

IMSA PAC MEETING MINUTES
February 12, 2005 (final draft)

President Lorna Ruddy called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum. Lorna requested that the January minutes be approved. Kemi Beausoleil moved for approval of the minutes and Jan Sharpless seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IMSA Administration Comments

Principal Eric McLaren reported on the following topics:

- Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich has named IMSA President Dr. Marshall as a recipient of the Order of Lincoln Medallion.
- 44 students were named National Merit Scholarship Finalists.
- Two recent articles in the media highlighted accomplishments at IMSA. One focused on IMSA's three finalists in the INTEL competition, Timothy Credo, Lyra Haas and Abhi Gulati. The other article announced Dr. Marshall's selection to receive a Lincoln Medallion.
- All sophomores and juniors have participated in a course scheduling meeting and will be bringing home their course requests for parent signatures over the extended weekend.
- Interims will be mailed in the coming week.
- All students will be required to participate in the Math Competition on Wednesday. They will also be required to fill out a questionnaire about substance abuse.
- There will be an unannounced "Shelter and Place Drill" this week involving all students and staff.
- On Friday, Dr. Cross of the Indiana Math and Science Academy will conduct a workshop for IMSA staff focusing on the social and emotional needs of gifted students.

Bob Hernandez reminded parents that he sent out an email earlier this week correcting a scheduling mistake in the calendar. The corrected schedule is as follows:

Monday, Feb. 14: A-Day

Tuesday, Feb. 15: B-Day

Wednesday, Feb. 16: C-Day (Afternoon schedule starting at 12:10pm)

NOTE: AMC Test and Alcohol survey are conducted in the morning - required attendance)

Thursday, Feb 17: C-Day (Morning schedule - extended begins - halls close at 5pm)

Friday, Feb 18: School closed - Community Development Day

Monday, Feb 21: School closed - Halls open at 3pm

Tuesday, Feb 22: B-Day

Wednesday, Feb 23: I-Day

Thursday, Feb 24: C-Day

Friday, Feb 25: D-Day

Bob also reported that the process of securing a new contract for food service will be complete by April. He emphasized that IMSA is not just looking for the lowest bid but for a vendor that will meet a list of specific criteria developed by students, parents and staff.

Jim Gerry reported the following:

- IMSA applications are now online. Prospective students can also check the status of their application online.

- Some aspects of parent access to the system will be piloted this spring and then implemented in the fall.
- Course requests are currently being processed by the new system.
- Spam blocking by the system has been reduced by 35% to allow legitimate emails through. Jim reminded everyone to use “IMSA” as the first word in the subject line.
- A committee has been established to research and investigate future technology planning for IMSA. A meeting is planned for May 7 to bring students, parents, staff and community leaders together to envision a direction for new technology at IMSA.

Gretchen Stauder reported:

- Senior parents were sent an email with updates.
- Seniors will be receiving admission decisions from mid-March through April 15.
- AP exams are scheduled for May. Registration is later this month and forms will be on the CAC web site. There is a fee of \$85.00 for each exam. She reminded parents that not all colleges exempt students from courses based on AP Exams. AP Exams do not make a difference in college acceptance for juniors.
- All juniors have received a handout with deadlines for information they must submit to CAC. Samples of this paperwork can be found on the web. All forms are due by March 1 so CAC has time to advise students which colleges to investigate on College Day.
- All sophomores and juniors are encouraged to participate in College Day, April 23. This year 20 colleges will conduct small group sessions in classrooms. Gretchen will need 20 parent volunteers to assist in the classrooms that day. Volunteers may contact Jody Bogden.
- CAC will be meeting with students on February 14 and 15, and on February through March 1 to schedule courses. Students have been given a course grid to plot their progress towards meeting graduation requirements. The grid is also available on the web. Scheduling information will be processed by the new computer system and will be completed in May.
- Princeton Review will be conducting fee-based tutoring sessions for the new SAT in April. Materials have been sent out to parents.
- Phil Trout will discuss the new SAT after the general meeting.

David Abler reported that key staff will discuss the changes in the new SAT and how IMSA is addressing those changes through curriculum after the general meeting.

He also noted that a Talent Program is currently under development. The program is designed to nurture the entrepreneurial talents of students who are interested in developing products. The program, led by Nick Sholte, will begin with speakers and events this spring to determine the level of interest in a full-fledged program for the fall.

Dr. Abler reminded parents that IMSA has a dual charge: to educate the 650 students at IMSA and also to stimulate math, science and technology education throughout the state. Currently IMSA is working with the St. Charles school district to help with the adoption of the MI program for their Honor students. This will entail adapting the MI curriculum for a book format. IMSA is also working with the math and science teachers in Warren Township under a Department of Education grant.

Michelle Whetstone reported that \$22,000 has been raised from current parents. Student Council volunteers personally call and thank all donors to the IMSA Fund.

A Phoneathon will be conducted later this month. Student Council volunteers will be calling parents and asking for their participation in the fund drive.

A faculty/staff appreciation event is planned for March at Mill Race Inn. Donations of gifts are welcome.

The alumni group is planning Lumen for June 18-19. The theme of the event is "The Role of Science in Politics". Seniors and parents are invited to attend.

