

**Illinois Math and Science Academy
Parent Association Council
General Forum
December 11, 2010**

Members Present: Executive Board:Stu Bloom, Toni Skoog, Renita Johnson, Peter Edgers, Deann Edgers

Voting Members: See attendance sheet

Absent: See attendance sheet

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/DECISION
Call to order	Meeting called to order at 10:06	
Roll Call: Deann Edgers (Secretary)	Roll completed.	Quorum Established
Approval of minutes		Motion made by Traci Rogers to accept the minutes Second made by Lauren Gorden Motion Carried.
Treasurer' Report: Toni Skoog	The PAC account has a balance of \$24,388.63. The bus account is up today 15,843.06. Anything that is needed please let Toni know. The form is on line. These can be mailed to Toni A short turnaround is promised. But it is a busy time, please give Toni a minimum of 24 hours to respond. If after that you do not hear from Toni please send a second Email. Please use reimbursement form for all requests.	No questions raised the budget was submitted.
President's Report - Stu Bloom	<p>Bus Issue time schedule – A question was raised regarding the timing the buses leave on extended. A concern was expressed that the students miss classes and that they might be penalized.</p> <p>Time were established, with out changing purely for consistency. Parents/students always knew when the bus was leaving. Moving it later means that students that live a long distance will not get home until very late in the evening. In the past that was a complaint by parents. A student is not penalized for leaving early. It is an excused absence. Teachers are very used to students leaving early for other events.</p>	

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	<p>The question was raised regarding the “Special projects” line item in the budget.</p> <p>These are things that are identified student needs that arise during the academic year. Items that would benefit a majority of the student body. The monies are part of the discretionary income for PAC. A request for these funds must come in the form of a written request to the PAC president (Stu Bloom). It will then be brought to the Executive board where administration and the board will discuss the request. If approved by both, it will be brought to the voting members at the next PAC meeting.</p>	
Vice President – Peter Edgers	No report	
Administrative Report: Dr. Eric McLaren	<p>Six notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The halls close for winter break on 12/22/10 at 5pm. We will not be open on the 23rd. Students can leave at the completion of their last final. Final schedule is posted on the parent’s site and has been sent via Email. - Sodexo is providing a Holiday meal on Wednesday 12/15/10 -Remind students to go to class the last week of school. -The 2011/12 calendar has been approved. It will not change unless something external to IMSA happens. -IMSA is working with students to create an honors statement. They would like to take it to the next level to create an Academic Honors Code which is binding and potentially an Academic Honors Counsel. They are looking for parent volunteers. <p>Parent Satisfaction Survey Presentation:</p> <p>The power point will be posted on the website PAC link for you to review in detail.</p>	

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<p>Administrative Report (cont.)</p>	<p>This is done annually and has look been evaluated for consistency for the last two years. The total evaluation was felt to be consistent with past comments.</p> <p>When the report comes it goes to those who are responsible for the specific areas so changes can be evaluated.</p> <p>Points to note:</p> <p>The critical thinking, problem solving, and ethical decision making questions has shown an improvement by parents of 1 – 3% from the last two years.</p> <p>The questions related to PowerSchool did appear to have negative opinions and that is an area that will be looked at and evaluated.</p> <p>Places where parents are concerned and are identified in comments are looked at individually for improvement.</p> <p>It has been identified that IMSA does need to look at the area of communicating better the fundamental and mission of IMSA.</p> <p>Largest number of negative comments pertained to Fine Arts. Different program reviews are conducted annually. This year is wellness, fine arts and languages. They will look at the comments that have been made and addressed.</p> <p>Questions/response about tablets. One request from the parents and that is being looked at as a faculty is an inventory of applications used by teachers. Are they teacher dependent or course dependent? This will give a sense of what tools are tablet based so that the use of the tablets can be effectively evaluated. IF the tablet feature is critical to a subject then it will probably we continued and more effective use of others will be evaluated versus terminating their use.</p> <p>If you have specific questions please follow up with Dr. McLaren</p> <p>Questions from Parents:</p>	

