

IMSA PAC MEETING MINUTES, September 11, 2004
(Approved 10/2/04)

President Lorna Ruddy called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum. Lorna requested that the May minutes be approved. Jan Siemens moved for approval of the minutes and Jan Sharpless seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IMSA Administration Comments

Principal Eric McLaren welcomed the PAC members and many visiting parents to Parents Day at IMSA, noting that a great way to start the day is with the PAC meeting. The school year has started off well with, among other things, the opening of the new science labs. Dr. Leon Letterman (founder and Nobel Laureate winner) is on staff and will be hosting a program called "Lunch with the Laureate".

On a more somber note, Principal McLaren stated that it was appropriate for Parents Day to take place on September 11th since it helps to reconnect with families and to recall that one of IMSA's purposes is to create future leaders to make the world a better place.

Bob Hernandez reported on the following issues:

- (1) 230 sophomores started the school year and three have left thus far, which is a normal attrition rate
- (2) A new student information system will account for attendance in classes. Notifications to parents will start next week via email.
- (3) IMSA's cell phone policy is that student can carry a cell phone at all times but it cannot be on from 7:30 am to 4:15 pm from Monday thru Friday. If a phone call has to be made, the students can step outside or make the call near the main gym
- (4) Senior privileges started on September 10th, which is the first time they have ever begun in the first quarter
- (5) Student activities are updated regularly at the website at "Living at IMSA". It also reports on the sports activities. For example, the golf team is undefeated this season thus far.

Jim Gerry (Chief Information Officer) reported on the following issues:

- (1) Efforts are being made to hook students up faster with IRN this year, and student helpers will be working on the girls halls next week
- (2) An ARP system which will give parents the ability to information systems (e.g. attendance, grades) is being developed
- (3) A Content Management System is being developed which will allow individual users to easily update the IMSA website

David Abler (Director of Curriculum Assessment and Research) will be working with the Academics Committee throughout the year. Topics of interest at the monthly sessions will include:

- n meeting with the science faculty to discuss the science program review
- n analyzing the math program review with the math faculty
- n reviewing the options for junior course selection
- n discussing Student Inquiry options, etc.

He also noted that this was the pilot year for three new courses at IMSA -- Science, Society & the Future; Applied Engineering; and Music Theory.

Michelle Whetstone (Coordinator of Annual Giving) informed the group that she works regularly with the PAC, Student Council, the Senior Class Club and others to enhance donation opportunities for IMSA. This

year, the donation program will allow parents to designate which programs their funds can be allocated to. The donation program will have several phases: (1) email requests and reminders, (2) letters sent in October and (3) phone-a-thon by current students to contact parents who had not yet donated funds.

On 10/2/04, IMSA will host its first Donor Recognition event in the new science labs. The open house event is invitation-only to prior donors and it will give parents and donors an opportunity to meet with the staff and faculty who benefit from the donations.

Michelle also noted that Jeri Hagiwara and Lorna Ruddy have started the Parent Alumni Committee in order to provide additional volunteer opportunities for alumni parents. The Committee will send out an annual or semi-annual newsletter entitled the "KIT (Keeping in Touch) Connection."

President's Report

Lorna Ruddy thanked the parents who had done work throughout the summer on behalf of IMSA and its students. Activities included working at the math placement breakfast, volunteering at the Navigation weekends, coordinating regional buses and planning the regional picnics. She also thanked Janet Lumsden for doing an excellent job on bringing the PAC website up to date.

Lorna also asked the committee chairs to introduce themselves to the PAC and visiting parents. Their contact information can be located at the PAC website.

Academics – Sherry Kwei

Communications – Barbara Kulbida

CAC – Jody Bogdan

Discipline – Mitch Roth (see below)

Technology – Bob Kapicka and Pierre Maloka

Student Life – Patrice Onyiego and Kemi Beausoleil

Parents Fund – Sandy Hamman

Vice President's Report

Vice President Mitch Roth introduced himself and stated that the Discipline Committee is a supporting adjunct to the Discipline Task Force that was created last spring to review discipline process and recommend changes to Board of Trustees. The Committee sent out a parent survey at the end of the school year. 165 surveys were returned, which was viewed as a strong response. The responses have been tabulated and a report on the survey results will hopefully be presented at the next PAC meeting in October.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Janet Lumsden stated the PAC website is current except for the May minutes and stated that expense forms and receipts can be turned into her for reimbursement.

Secretary's Report

Co-Secretary Don Driscoll introduced the other co-Secretary (Naomi Knappenberger) and informed the PAC that the following spots were open for regional reps:

- n Region 3 senior and junior
- n Region 6 senior and sophomore
- n Region 9 sophomore
- n Region 10 senior and junior

Student Council Report

Student Council President Grant Keaton thanked parents for attending since their presence means a lot to the students, especially the sophomores. He stated that the Student Council and PAC try to cooperate and provide mutual feedback in order to enhance life at IMSA. Parents and students should feel free to bring up concerns or suggestions to Grant (Grant86@imsa.edu) to enhance student life. He also noted that the Student Council is looking to borrow winter items (e.g., fake Christmas trees) for the Homecoming this year, whose theme is “Chillin’ in the Arctic”.

Student Life

Patrice Onyiego (co-chair with Kemi Beaulsoliel) informed the group that the Student Life Committee meets once per month before the regular PAC meeting. She also introduced the various subcommittees with the following comments:

- n Parent Partners – Josanne Bruins and Mary Mullins are seeking volunteers since several wings still do not have designated parent partners
- n Food Committee – seeking volunteers
- n Senior Banquet – Jan Sharpless stated that she is seeking volunteers and that this group meets for 30 minutes after every PAC meeting
- n Friday Fest – Kemi Beausoleil and Gina Zaegar are organizing the monthly events and are looking for parents to volunteer time, food and money. The dates for future Friday Fests are October 15, November 5, December 17, January 30, February 11, March 11, April 22, May 13 and May 31.

CAC

Jody Bogdan, chair of the College and Academic Counseling Committee, stated that the first College Fair will be this Tuesday (September 14th). It is a smaller fair but would be a good opportunity for students to get used to attending the fairs, asking questions, obtaining college information, etc.

Announcements

The next PAC Meeting will be held on October 2nd at Homecoming 10 a.m. at IMSA. There will be an Executive Council meeting at 8:30.

Jan Sharpless moved that the meeting be adjourned. Patrice Onyiego seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,
Don Driscoll
PAC Co-Secretary