

IMSA PAC MEETING MINUTES

March 15, 2003

President Jeri Hagiwara called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum. Janis Fanning moved for approval of the December minutes. Kim Fassbinder seconded. Motion passed.

IMSA Administration Comments

Eric McLaren passed out a summary Administration Report to the PAC membership. Issues and announcements included:

- Ø The state tuition bill was defeated this week.
- Ø 3/15 – Titan Dance Squad is competing today at IDTA State Finals
- Ø 3/17 – Horowitz Lecture on Ethics – speaker is Commander Scott Waddle
- Ø 3/18 – Great Minds Program lecture with geophysicist Dr. Marcia McNutt – 7 p.m.
- Ø 3/20 – Winters Sports Award recognition ceremony – 6:30 p.m.
- Ø Third quarter ended 3/14 and grades will be mailed early during spring break.
- Ø Titan Chess Team finished seventh overall in IHSA State Final Tournament
- Ø Casey Liang advanced to the East Aurora sectionals in basketball competition.

The Caring to Challenge program this past week was a great success. 87 IMSA sophomores nominated their former educators who were truly appreciative of the recognition.

Carol Corley (Vice President of Strategy and Planning) thanked parents and alumni and students for their help in defeating the state tuition bill and for their assistance in continuing efforts to obtain the support of Governor Blagojevich. She handed out a packet including the following, which will also be distributed via email to parents, alumni and students.

- n List of Illinois legislators on key committees (Senate Appropriations, Senate Education and the Higher Ed Committee for House Appropriations)
- n Calendar of Senate session days so parents know when their legislators should be back in their local offices. Although face to face conversations are the best medium, telephone conversations would be the next best option and a letter would be a distant third.
- n Position paper outlining the seven ways IMSA works for Illinois
- n Number of IMSA students broken down by legislative district
- n IMSA alumni statistics – where they attend college, majors in college, subsequent professional employment, etc.
- n IMSA's outreach programs*, number of students and educators attending and legislative districts that are positively impacted by those programs.
- n Budget summary regarding the 2003 reduction, IMSA's response and cost cutbacks, IMSA's 2004 request and reasons to increase IMSA's budget

* Programs listed were IMSA Kids Institute, IMSA Excellence 2000+, Illinois Virtual High School, Problem-Based Learning Network, IMSA Bridges to Science Literacy, IMSA Great Minds Program, 21st Century Information Fluency, STEP-UP to the Future and International Career Academy.

She encouraged parents, alumni and students to contact their local legislators and ask them to support IMSA and its future. The Governor Blagojevich will send his proposed budget to the legislature on April 9th. The legislators have until May 23rd (end of session) to approve a budget for 2004. Carol pointed out that the ideal communication is face to face.

She also will distribute an outline of talking points for conversations and suggested answers to most frequent questions. We need to communicate to our legislators that IMSA delivers strong contributions to the state's economic bottom-line, particularly individual stories of our kids. The legislators also need to recognize that the 2004 budget request is designed to meet the state's needs in math, science and technology. The 2004 budget request recognizes the state's fiscal challenges and is designed to address them. Carol noted that one important difference to be pointed out is the amount of extra time that the IMSA faculty invests in its students. Finally, she stated that the above documents (except for the talking points outline) can be left with the legislator if desired.

Gretchen Stauder (College and Academic Counseling) stated that course selection is over for sophomores and juniors. Course schedules will be completed over the summer.

She reminded parents that College Day will be on April 26th and the list of participating colleges (over 80!) is set forth on the IMSA website.

Gretchen also noted that senior parents should understand that their students will be undergoing a lot of stress during the fourth quarter because they will be getting responses to their applications and some may be hitting the "senior wall" – so tell them not to give up on their studies and grades!

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

- 1) IMSA is in the beginning stages of using a state grant to replace systems that operate the academy with an Enterprise Resource Planning system which will hopefully meet all of the academy's system requirements. He cautioned that if they cannot find an affordable ERP system, they will look for "best in class" systems.
- 2) IMSA has implemented an email virus-checking system. They are catching 100 viruses per day. Most of it is spam email.
- 3) Information and Technology Services invites parents to attend "ITS** Presents" brown-bag sessions from 11:05 a.m to 12:05 p.m. on selected Mondays and Thursdays which will focus on a wide variety of technological issues and uses. The first brown-bag session will be this week and will focus on digital photography. The next will be on April 21st and 24th and will focus on IMSA's security systems.

Student Council Report

Urvi Purohit was not present because the IMSA Titan Dance Squad was at the state finals today. Brittney Andres and Nisha Wadhvani substituted for Urvi.

