

IMSA PAC MEETING MINUTES

December 7, 2002

President Jeri Hagiwara called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum. Cathy Null moved for approval of the October minutes. Jan Siemens seconded. Motion passed.

Kim Fassbinder next moved for approval of the November minutes. Jan Siemens seconded. Motion passed.

President's Report

Jeri reported that IMSA has received monetary contributions from over 300 parents (over 50%) thus far, which is better than expected for this point in the school season.

Jeri stated that regional reps should start planning for who will represent their regions next year (2003-04 school year). The nominating committee (Mike Doran and Kim Fassbinder and Jeri) will compile a nomination list in January for next year's Executive Committee. Anyone who has an interest in serving on the 2003-04 Executive Committee should inform Jeri, Mike or Kim.

Jeri, Kay Landers and Ann Carpenter listened to the IMSA Chamber Choir at the Chicago Art Institute yesterday. The choir was excellent and well received by their audience.

Vice President's Report

Cathy Barnes reported that she has secured at least one parent or alumnu to attend the IMSA information meetings in January or February. However, more parents are certainly welcome at any of the meetings:

Wednesday, December 11, Effingham, Effingham Jr. High 7:00 P.M.

Thursday, December 12, Urbana, the forum at Carle 6:00 P.M.

Monday, December 16, Chicago, DePaul University/Egan Urban Center 7:00 P.M.

Monday, January 6, Springfield, SIU School of Medicine 6:00 P.M.

Tuesday, January 7, Normal, Chiddix Junior High 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, January 8 Peoria, Washington School, 7:00 P.M.

Thursday, January 9, Oglesby, Illinois Valley Comm. college 7:00 P.M.

Thursday, January 16 Chicago, Beverly Branch Library 7:00 P.M.

V.I.P. Days for prospective students will be held on February 1st and February 23rd at 1 p.m. Current IMSA parents who would like to participate and answer questions should contact Cathy.

Treasurer's Report

Navreet Kang and Andrea Ema are currently conducting a financial audit and will have a report on the audit at the next meeting.

Secretary's Report

Don Driscoll distributed a revised list of regional reps with phone numbers and email addresses. Cathy Null asked if Don could distribute a list of each region's parents to the regional reps, complete with email addresses. Don will email those lists in December, as well as distribute printed versions at the January meeting.

IMSA Administration Comments

Eric McLaren stated that this upcoming week is the last full week of classes. Students will receive their exam schedule on Monday, December 9th. Essays and papers are due December 16th. Exams are December 18th thru 20th.

All students have received their Intersession assignments. 92% of the students received their first or second choices. He noted that several IMSA alumni (along with IMSA staff members) will lead some of the Intersession programs.

The proposed 2003-04 academic calendar was shared with the Executive and Student Life Committees this meeting and will be presented to the Board for approval in January. Start and end dates are similar to the 2002-03 calendar.

Eric noted that 32 of the 189 seniors have requested 24 hour IRN. Only 1 senior has been denied.

Some parents have inquired why IMSA was not listed in the state test results, which are based on the Prairie State exam taken in Junior year. Eric pointed out that, like other special purpose schools, IMSA is not allowed to participate in the Prairie State exam.

Bob Hernandez reminded everyone that IMSA will be closed the weekend of January 17th to 20th due to the 3 day unpaid furlough for 10 month employees. Classes will end that Friday at 12:45 p.m. and halls will close at at 5 p.m. The halls will reopen on Monday at 3 p.m.

Information regarding senior privileges for second semester have been approved and sent to the senior parents. Parents must sign the form and send it back for their child to be eligible for the privileges. Seniors on disciplinary or academic probation are not eligible for the privileges.

Sophomore parents were also mailed a sheet for extended privileges and should sign the form to enable their children to have those privileges. The form can also be obtained from the RCs.

Students are now allowed to walk offcampus (Orchard Road stores, Walgreens) with certain restrictions. They are not allowed to cross the highway, must be back before dark and must sign out with someone else. This privilege applies to Wednesdays after 3 p.m. and on Saturday/Sundays.

IMSA seeks high participation from sophomores for Teacher Recognition Day (Caring to Challenge). Bob asked that sophomore parents encourage their students to nominate teachers or other individuals who had a strong educational influence in their lives.

Gretchen Stauder reported that the College and Academic Counseling department has received over 1500 college applications since October 15th. References are being written and sent out to the colleges. PSAT results for Junior students are in and will be distributed on Tuesday, December 10th, then mailed out to the parents that same day.

Jim Gerry (IMSA Technology Administrator) reported on the following topics:

- 1) Dr. Chris Colburn was promoted to Database Team Leader, which is charge of all application changes and web changes.
- 2) A grant request will be sent to Governor Ryan for signature before the change of administration. If the grant is approved, the portal environment and website will be substantially revised. In the interim, the IMSA website already has a new look.

- 3) IMSA parents are allowed to have email accounts thru IMSA. Just fill out the form that are available on the Web or in the main office.
- 4) A virus has hit the IMSA email accounts over the last month and IMSA parents received junk email as a result. He warned that Microsoft Outlook is a target system for viruses and won't adequately prevent them. He also warned that you should never open an ".exe" or ".doc" attachment to an email. Finally, the new version of "Kazaa" has a Trojan horse which, if downloaded, allows the originator (not Kazaa) to control your computer and use it as a server. He noted that the Norton anti-virus program will not find this Kazaa Trojan horse.

Student Council Report

Urvi Purohit reported that the Student Council is still working on solutions to the huge mess that is left on tables after lunch (i.e., wasted food, mangled utensils). Administration has sent a memo to students and staff on the issue. Student Council would prefer to focus on a positive approach to solving this problem and is open to suggestions. Please email suggestions to either the Student Council (studco@imsa.edu) or Urvi directly (urvs9@imsa.edu).

Academic Committee

Virginia Hess reported that the Academic Committee's January meeting (at 9 a.m. prior to the PAC meeting) will focus on the course selection process.

The February meeting will focus on the Humanities Department and curriculum.

Communications

Jacki Poulson reported that the Communications Committee will combine the December and January newsletter due to time crunch. That will be emailed out this week – parents who are concerned about opening the newsletter document as an email attachment can open it at the website. The committee will still work on sending out a newsletter every month.

She has had a lot of good response from parents and continues to welcome input, suggestions and information from parents.

Student Life

Ann Carpenter reported that parent training for opening up the pool after today's meeting. She is also looking for parent volunteers to be trained as lifeguards. IMSA will pay for that training.

A Student Union Friday Fest will occur Tuesday, December 17th at 8:15 to 9:45 p.m.

Technology

Pierre Maloka reported that the committee is working on the PAC website and will ensure that it does not clash with the IMSA website. The committee will also be compiling threaded discussion groups for each committee.

New Business

RC Sue Killela reported that Lumen, an annual discussion forum attended by IMSA alumni, staff, parents, selected students and local leaders, will be held at IMSA on February 22nd (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). This year's

Lumen (“Faith and Community”) consists of a series of panels discussing the impact of faith on current political, scientific, cultural and ethical issues. She will send an email to parents regarding ticket prices (\$10 to \$15) and discussion topics. Note that this is the first year that parents are being invited. Parents should contact Su (Skillel@imsa.edu) if you are interested in attending the Lumen discussion.

Announcements

The next PAC meeting is at IMSA, 10 am on January 25th.

Cathy Null moved the meeting be adjourned. Jacki Poulsen seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,
Don Driscoll
PAC Secretary