

BOW SCHOOL BOARD  
32 White Rock  
Bow, NH 03304  
603-224-4728

February 13, 2008

Dear Sirs:

Members:

Pansy Bloomfield,  
Chair  
Deb McCann,  
V. Chair  
Anne Baier  
Dr. Stephen Elgert  
Warren Fargo

I am writing in support of the Bow High School's application for inclusion in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. The School Board believes the Bow High School should continue in the application process towards that end.

Bow, NH is an interesting community. It is a bedroom community without a centralized business downtown. 23% of the entire population of the town of 7300 is registered in the public school system. The activity of the community revolves around the schools, education, and its supportive organizations such as athletics and other co-curricular activities. Parents as well as other community members are very interested in how the schools are governed and how it spends its funding.

Many towns in NH, including Bow, still provide almost all of the funds for public education through local property taxes. There is a very direct relationship between a taxpayer's awareness of school related activities and issues and the funding that is provided. Bow still conducts the business of approving funds to be raised through local taxation in a "town meeting." Residents come together once a year to hear the proposals of the elected bodies and vote in a public environment, giving a "yea" or "nay" in a manner visible to all their neighbors.

Because of the personal investment each taxpayer feels in the decisions made for the benefit of our schools, our community members are currently performing individual due diligence in investigating and understanding the IB program. Many have discovered the very public opinions of EdWatch.org and the claims it makes. At this time, these claims do resonate with a very vocal sub-group of the community. For this reason, although the School Board is in support of the continuing progress of the BHS in its application process, we will need to be diligent in our dissemination of appropriate materials in support of IB to the community. This may prove to be a longer process than initially anticipated due to the activities of the sub-group.

The School Board is currently using the local newspapers, our school website including links to [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org), and community meetings to reach as many members of the community as we can. We are anticipating scheduling neighborhood meetings and visiting with local clubs and business groups. We are also planning visitations to schools with a few years of history with IB to personally assess its influence on successful students. This experience will help us talk about this subject to the community with more of a "first hand" look.

I believe this level of activity shows the School Board's support of this effort, and we anticipate that we will be successful in informing the community and of their acceptance of this program.

Sincerely,



Pansy Bloomfield, Chair