



IBSC

International Boys'
Schools Coalition

**Workshop for Master Teachers in Boys' Schools
The Buckley School
New York City
February 21 -23, 2013**

The IBSC is pleased to announce this innovative workshop to be held on February 21-23, 2013 at The Buckley School in New York City for a group of about 40 Master Teachers from member schools in the United States and Canada. The purpose and design of the workshop, the nomination and selection process for candidates, and event logistics are described in detail below.

Background

This workshop is inspired, in the first instance, by our experience with the IBSC *Teachers New to Boys' Schools* conferences held since 2009. Targeted at teachers in their first or early years in boys' schools, the program consisted of presentations by expert/speakers, interspersed with discussion in divisional groups led by especially gifted, experienced teachers.

Some of the strongest learning took place in these divisional groups. The group leaders elicited questions, concerns and uncertainties and in turn offered back a tremendous amount of practical insight and advice. We sensed that we were releasing a wealth of practical "tacit knowledge" about an ever-widening range of specific dimensions in educating boys. While we built on this discovery in each subsequent conference, this seemed to be only the first step in capturing and transmitting such professional expertise – the craft of teaching boys exercised by teachers "at the top of their game".

Purpose

In the largest sense, we believe that this Workshop will yield a body of knowledge about mastery in teaching boys that will be of great value to IBSC schools. It will lead to other explorations and initiatives, and may include presentations at our annual conference and regional events. Among many possible uses, the results will help to enrich the *Teachers New to Boys' Schools* programs, and give impetus to such conferences in other regions that have expressed interest, especially Australia and the UK.

For participants, we believe that the Workshop will be energizing and rewarding – a source of professional validation and stimulation. It will certainly give tangible expression to the notion that our schools value "Master Teachers" and their contributions to the life of their schools.

Workshop Design

This is a “workshop” in the truest sense. Our facilitator will guide participants through highly interactive sessions and towards some specific outcomes. There will be “whole” group as well as divisional activities at the elementary, middle and upper/senior levels. These sessions will be designed to unearth in a very disciplined way what these Master Teachers can tell us about high-functioning practice in teaching boys – pedagogy, classroom management, discipline, teacher-student relationships, communication with boys, etc. We will probe for agreement or convergence, weak or strong, about key elements in teaching boys. They will have much to say about the learning process in becoming such “master teachers” of boys, and much to offer as advice to colleagues and to their schools. Uncovered and recorded by a variety of means during the Workshop, this information will be analysed in a Workshop Report, for subsequent publication and distribution to IBSC membership.

Planning Committee

Members of the Planning Committee for this *Workshop for Master Teachers* are current IBSC trustees Greg O’Melia (The Buckley School), Minna Shulman (Selwyn House School), Ned Harris (Gilman School) and Brad Adams, Executive Director of the IBSC.

Design and Facilitation

The quality of the Workshop is very important to the IBSC planning committee. We are therefore pleased to announce that Dr. Victoria Marsick has agreed to design and facilitate the Workshop, and to partner with us in the preparation of the Report. Dr. Marsick is Professor of Adult and Organizational Learning in the Department of Organization and Leadership at Teachers College, Columbia University. She has worked with teachers and Heads at the Klingenstein Center for Independent School Leadership for many years. She is also faculty of the Cahn Fellows Program for Distinguished Principals at Teachers College, and Co-Director of the J.M. Huber Institute for Learning in Organizations, dedicated to advancing the state of knowledge and practice for learning and change in organizations. She is a principal of *Partners for the Learning Organization*, which helps organizations design and implement Action Learning, and other forms of learning integrated with work. She holds a Ph.D. in Adult Education from the University of California, Berkeley, and an M.P.A. in International Public Administration from Syracuse University. A widely published author, Professor Marsick is a recognized authority and leader on the learning organization, informal learning, team learning, and action reflection learning. Professor Marsick brings a wealth of practical experience to the design and facilitation of our Workshop.

Nomination and Selection of Participants

- **Candidates**

The term “Master Teacher” may puzzle. In some usage, a “Master Teacher” may be an instructional leader with direct administrative responsibility. Or “Master Teacher” may be a category for a level of competency across a number of variables, as is the case in the UK. For our purposes, we mean by “Master Teachers” those men and women who match the following ideal profile. They:

1. Are experienced and seasoned teachers, normally in mid or late career
2. Are full-time teachers; or if holding an administrative role, are chiefly in the classroom
3. Demonstrate a high level of expertise in their subject(s) and pedagogy

4. Are “school masters” in the best sense of the word, fully committed to and involved in all dimensions of school life --- s classroom teachers, coaches or activity leaders, and advisors or mentors to boys
5. Are respected by their colleagues for their judgement, teaching expertise, well-rounded commitment, and professional manner
6. Are especially respected by boys for the quality of their teaching, commitment and rapport
7. are positive supporters of the mission of the school, and positive contributors to school discussion
8. May have held, or currently hold, responsibilities for mentoring and supporting younger and new teachers, or would be interested in this responsibility
9. have been open to and engaged in professional development and growth over their years
10. are reflective and thoughtful about their own practice as teachers of boys, and about the value of boys’ schools

These criteria give considerable latitude in the nomination of candidates, and we will rely on a school’s best judgment.

- **Nomination**

IBSC schools are invited to nominate one to three “Master Teachers” to participate in this workshop. If more than one are nominated, nominees should normally be from different division levels. The Head or a designate should email the Executive Director at adams@theibsc.org with the following information:

1. the names and email addresses of the nominees
2. for each, a very brief statement as to why each nominee fits the general criteria (see above)
3. approximate years of teaching in a boys’ school, and current teaching and school assignments, identifying the divisional level – elementary, middle, or upper/senior

These nominations should be received by **November 20**.

- **Selection of Participants**

The final selection will depend on the number of nominations, as well as the need to ensure a balance across the elementary, middle and upper/senior divisions and a range of subjects/disciplines. It is important that men and women be represented. Decisions will be announced by no later than **December 1**.

Cost

There is no registration cost. Dinner on Thursday evening, and a light breakfast and lunch on Friday and Saturday are provided. *However, each school will be required to fund transportation, hotel and any other local expenses.* The IBSC will be able to recommend hotels.

Schedule

The program starts on Thursday, February 21 at 4:00 p.m. We will begin with an introductory session, followed by a working dinner with a guest speaker. Friday will be a

full day of activities, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending by 4:30 p.m. The evening is free for relaxation. The program continues on Saturday, February 23 at 9:00 a.m., and ends by no later than 3:00 p.m.

For more Information

For more information, or to discuss ideas for nominations, contact Brad Adams, Executive Director, at adams@theibsc.org