

## IMSA PAC MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2005 (approved)

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

Lorna initially introduced Professor John Stark ([stark@imsa.edu](mailto:stark@imsa.edu)) who is coordinating activities for the German students who will be arriving at IMSA this week. He was seeking local parents who would be interested in hosting some of the German students for 2-3 hours during a weeknight evening. All of the German students are high school students who have been studying English since the fifth grade and thus are very fluent.

**IMSA Administration Comments**

Principal Eric McLaren reported that, although Barack Obama has received invitations from 2000 schools to act as their graduation speaker this year, IMSA is a top candidate and may host the senator for this year's commencement ceremony. If not, IMSA has a very qualified backup speaker ready in the person of Dr. Edward W. Kolb (known to most as "Rocky") who is a founding head of the NASA/Fermilab Astrophysics Group at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and a Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics at The University of Chicago. Presently he is the Director of the Particle Astrophysics Center at Fermilab.

Bob Hernandez reported on the following issues:

- (1) Bob first reminded parents that when IMSA calls to say your child is sick (e.g., temperature of 100.3 or more), you need to take him home. There are local host parents who will take sick kids into their home for the first night for those parents who live far away. PAC Co-President Elect Gina Zager is in the process of compiling a list of available local host parents.
- (2) Efforts are being made to beef up the residential life program and offer additional activities. There was a Chinatown field trip last weekend and a ski trip last Wednesday. Laser tag is scheduled for April. A yoga teacher provided instruction at one of the girl's dorms and proved very popular, so IMSA will be expanding that program. Similarly, two wings kicked off a tai chi program which has also been popular so that will be expanded as well. IMSA will be trying out different programs to determine what proves popular with the students and when those activities should take place.
- (3) IMSA will likely hire 8 to 10 new RCs for the 2005-06 school year since an equivalent number of current RCs will likely move on to new jobs, graduate school, etc. Bob and Steve Zant conducted 52 interviews of potential RCs at a recent conference in Oshkosh, WI.
- (4) On April 26<sup>th</sup>, Wayne Messmer will be the speaker for the Senior Lecture and will discuss topics of leadership, ethics and forgiveness. Wayne is a professional singer who was shot in the throat and will undoubtedly prove to be a powerful speaker.
- (5) Bob noted that seniors may apply for the Jack McCarren Service Learning Award, which is a \$2,000 scholarship. Application forms have been provided to the seniors and are also available in Student Life.

Jim Gerry reported the following issues:

- n IMSA is on target to provide wireless internet access to students next fall
- n On May 7<sup>th</sup>, there will be community event to research and investigate future technology planning for IMSA. Parents, students and alumni are invited to attend this all-day event. The day will start with a panel discussion in the morning. More information will be provided as the date nears.
- n Jim thanked parent Deb Warren (sp?) for working so diligently with IMSA on software applications for the new systems. They have been trying to make the current processes more efficient, particularly on financial/accounting side.

Michelle Whetstone thanked the PAC for the \$150 donation to the faculty staff appreciation event at the Mill Race Inn. She also noted that the IMSA Phoneathon will take place on April 11-13. Students will only be contacting those families who have not yet made a donation to IMSA this year. Finally, Michelle noted that there is a \$5,000 college scholarship donated by the family of Mary Van Verst, former IMSA science faculty member which is available to seniors. Interested students and parents should contact Julia Husen for details.

Doug Pratt, the IMSA Alumni Assn President, stated that the IAA will have an information table at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> College Fair to help answer questions from students and/or parents. He also noted that the IAA is sponsoring a University Host Program which will allow students to contact alumni volunteers who live in college towns and are willing to host students during college visits. The IAA can be contacted at [www.iaa.org](http://www.iaa.org).

Finally, Doug stated that the IMSA Alumni Weekend will take place on June 17-19 and the Lumen topic this year is "The Role of Science in Politics", with particular emphasis on stem cell research. The classes of 1990, 1995 and 2000 will also celebrate reunions that weekend. Students and parents are welcome to attend all Alumni Weekend events.

Phil Trout of CAC stated that April 23<sup>rd</sup> is College Day and approximately 120 colleges will attend. The College Fair will be preceded by a presentation by Lloyd Thacker of the Education Conservancy, a former high school guidance counselor and author. In addition, 20 colleges will conduct small group sessions in classrooms after the College Fair at 11:15 to 12:00, and 12:05 to 12:50. All sophomores and juniors are encouraged to participate in College Day.

### **Student Council Report**

Codi Kuhlemeier reported on the following issues on behalf of the Student Council:

- Ø Student Council will open a store on March 21st in the attendance office window to sell pencils, poster board and other inexpensive school supplies.
- Ø A TV was installed in the old cafeteria so students can watch CNN.
- Ø Battle of the Bands is on April 21<sup>st</sup> but looking for assistance for volunteer bands
- Ø Last weekend was Matchmaker, which was designed to identify the individual you are most compatible with on campus
- Ø Students can personalize a lasting souvenir in the Student Union on Brickpainting Days on March 19<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> for only \$5.
- Ø A Student Council newsletter will be published on April 4<sup>th</sup>
- Ø A mixer will be held on the Tuesday before Spring Break and hopefully they will be monthly
- Ø Student Council is working with Steve Zant on the issue of whether to provide 24-hour IRN on the weekends. Parents should contact Bob Kapicka ([bobplus3@yahoo.com](mailto:bobplus3@yahoo.com)) if they wish to express their views on the topic.
- Ø Student Council will be sponsoring a Big Brother/Big Sister program for next year's incoming sophomores
- Ø There will be an IMSA Barter Day upcoming to trade "stuff" that students have accumulated over the school year.
- Ø April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Camera Day and Student Council is hoping to mount a collage of 2004-05 photos as well as compiling a large scrap book of photos
- Ø Student Council members will be attending the state convention as well as going to Duke University on April 17-19 to meet with other Student Council delegations.

