



MIAMIBEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
NO. LTC # 179-2009

RECEIVED

2009 JUL -6 AM 10: 37

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

LETTER TO COMMISSION

To: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez  
City Manager

Date: July 6, 2009

Subject: International Baccalaureate (IB) Implementation Status and 2010 IB  
Conference of the Americas

The purpose of this Letter to Commission (LTC) is to update the Mayor and Commissioners on the status of the implementation of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program pursuant to the City of Miami Beach Education Compact agreed to on January 16, 2008, and selection the City of Miami Beach as the host City for the 2010 IB Conference of the Americas.

One of the initiatives of the education compact is to implement the International Baccalaureate program throughout all Miami Beach public schools. As of June 2009, all public elementary, middle, and high schools in our City are currently International Baccalaureate (IB) candidate schools, which continues to produce exciting developments for our community. Both the City and the schools are moving forward with the IB process and working together towards becoming IB authorized. The City sponsored IB conference in March was very successful and provided training to approximately 500 teachers from schools throughout our City, Miami-Dade County, as well as private schools and educators from across the country.

The next step in the implementation of the IB initiative involves the schools' merging of three essential programs developed by The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). These programs are the Primary Years Program (PYP grades K-5), the Middle Years Program, (MYP grades 6-10) and the Diploma Program (DP grades 11-12). This initiative will allow teachers to create a continuum of access and excellence in education, giving students the tools they need to succeed academically at an early age. Implementation of the IB citywide allows schools the flexibility to take advantage of the richness of their student base and the learning opportunities available within our City.

Currently, our elementary schools are in the process of mapping out their curriculums as they plan to implement the PYP program beginning in August 2009. PYP will be taught in the kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms at South Pointe, Fienberg-Fisher, North Beach, Biscayne and Treasure Island elementary schools. Miami Beach Senior High, Nautilus Middle and Feinberg-Fisher K-8 Center have formed a triangular partnership to support the implementation of a five-year MYP. This will ensure our youth have access to the IB at every grade level within our City. Miami Beach Senior High

School submitted the final application for authorization for the Diploma Program, and anticipates a site visit in Spring 2010. Throughout the summer, teachers in all programs have been meeting with their peers across the City to share lessons, teaching strategies, classroom experiences and suggestions for refinement.

The IB recently announced that Miami Beach would be the site for the 2010 IB Conference of the Americas, from July 14-18, 2010, at the Fontainebleau. The conference will welcome over 1,500 members of the worldwide IB community to participate. The 2010 IB Americas conference will bring together IB coordinators, teachers, administrators, counselors, school district officials, school board members, ministers of education, parents, researchers, and university representatives. This is the one time each year that the entire IB community comes together; which provides a unique opportunity for collaboration among educators. The City of Miami Beach is honored to host this conference, and we are excited to provide the educators in our region the unique opportunity to share lessons learned with their peers from around the world, so close to home.

We have made excellent progress to date in the implementation of this important initiative and anticipate healthy discussion opportunities with City schools as we strive to meet the educational needs of our children. Information is available on our City's website on the Education Tab.

Should you have any questions, or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

JMG/KGB/MS/LDR