive experience working as a learning assistance teacher and providing support for English language learners. Prior to assuming her current role, she had been the district vice-principal of an international education program in BC and the principal of a summer program in the same school district. The Principal is in her 2nd year at LOCSS and is supported by a vice-principal for the BC program who is in her 7th year at the school.

The Team was able to confirm that the staff reported being well-supported by the amount of administrative time provided to LOCSS.

Commendation:
The Principal is commended for the efforts she has made to support the teachers with the implementation of the new BC curriculum, with a special focus on the development of the core competencies.

The Principal is also commended for the work she has done to intentionally nurture the positive relationship between the Chinese staff and the BC program staff.
2.07 The School meets the administrative support requirements as outlined in section 2.07 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

☑️ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:
The School has a full-time, English speaking principal assistant in the BC office who manages student files, Ministry forms and university applications. There is also a director who works with the BC program to liaise with the Chinese staff and a separate vice-principal who oversees the Chinese staff.

It was also reported that LOCSS also has a full complement of staff dealing with areas such as human resources, technology, student records and visas, marketing, teacher visas, communications, housing and student management.

Commendation:
The School is commended for the full complement of support staff they have in place to assist with the delivery of the BC program.

2.08 The School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in section 2.08 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

☑️ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:
The Team examined samples of student files that were reported to be securely stored in fireproof filing cabinets in the BC Principal’s office. Each student had a permanent student Record (PSR) card showing the Personal Education Number (PEN). The file also contained the student’s report cards and English language assessments, along with the new student and parent consent forms based on the Ministry requirements.

The School is using the TESS student information system and it was reported that the Permanent Student Record (1704) is stored electronically, with hard copies being placed in the student files.

Despite the limitations of a virtual inspection, the Team was able to verify that student records were well-organized, up-to-date, and complete.

Commendation:
The School is commended for maintaining well-organized and comprehensive student records.
2.09-2.14 The School meets the teacher certification requirements as outlined in sections 2.09-2.14 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

| ☒ Requirement Met | ☐ Requirement Not Met |

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

The 8 teachers delivering the BC program had up-to-date COQ’s in place, and it was noteworthy that 5 of them had completed their education program at a BC post-secondary institution and all of them originated from Canada.

2.17 The School meets the requirements for curriculum implementation outlined in section 2.17 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

| ☒ Requirement Met | ☐ Requirement Not Met |

Comment:
The School is on the journey towards full implementation of the new Grade 10-12 BC curriculum. Year overviews and sample unit plans for each course were reviewed and are reflective of the foundational principles of the new curriculum. Staff and administration recognize that full implementation is in progress and plan to continue to support the transition with ongoing professional development.

Commendation:
The School is commended for growth in intentionally naming and nurturing core competencies school-wide, producing planning documents reflective of the new curriculum, and facilitating a safe and supportive culture where teachers are willing to share and grow in their experiences and knowledge of the curriculum.

2.18 The School meets the requirements for English language assessment and acquisition as outlined in section 2.18 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

| ☒ Requirement Met | ☐ Requirement Not Met |

Comment:
Incoming Grade 10 students must successfully complete an English Language intake assessment. The assessment includes comprehension, reading, writing, grammar, mathematics, and oral components. The Principal shared her ongoing review of the assessment to ensure it produces meaningful results.
The School has introduced a baseline assessment for all students with regards to language acquisition. Homeroom time is utilized to develop a comprehensive set of strategies to improve listening and speaking. The School is also utilizing a shared teacher file system to support skill development in language acquisition. The School uses the ELL Teaching Resources provided on the BC Ministry website.

**2.19(a-e) The School meets the course credit requirements (equivalency, challenge, exemptions and BAA courses) as outlined in section 2.19 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.**

☐ Requirement Met ☒ Requirement Not Met

Comment:
The School offers several exempted courses including Physical Education 10-12, Arts Education 10-12, Music 10 and 11. There are no BAA courses offered at this time. All course overviews have been developed.

**Requirement:**
The School is required to offer an Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies course each school year in order to provide students with choice as per Graduation Program Order 4 (6).

**2.19(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 Not Met

Comment:
The Team confirms that course overviews for all Grade 10-12 curriculum have been updated to reflect new curriculum components. A school wide template for year overview documentation has been adopted.

The Team conducted interviews with teachers to review and discuss planning and assessment. There was evidence of long-term planning that included core competencies, curricular competencies, content, teaching strategies, evaluation and assessment methods linked to the new BC curriculum.
2.20 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.