Brittney Andres (Junior-at-Large of Student Council, 11th grade) reported that Student Council and Class Club are throwing a Pool Party after Spring Fling on April 25th. Other projects Student Council is working on include getting educational trips on Wednesdays (such as aquariums & museums), making intersession suggestion slips for students, and improving the Student Union. The computer labs are now open at night and on weekends, and revisions for the Student Handbook have also been submitted. The Battle of the Bands will be held sometime in April.

Nisha Wadhvani (Secretary of Student Council, 11th grade) reported that the Council has turned in the "Catch-Up Week Proposal," which asks for more time to study during the week of finals. Some members of the Student Council attended the annual district convention last weekend, where Dan Eidson (IMSA Student Council advisor) was elected Executive Director of the district. IMSA will be hosting that convention next year. Upcoming events include State Convention on the first weekend of May and IMSA student council elections during the last week of April.

President's Report

Jeri noted that the PAC website has several key features of interest to parents, including:

- n PAC newsletters
- n Minutes of the PAC meetings

- n PAC Announcements, including Senior Banquet information and a reservation form you can print out
- n Link to the CAC site and
- n Letters from the Principal section which Don Gulotta recently added. Included are Principal McLaren's letters from August 2002 to March 2003.

Jeri also reported that Rob Flot (Coordinator of Multicultural Recruitment, Retention and Learning) will assist the PAC in attempting to obtain more diversity in the PAC representation.

Jeri thanked Cathy Barnes for her work with Amy Conyers for two very successful VIP Days. She also thanked our VIP volunteers Jim and Ruth Blasingame, Cathy and Ned Null, Therese Taff, Jacki Poulsen, Jan Siemens, Kim Fassbinder, Lorna Ruddy, Andrea Ema, and Richard Ramsey.

Vice President's Report

Cathy Barnes stated that she is seeking parent volunteers to assist and answer questions for Placement Test day on May 30th (7:30 a.m. to noon). There will also be a panel discussion for current parents to educate applicants' parents about the IMSA experience from a parent perspective.

She is also looking for one person from each region to assist during the Navigation weekends on July 12-13 and August 2-3rd.

Treasurer's Report

Navreet Kang reported that there is \$2,063 in the PAC checking account. The budget report will be posted on the website.

Secretary's Report

Don Driscoll reminded the representatives that he was still awaiting responses from some of them on whether they planned to attend the informal luncheon after the April 26th meeting.

Executive Council Elections

Each of the candidates gave a brief speech about themselves prior to the election. Janet Lumsden withdrew her nomination for treasurer. Since all of the positions were then uncontested, Janis Fanning moved to substitute a verbal ballot for the written ballots. Janet Lumsden seconded the motion. The motion was approved and a verbal election was taken. All of the candidates were unanimously elected.

Cathy Barnes -- President

Lorna Ruddy -- Vice President

Don Driscoll/Naomi Knappenberger -- Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Susan Larson Flannery -- Treasurer

Jan Siemens -- Downstate Coordinator

Kim Fassbinder -- Metro Coordinator

Academic Committee

Virginia Hess reported that Weiren Chou will be the committee chair next year. The other members of the committee are Patricia Rudolph and Naomi Knappenberger. They are establishing a tentative schedule for academic presentations next year

Communications

Jacki Poulson reported that they are developing committee membership for next year so newsletters can continue.

Student Life

Kay Landers announced that they 150 students attend the Friday Fest on March 14th. They consumed 12 pounds of meatballs! The Committee plans to host 18 Friday Fests next year, with the goal of having the pool open during those times. She distributed a tentative schedule for next year. Jim and Ruth Blasingames were thanked for all of their work during the Friday Fests.

Kay also noted that the pool will be open every Friday night in April and they are seeking volunteer lifeguards for those evenings.

Technology

Pierre Maloka was absent but Jeri noted that Pierre had presented an indepth discussion on technology issues last month. He will be sending out a package to parents on these issues.

Jim Sharpless noted that the copyright issue is a significant problem for IMSA with both ethical and legal implications. He encouraged parents to talk to their students about the problem and discourage them from downloading copyrighted music and films. Eric McLaren noted that the students are taught computer ethics each year and that there are significant fines for software piracy.

New Business

Jeri noted that Nancy Delich will be CAC chair next year. She also introduced Herb and Jan Sharpless as the new Region 7 sophomore representatives.

Jeri reminded everyone that there would be an appreciation luncheon after the April 26th PAC meeting. She credited Cathy Null for the original idea.

Lilia Yao reported that there would be a band concert on March 16th at 3 p.m. and to bring treats.

Announcements

The next PAC meeting is at IMSA, 12:30pm on April 26th which is also College Day.

Ruth Blasingame moved the meeting be adjourned. Janis Fanning seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Don Driscoll
PAC Secretary