Student Council Report

Grant Keaton brought several members of Student Council with him and introduced them to PAC. They are Codi Kuhlemeier, Tommy Mullins, Katie Kaenkumchorn, Azmina Lakhani and Conan Liu.

Grant also reported:

- Student Council has opened a store in the attendance office window to sell pencils, poster board and other inexpensive school supplies.
- IMSA may soon have an ATM machine. The contract with EFMARK is awaiting approval.
- Clash of the Halls went extremely well.
- A TV was installed in the old cafeteria so students can watch CNN.
- DDR pads and a new foosball table have been ordered for the Student Union.
- Battle of the Bands is coming up and will be coordinated with PAC's Friday Fest.
- Bulletins have been posted by the Student Council in all the bathrooms in an effort to improve communications with the student body.
- If there is another heavy snowfall, Student Council will sponsor a Snowman Contest with prizes.
- IMSA is hosting the North-Central District of Student Councils at Pheasant Run.
- Doug Pratt will be manning a table at College Day on behalf of the Alumni group. Students who are interested in visiting a college can check with him to see if there is an alum nearby who can host the student during the visit.
- Student Council is exploring ways to make nutritional information easily available to students in the cafeteria.

President's Report

Lorna Ruddy thanked parent volunteers for the last VIP Day, which was Saturday, January 29th. Over 800 parents of prospective students attended the event.

Dr. Connolly needs parent volunteers to serve as judges for the Junior Academy Science Fair. Parents need not have a background in science. The dates and sites are:

March 19, Ottawa, Shepherd Middle School. Need volunteers to read papers.

April 2, DeKalb, NIU Field House. Need 7 volunteer judges.

May 6, Champaign-Urbana. Need volunteers to read papers.

May 7, Champaign-Urbana, U of I Field House. Need volunteer judges.

Volunteers may contact Dr. Connolly at 630.907.5985 or Connolly@imsa.edu.

Lorna reported for Barb Kulbida that she is currently preparing the February-March newsletter. Please send items for inclusion to Bkulbida@clearnet.org.

Lorna also reported for Karen Grant-Niles that the Region 10 event that was cancelled because of snow has been rescheduled for Monday, February 21 after the extended weekend. She will be contacting parents via email.

Vice President's Report

Mitch Roth reported that the Discipline Task Force is winding up its work and will present suggested changes to the policy to the Board at their March 9 meeting. He noted that responses to the parent survey influenced some of the changes as they related to greater clarity in the policy, improved communication and training for the IMSA community, and consistency in implementation. Mitch will present the approved changes at the next meeting on March 12.

Treasurer's Report

Janet Lumsden reported the PAC treasury has a balance of \$6,633.78.

She reminded parents that June 15 will be the last day to submit expenses for reimbursement.

Downstate Coordinator

Jan Siemens is drafting a process for setting up service with downstate buses. PAC will assume responsibility for the contract and the cash flow. Jan will email these documents for review.

Committee Updates

Academic

Sherry Kwei reported that the new SAT will be the subject for discussion with staff after the general meeting.

CAC

Jody Bogden asked for volunteers to assist with College Day.

Student Life

Patrice Onyiego reported on the following topics:

- Superbowl Fest went very well. The next Friday Fest will not occur on March 11. It has been changed to Friday, March 18, to accommodate the arrival of the German Exchange Students. On April 22, Friday Fest will be coordinated with Battle of the Bands.
- Donations of games, furniture and other items are always welcome in the residence halls.
- Student Life will establish a bulletin board for weekend rides with a map and color coded cards to indicate who needs a ride and who is offering a ride. RCs will inform students about the board. Parents will be notified by email. Steve Zant has agreed to maintain the board.
- HC Chris Lin is interested in doing a presentation in conjunction with a documentary on China. He has asked PAC to help by providing food for the evening.

Senior Banquet

Jan Sharpless reported that invitations are ready to be sent out to all families. Senior gifts will be wrapped at the March meeting and the April meeting will be devoted to processing the invitation responses and paperwork.

Technology

Bob Kapicka encouraged parents to participate in the strategic initiative to investigate the future of technology at IMSA. He asked parents to consider the wider impact of the technologies that IMSA students are exposed to beyond the immediate benefit.

-

Old Business

Lorna reminded everyone that there will be a meeting after the Senior Banquet meeting to finish work on the bylaws. Suggested revisions can also be emailed to Don Driscoll. The final revisions will be sent out on February 26 and voted on at the March 12 meeting. There must be a quorum that day so she encouraged everyone to attend.

New Business

Lorna announced the nominations for the 2005-06 PAC executive officers. They are:

President: Sandy Hamman and Gina Zager

Vice President: Barb Kulbida

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Varsha Pancholi

The election will take place at the March 12th meeting.

The Secretary position is still open. A complete job description can be found on the PAC website. Lorna Ruddy, Jody Bogden or Jan Siemens may be contacted with nominations.

Announcements

The next PAC Meeting will be held on March 12, 2005. Executive Meeting 8:30 AM. General Meeting 10:00 AM.

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

Respectfully submitted by,
Naomi Knappenberger
PAC Co-Secretary
(<http://parents.imsa.edu>)