

Board Mission Statement:

**Academic Excellence, Economic Security,  
And Long-Term School Viability**

*The International School of Ouagadougou Board of Trustees, in active partnership with the community, shall provide an academically excellent, economically secure, **safe and nurturing environment**. The Board of Trustees' goal is long-term school viability for all students, while meeting and exceeding international standards.*

Please be aware that this past weekend, the Board of Trustees completed a two-day retreat in which we focused on individual trustees and overall Board responsibilities. The core goals of the weekend retreat were not just to focus on the “**here**” and “**now**”, but also having the unique responsibilities as a Trustee to **hold the school’s future viability “in trust.”**

This weekend, our Board of Trustees discovered that the challenges and demands of trusteeship are considerable, and so are the rewards: being part of an honorable enterprise, realizing the power of collaboration, and enjoying the satisfaction of service.

On a personal note, I wish, on behalf of our entire school community, to thank last year's Board of Trustees for their service. Under their stewardship, the school had its first balanced budget, along with its lowest tuition increase since the start of the pandemic in 2020.

It also gives me great pleasure to announce this year’s 9-member Board of Trustees. On behalf of our entire school community, **I thank you for your service.**

**ISO Board Members 2022 - 2023**

CHAIR	Georges Restom
VICE-CHAIR	Toney Sebron * U.S. Ambassador's Rep.
TREASURER	Dharmendra Pathak
SECRETARY (TBC)	Marie-Hélène Pichette * Teacher Rep.
MEMBERS	Andre Sonnichsen, Christina Wagner, Estelle Tonde, Rose Drabo, Hanif Bashir, Filippo Ghezzi, Jeff Trudeau * Director

The Board of Trustees worked seamlessly this weekend, to ensure that the International School of Ouagadougou is able to deliver its core mission of **Academic Excellence, Economic Security, and Long-Term School Viability**.

As per our retreat facilitator, Dr. Chris Muller, and as most returning parents are already aware, **our academic program and overall school operation is strong**. As such, the Board's focus this year will be on ensuring both the **long-term viability** of the school, and improving our institution's **overall financial health**; which in part is still recovering from our multi-month Government-mandated closure due to the health crisis of 2020.

At the end of the two-day **13.5-hour retreat**, one newly appointed Board member said:

*"This was really good. I thought... **another retreat?** ... oh no! This is going to be another touchy-feely team retreat. This was only 'kind of' touchy-feely; it was mostly a practical training that will help us have a successful year, and help the school continue its development."*

The Board looks forward to meeting with all community stakeholders in the very near future.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **1. Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

Our After-School Activity Program Begins. Hopefully there will be no rain, and **no cancellations**.

#### **2. Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**

First Board Meeting at 18:00.

#### **3. Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Professional Development Day/No School for students

Jeff Trudeau, on behalf of the 2022 Board of Trustees.