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Comment:
The School reported that they offer 6.58 hours of instruction daily in the BC program, over a school year that consists of 170 days. This results in a total of 1118.6 hours which far exceeds the required number of instructional hours per year.

To complement the regular instructional program, the School also offers extra-curricular and co-curricular activities for students as well as evening study sessions.

Commendation:
The School is commended for its robust offering of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities for students.

The School is also commended for the Grade 10 summer program in BC enabling students to earn graduation credits, while also enhancing their English language proficiency.

2.21 The School meets the assessment methods requirements as outlined in section 2.21 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

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Comment:
Planning documents indicate that the School intentionally provides formative and summative assessment practices. Students can demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways and receive regular feedback. The use of student self-assessment is growing, especially focussed on the Personal Awareness and Responsibility core competency. The School shared evidence of student goal setting and reflection.

Commendation:
The School is commended for intentionally including opportunities for goal setting and reflection in a variety of courses.
### 2.22 The School meets the learning resources requirements as outlined in section 2.22 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

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**Comment:**
The School indicated that it has made significant changes in the way it approaches learning resources since the last inspection. Noteworthy in this regard is their implementation of the Follett library system that catalogues resources to reflect reading levels for the students so that they can choose books at their level. Students can also search using this system to support them in their research.

The School was also reported to have two computer labs and students were able to ‘bring their own device’ to school to support their learning.

BC program teachers indicated they were being supported by the Principal and the Owner/Operator whenever they requested additional resources to support the implementation of the curriculum. The Principal also signed off on requests for additional learning resources.

### 2.23 The School meets the student progress report requirements as outlined in section 2.23 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

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**Comment:**
The School issues three formal reports and two interim reports each year. Parent/student/teacher conferences are held twice each year. The School plans to increase student responsibility by shifting toward student-led conferences. With staff support, students plan to translate for their parents as students share a portfolio of their learning. All report card comments are translated for the parents. Parents have been educated on work habit evaluation and these descriptions have become part of the parent handbook.

**Commendation:**
The School is commended for their committed, school-wide actions to increase student awareness and responsibility.
## 2.24 The School meets the parent/student handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.24 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

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**Comment:**
The Team reviewed the School’s updated 2019/2020 parent/student handbook. It contains appropriate information for students and their parents on such topics as school policies and the appeals and dispute resolution process. The handbook also addresses issues such as student admission, student assessment and student conduct. The updated handbook is in both English and Chinese.

## 2.25 The School meets the teacher handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.25 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

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**Comment:**
The teacher handbook is a very comprehensive document that contains all the required elements as part of the Agreement. For the current school year, the handbook includes a table of contents for ease of navigation and all information is provided in both English and Mandarin. The handbook also contains references to the new BC curriculum, including specific reference to the core competencies.

The policy regarding the evaluation of teachers is outlined in the handbook and the Principal reported following the process with her staff.

## 2.26 The School meets the distributed learning requirements as outlined in section 18 of the Agreement and section 2.26 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

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**Comment:**
The School currently offers one distributed learning (DL) course – Biology 12. It is offered by the prescribed DL provider – Kamloops SD73 Business Company – Global Education. Assistance to students is provided by an on-site BC-certified teacher who supports students.
CONCLUSION

Commendations

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

- The Owner/Operator’s active involvement in both supporting the School and encouraging its future growth and sustainability.
- The efforts the Principal has made to support teachers with the implementation of the new BC Curriculum, with a special focus on the development of the core competencies.
- The efforts the Principal has made to intentionally nurture the positive relationship between the Chinese staff and the BC program staff.
- The full complement of support staff they have in place to assist with the delivery of the BC program.
- The well-organized and comprehensive student records.
- The robust offering of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities for students.
- The Grade 10 summer program in BC enabling students to earn graduation credits, while also enhancing their English language proficiency.
- Growth in intentionally naming and nurturing core competencies school-wide, producing planning documents reflective of the revised curriculum, and facilitating a safe and supportive culture where teachers are willing to share and grow in their experiences and knowledge of the curriculum.
- Intentionally including opportunities for goal setting and reflection in a variety of courses.
- The committed, school-wide actions to increase student awareness and responsibility.

Requirements

In order to meet the requirements of the BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement, the Team requires that by February 28, 2020, the Owner/Operator provide the Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education, responsible for the BC Global Education Program - Offshore Schools, with a plan and timeline for proposed implementation of the following items:

- The School is required to offer an Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies course each school year in order to provide students with choice as per Graduation Program Order 4 (6).
SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education that, contingent on responding to the above requirement to the satisfaction of the Executive Director, the British Columbia education program offered at Lanzhou Oriental Canada Secondary School continues to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.