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	<p>Is there a way to create in the survey a place for general comments that don't seem to fit any place else?</p> <p>This was removed in the past and areas for comments added to each section so that they could be more focused. Comments can always come to administration.</p> <p>As you are evaluating Tablet software, have you considered perhaps reaching out to University's that are experts in this teaching forum to make sure we are adequately preparing students and/or effectively using the hardware?</p> <p>IMSA will research all areas and have incorporated experts in the field in the past.</p> <p>In the fine arts you focused on music/orchestra. What about art courses. In the past several of them have been cancelled.</p> <p>Since this is an area of evaluation this year we will be looking this will be addressed. The fine arts we will be reviewed for both visual and fine arts by a reviewer who will give feedback to administration.</p> <p>What is the timeline for the program reviews?</p> <p>The fall is used to decide who and what areas to focus on. The first of spring is used for the review. The rest of the spring the recommendations are reviewed and a response is created. Those are then attempted to implement the following fall and in the future as the recommendations warrant.</p>	
Committee and liaison reports:		
Downstate Coordinator: Sandi Duval	No report	
Metro Coord: Juli Geldner	No report	
Multi-Cultural Coord: Renita Johnson	No report	

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Food Committee: Jennifer Richardson	<p>This is a new committee to PAC members. It is made up of 5 parent representatives, students and RC along with Sodexo. Purpose is to present questions and concerns about food that is served at IMSA. One of the projects will be a nutritionist who will come in.</p> <p>Any questions or concerns about your students nutrition or Sodexo food can be brought to the parents on that committee.</p>	
IMSA Alumni: Melvin Bacani	No report	
CAC: Julia Husen	<p>Sophomore class – Met for the last time 12/8/10. The December meeting was the best of all. Registered all to use Naviance. Were shown how to navigate a summer program data base. There will be another meeting in the Spring with upperclassmen to provide feedback. Will also be taught at that time how to fill out a transcript requests. Add/drop process all received an invitation. Reality this is pretty narrow. January 28th is the meeting where the junior class course selection will start.</p> <p>Junior class – Mandatory PSAT meeting. Thirty did not attend. Scores/booklet were passed out with the results. These were sent home to parents along with what to register for SAT during second semester. Offered January, March, and May. Strongly encouraged to take in Junior year. National Merit competition cut off will not be available to August. Most students will be invited to participate. The purpose of PSAT is to practice for SAT. The homework for winter break is to check out SAT prep books.</p> <p>Second semester add/drop will start Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Mondays are booked at this point.</p> <p>Juniors will be registered for Naviance on for 1/24, 25,28th. College registration process will begin around March.</p>	

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	<p>In March the Junior parents will be registered to start the college exploration process.</p> <p>Thursday CAC office mailed 1,397 requests. Still have 387 to be mailed. Senior class is approx 200 student. Last year, the class of 178 had a total request of 1,400.</p> <p>If you still have questions about financial aid, contact your community colleges who also have financial aid nights.</p> <p>Parent Questions Is March too late for parents to have access? Students have access now. Encourage your students to communicate with you. But if you have questions please contact CAC. Next year the registration process will be smoother.</p> <p>Will parents of juniors we notified of add/drop. There is a statement on the add/drop form that is mailed home, but it is the students responsibility to notify the parents. Core requirements, graduation courses etc are not allowed to drop.</p> <p>Can the kids access the Naviance from home. Yes, the link is on the IMSA website.</p>	

