

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE 1997-98 IMSA PARENTS ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 18, 1998

(Next meeting: February 21, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. in Springfield, IL)

The January meeting of the 1997-98 IMSA Parents Association was called to order by President Stuart Cohen at 10:10 AM on Saturday, January 18, 1998, at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance was taken, and a quorum was present.

ADMISSIONS REPORT

Dr. LuAnn Smith, Director of Enrollment Services, reported on admissions. An Admissions Task Force was formed to look at the possible reasons for the drop in the number of students applying for admission to IMSA for the past three years. The Task Force reviewed admission literature, processes, course changes and other things. They consulted statistics, former students, old and new staff members, and parent focus groups. Many possible reasons were considered. It was noted that through the history of IMSA there has been up-and-down movement in the number of applicants. IMSA will continue to monitor the admissions numbers but will take no action unless the drop continues.

Dr. Smith examined the quality of the applicant pool. Again using statistics, there has been an up-and-down movement through the years. However, the movement has not been substantial. Dr. Smith stressed that IMSA has not had a drop in the quality of students that are admitted. She stressed that there has been a rumor circulating that the class of 2000 is not of the quality of previous classes. She asked all of us present to do what we can to stop the spread of the rumor.

Parents provided some additional suggestions to help improve the number of applicants.

MINUTES

Nancy Steinberg moved and Kathy Myers seconded that the minutes from the November meeting be accepted. The motion passed.

GENERAL COMMENTS

On February 4, sophomore and junior students will get their course selection materials for next year. The CAC is starting the process. They should be finished by Spring Break. The Advanced Placement materials will be distributed in February. It was stressed that IMSA does not teach to the AP tests.

There are not any vacancies on the Parents Council at the present time.

Arlene Quinn attended the IMSA Board of Trustees meeting. There were two resignations from the board. Dr. Smith presented a longitudinal study at the meeting. It was reported that 91% of the students felt that the residential life was a very important part of their education at IMSA. 97% of the class of 1996 liked the IMSA program and 100% of the class of 1993 felt the same. It was

felt that a new method of conducting the longitudinal studies using a target or random number due to the increasing number of graduates is needed. There is work being done to devise better success questions. Since IMSA has very high standards and a unique culture, it could be a contributing factor to why some students have been dissatisfied with their college choices. IMSA funding comes from the Board of Higher Education. There is a request for a 6% increase in the operating and special projects budget.

President Stuart Cohen attended the Board of Trustees Retreat on January 30th. The new chairman of the Board will address the Parents Association at a future date.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Committee - David Dean reported on Standards and Assessments where IMSA is developing its own program. They are hoping to have a rough draft of it ready by late winter. Dr. Smith had given a report similar to the one given earlier to the full association. A video assessment that is used in the foreign language department was viewed. Placement in foreign language is dependent on test scores and schedules.

Student Life

Linda Mellis reported that a \$25.00 gift certificate was given to each RC at winter break. A \$75.00 charge assessed if a student has to be admitted to Copley Medical Center due to illness. Deb Guffy wants to form a task force to look into the use of chemical use on campus. If parents have concerns they can have confidential discussions with the IMSA staff.

Carol Berger reported on the progress concerning food service. She and Helen Ashraf are examining the guidelines in the contract. They have submitted some concerns to Arbor and are waiting for a meeting with Arbor personnel. The toaster has not yet arrived. They are looking at other pieces of equipment that can be purchased to provide better tasting food for the students. They will have a tour through the kitchen. The contract runs for three more years. They are also looking into the purchase of a grill.

Treasurers Report

Treasurers Report - Larry Lawson reported that as of December 31, 1997 we have received \$40,858.13 in Phon-A-Thon contributions. The Parents Fund balance at December 31, 1997 was \$41,914.44.

Student Comments - Lorretta Kelly made a request for funding for Multicultural Awareness Week and the students would like to invite Jane Elliott as the speaker. Ani Vallabhaneni requested that the Parents Association support the students in a request to have a change in wing policy relating to extending in-room by one hour each day.

Communications

Communications - Jerry Rickert reported that the next copy of the Parents To Parents newsletter should be out by the end of the month.

Technology - David Gossman reported that there is a fast time line for the new Inquiry Center to be opened by the start of the next school year. David has had a lot of input in the design of the center. The specific titles for the software purchase project list is being developed. Last week there was a safety walk through the science labs with IMSA staff. On February 3, the Technology

and Academic Committees will have a joint tour of the science labs.

Parent Partners - Larry Lawson gave the report. The pizza party was a success. They are going to make a booklet for suggestions for activities for the wings. The role of CD's needs to be redefined. RCs need to be able to spend more time with the CD's.

Old Business- Arlene Quinn reported that four silk trees were put in the planters by the old cafeteria over Christmas break at a cost was \$165.00. A thank you letter will be sent to Tom Brandenburg for his assistance.

Pat Morley is working on the landscaping for 06 and 07. He is consulting with the biology department, maintenance, and security. Planting will be on College Day, April 25 rain or shine. We need volunteers to help with this project.

Springfield Meeting - The Springfield meeting will be held in the State Library rooms 403 and 404. Joan Feltovich handled all the arrangements for this meeting. This is at the corner of Second and Monroe Streets across from the State Capitol.

General

A letter was sent to the Administration outlining the PA's position on the report card format.

Thank you's were received from: Heliotrope staff for our support; 1505 RCs for the vacuum cleaners; Brian Quinby, Robert Wagner, Steve Zant, Carrie Nilles, and Gnanika Suriarachchi for the Christmas gifts.

The University of Illinois School of Engineering will have an open house on March 13 and 14. IMSA instructor Michael Sloan will organize IMSA's attendance on the 14th. Chaperones are needed if a bus is used.

The new vacuum cleaners are in the halls and working.

Funding Requests - John Gregg moved and David Gossman seconded that we give the HELIOTROPE, the student literary magazine, \$600.00. The motion passed.

John Gregg moved and David Gossman seconded supporting the students' multicultural week activities by allocating the sum of \$2,750.00. There were no restrictions to these funds. The motion passed. Linda Mellis moved and Kathy Myers seconded that it be recommended to IMSA that attendance for the main speaker be strongly encouraged. The motion passed.

Nick Eliopulos is looking for furniture to transform a book storage area into an English tutorial room. If anyone has some extra furniture please let Mr. Eliopulos know.

Stuart Cohen has discussed with the Administration and they are willing to change Family Day next year so that Regional meetings can be held to complete the Phone Trees and meet other families within one's region.

Move-Out - It is suggested that students' belongings be moved entirely out of the resident halls before parents park their automobiles. The belongings are then quickly loaded and the car is moved.

The Nominating Committee is putting together a slate of candidates for next year's PAC. The election will be at the March Annual Meeting.

Student achievements were mentioned.

David Gossman moved and Nancy Steinberg seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 PM.

The next meeting will be on February 21, 1998 in Springfield at the State Library rooms 403 and 404 at 10:00 AM.

Upcoming meetings:

Annual Meeting and Election – 3/14

Community Picnic – 4/18

College Day & Landscaping – 4/25

Respectfully submitted.

Carol L. Quandt
Secretary

Attachments in Secretary's File

Attendance List

Academic Committee Report

New Website statement

Multicultural Awareness Week

Extended Curfew in Wing Policy

Thank yous



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