

THE ACCREDITATION RENOVATION

In order to keep you informed of the remarkable work that is taking place within PAIS, that will result in a transformed Accreditation process, I am writing to update you and to recognize the efforts of the many who are contributing to this exciting overhaul. We concluded our work this summer under the guidance of the Accreditation Summit Steering Committee with three important adaptations to the existing Accreditation process. First, we divided the process into two parts:

Part A will continue to consist of the 25 Standards and Indicators. The purpose of Part A is to efficiently assure compliance to vital independent school standards. However, now the accrediting school will score their performance on each with a 5 to 1 scale. The school undergoing accreditation will be expected to explain low scores of 2 or 1.

Part B is new. Part B will focus each school's strategic future. Schools new to PAIS or ones that have demonstrated some concerning facets of their program in their most recent accreditation will respond to strategic questions determined by PAIS. All other schools will utilize this opportunity to compose, renew or report on a current or new strategic plan.

Secondly, consistent with the previously stated goals of the Accreditation Summit we chose three important areas of the Accreditation process to critique and edit with the intent to strengthen and update them. The three areas are: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Standards, Academic and Educational Standards, and Fiscal Affairs Standards. We then invited recommended individuals to review these areas in Part A, the Standards and Indicators. PAIS is extremely grateful to:

Brendon Jobs, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Haverford School for his review of the DEI Standards and Indicators.

Dana Weeks, Head of Germantown Friends School, Ben Scoville, Director of Teaching and Learning at Sewickley Academy and Wendy Eiteljorg, Director of Curricular Innovation and Learning Design at Shipley School for their review of the Academic and Educational Standards and Indicators.

Carolyn Hapeman, Dean of Finance and Operations at Westtown School, Adam Wojtelwicz, Chief Financial Officer at The Shipley School, Mark Gibbons, Chief Financial Officer at LaSalle College High School and Justin Wheeler, Chief Financial Officer at Delaware Valley Friends School conducted an assessment of the Fiscal Affairs Standards under the leadership of Aggie Malter, the Executive Director of PAISBOA.

Thirdly, in an effort to adapt the accreditation process to the many different types of PAIS schools Standard 25 will consist of a Standard and Indicators that will be interchangeable. Although this process is ongoing, we currently have six teams of mostly School Heads who are working to compose Standards that define the qualities unique to their type of school. Once again, we wish to recognize and thank these school leaders for setting aside their valuable time to contribute to this renovation process.

MONTESSORI: Carrie Kries, Gladwyne Montessori School, Jennifer Coulter, Greene Town Montessori School, Laurie Stulb, Montessori School

CATHOLIC: Greg Geruson: Holy Ghost Prep, Mike O'Toole, LaSalle College High School, Sr. Linda Yankoski, Holy Family Institute

LEARNING DISABILITIES: Alex Brosowsky, Quaker School at Horsham, Kirk Smothers, Delaware Valley Friends School, Pat Roberts, AIM Academy, Jan Gillespie, Janus School

QUAKER: Daena Berdugo, United Friends School, Michael Gary, Friends Select School, Sam Houser, George School

WALDORF: Kirsten Christopherson-Clark, Waldorf School of Pittsburgh, Kevin Hughes, Kimberton Waldorf School, Kelly Beekman, Waldorf School of Philadelphia

PROGRESSIVE: George Zeleznik, The Crefeld School, Rod Stanton, School in Rose Valley, Susannah Wolf, Miquon School

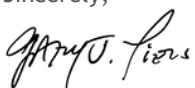
BOARDING SCHOOLS: TBD

SOCIAL JUSTICE SCHOOLS: TBD

Naturally, when this review has been completed PAIS will submit the newly revised process for approval to the PAIS Commission on Accreditation and Board of Directors as well as the State of Pennsylvania and the International Council Advancing Independent School Accreditation (ICAISA), formerly known as the NAIS Commission on Accreditation.

We look forward to keeping you updated over the coming months. Our goal from the start has been to offer a "world class" school accreditation process that fosters and inspires the renewal and/or transformation of our PAIS member schools.

Sincerely,



Gary J. Niels
Executive Director