<p>Student Council: Shawon Jackson (Report given by Hannah Miller and Cassie Parks)</p>	<p>Academic Committee – Currently working on a course evaluation guide so underclassmen can have some information to guide their course decisions.</p> <p>Communication Committee - Setting up new parameters for where flyers are posted. Attempting to go Green with a more digital approach. There is a TV outside Residential life. The goal is a Universal Calendar for the entire school to prevent conflicts and communicate info,</p> <p>Other projects – Secret Santa to be revealed on 12/15, Tuesday.</p> <p>Clash of the halls 3/14/11. There will be a Thursday midday event to reveal the colors.</p>	
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IMSA Fund: Greta Salamando	Parent goal is 50% participation and/or \$100,000. Currently, Parent giving is at 33%, with a dollar amount of \$59,295.55. Parents are really utilizing their companies and matching events. Senior class "5 for 5,000" asked all senior students to donate \$5. If they make a 90% participation, then \$5,000 will be donated as funds toward prom. SEIA came to office to help with phone a thon and matching drive with good results.	
Student Life: Renita Johnson	Parents can give Dr. Bob written permission for parents to use a taxi for appointments off campus. Next Saturday Something is 12/18. It will be an afternoon at the movies; 2:30 - 4:30. Still looking for student volunteers. Contact Renita Johnson	
Technology: Andy Skoog	No report	
Academic: Inez Verwey	No report	
Senior Banquet: Marci Crawford (Report given by Renita Miller)	Last meeting was held on Tuesday. Went to see the Wyndam to visualize the event.. Final permission from Sues enterprises to maintain theme. Invitations will be sent at the end of winter break. Responses due back at the end of February extended. Baby pictures are still missing. Please get pictures to Sarah Irwin as soon as possible.	
Friday Fest: Renita Miller	On vacation until Spring	
Old Business	None	
New Business Approval of PAC Budget	The budget has been on the website for the past month. Discussion was elicited. No comments offered.	Motion made by Peter Edgers to accept the budget as present. Tracy Rogers second. Motion carried
Program Coordinator of academic support Paula Altekruase.	Who/what are the components of Academic support: Individual Students – Paula will work individually with students on multiple issues.	

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<p>Program (cont.) Coordinator of academic support Paula Altekruase.</p>	<p>Faculty – communicates issues through PowerSchool. If an entry is blue it is a link to a comment. Check comments in PowerSchool. Parents can Email faculty at any time.</p> <p>Parent Question? Are there parent/teacher conferences like in public schools? You can request one; they are not scheduled in general. Academic support will usually call them if there are problems across many areas. Many teachers use I days as tutoring or office hours. Office hours are more focused times. These services are available for all students.</p> <p>Triage – This where teacher comments and concerns are used to review potential problems. These are sent to CACs to review as well as Paula. Snap shot checks of comments are done every Thursday by a team. Students of high needs (C- and Ds) are targeted. There are various pathways for triage. It is a multidisciplinary team and referrals can be at any level. Actions are also variable based on need. There is weekly follow up. It is academic and social/emotional support.</p> <p>Education plans – CAC, or someone from academic support. Working with the student a plan is put in place to help a student be academically successful.</p> <p>Key concepts: Biggest challenge for our students is getting all the work done and understanding the concepts. For some children this is the first time they may not have understood concepts.</p> <p>Tutoring – Center is available through this department.</p> <p>Parents play a major role.</p> <p>Book “Mindsets” by Carol Dwek Two types of ideas about intelligence. All students are intelligence but it is their background that varies.</p>	

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	<p>Myth: If I am smart I should not have to work hard. Truth, effort is what rewards. Fixed mindset individuals tend to hide their mistakes.</p> <p>Myth: Talent is just a beginning. They do not see mistakes as a problem. The job of adolescent is to determine who I am. It is double hard if they are gifted and talented.</p> <p>How do you praise your kids. “You are so smart verses you really stuck with the problem until you solved it.” “You failed that test, I am really impressed that you have already seen that teacher or you have already problem solved the situation.”</p> <p>What IMSA is asking of students is different than what they are used to, parents need to be aware this may cause stress for students.</p> <p>Are most events scheduled on Mondays and Thursday. Students reply that no they do not think that is true. That club meetings get scheduled throughout the week.</p> <p>Do kids do better if they go home more often or if they stay on campus more often or is that individual? Is it looked at with students that do not do well? It appears to be vary individual and has changed over time. It appears to be a balance. It has not been reviewed in the past.</p> <p>Which kids show up or have more issues; fixed or growth mind set? What is the goal in relating or working with these students? The kids who hide when they have problems have a greater problem. They are afraid that someone might find out they are “dumb”. The fixed mind set appears to have more difficulty. The goal is to involve teachers.</p>	
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Adjourn	No other business to discuss a motion was requested for adjournment] Thank you to Ralph and Peter for IT support. Toni and Deann.... And any one	Motion made by , seconded by Renita Miller. Motion carried Adjourned at 10:30am

Next Meeting: January 22, 2011 10:00am

Respectfully submitted: *Deann Edgers, PAC Secretary.*