### **President's Report**

Lorna Ruddy noted that Dr. Connolly is still seeking 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:

April 2, DeKalb, NIU Field House – 1 volunteer judge needed

May 6, Champaign-Urbana -- 2 volunteers needed that morning to read papers

May 7, Champaign-Urbana, U of I Field House -- 8 volunteers needed that morning to judge projects.

Volunteers may contact Dr. Connolly at 630.907.5985 or [Connolly@imsa.edu](mailto:Connolly@imsa.edu).

PAC members are invited for a PAC appreciation lunch immediately after the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting (same day as College Fair) at 1 pm. Parents should contact Lorna if they are interested in attending.

### **Vice President's Report**

Mitch Roth reported that the Discipline Task Force has not yet finalized its recommendations so they have not presented to the Board of Trustees. He noted that the PAC Discipline Committee was formed to choose parent representatives on Discipline Task Force, survey the parents, and to report to PAC on monthly basis. He would like to extend the Committee for another year to assist IMSA in implementing some changes which will include education of parents and others, development and compilation of investigation procedures. Mitch moved to continue the Committee one more year and add to the following charge to its mission: "To assist IMSA in implementing the discipline policy and procedure changes resulting from the work of the IMSA discipline task force." Naomi Knappenberger seconded the motion. Bob Hernandez commented that the administration and Committee have had many substantive discussions over the past year and he strongly encouraged that the Committee be continued for another year. Motion passed unanimously.

Since several members of the Discipline Committee are senior parents, new members will be solicited at the April meeting. A few spots will be saved for 2005-06 sophomore parents as well.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Janet Lumsden reported the PAC treasury has a balance of \$4,916.77. This is the time of the year when most of the expenses for Senior Banquet come in so this balance will drop quickly.

She reminded parents that June 15 will be the last day to submit expenses for reimbursement. However, the May meeting will be the last opportunity to receive immediate reimbursement.


Janet asked all committee chairs and regional representatives to nominate individuals who they would like to have recognized publicly at the May meeting who have done work above and beyond the call of normal volunteerism. She noted that you shouldn't assume that someone else will nominate your favorite candidate.

### **Downstate Coordinator**

Jan Siemens provided a draft procedure for setting up service with downstate buses. PAC will assume direct responsibility for the bus contracts and the cash flow rather than the individual parents. She is open to suggestions for the procedure, handling surplus and deficit, etc., sign the bus contracts rather than the individual parents.

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### **Metro Coordinator**

Jody Bogdan states that we need one parent to assist each of the 20 college representatives who are giving individual presentations at 11:15 to 12:00, and 12:05 to 12:50 pm on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. She currently needs 10 more volunteers. Please contact Jody Bogdan at  847-566-2390 or via email ([talkaboutburners@sbcglobal.net](mailto:talkaboutburners@sbcglobal.net)).

Also, volunteers interested in filling regional representative positions for the 2005-06 school year should contact their current regional coordinators.

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### Academic

Sherry Kwei stated that teachers from the World Languages, Wellness and Fine Arts departments gave a presentation that morning. Dr. Connelly will also give a presentation after this PAC meeting.

### Communications

Barbara Kulbida will do March/April and then May newsletter.

### Student Life

Kemi Beausoleil noted that March 18<sup>th</sup> is the next Friday Fest. Pizza is the main meal but she is seeking volunteered side dishes. Note that the pool will be open during this Friday Fest. Also the DDR pads have arrived and will be available for the Friday Fest. The next Friday Fest is on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Senior Banquet

Jan Sharpless reported that 140 people (30 families) have responded thus far to the Senior Banquet invitations and she really needs RSVPs from all senior parents. Seniors will receive an email reminder this week. Senior gifts will be wrapped at the March meeting and the April meeting will be devoted to processing the invitation responses and paperwork. The committee will finalize plans with the Carlisle reception hall in April. Seniors will be coordinating the music for the dinner and photo presentation, as well as selecting the staff speakers. Photo CD will be duplicated for seniors. Plans for May include putting together the final program and finalizing the seating arrangements as well as the materials to be given to students that night. Jan asked for volunteers on all of these preparations for Senior Banquet.

The Nutrition Committee reported that they are finalizing the specifications for the 2005-06 term so the state can put the contract out for bids.

### New Business

Lorna pointed out that, because the PAC bylaws had not been reviewed since 1997, Janet Lumsden spearheaded an effort this year to modernize them. A draft copy of the revised bylaws had been emailed to PAC members and was also available on the website. Jan Siemens made a motion to accept the revised bylaws and Cheryl Lape seconded that motion. It was passed unanimously.

Before conducting the election for the 2005-06 PAC officers, Lorna asked if there were any new nominations from the floor. There were none, so Cheryl Lape moved to accept the slate of candidates proposed by the Executive Board and Jan Siemens seconded her motion. It was passed unanimously so the following individuals will comprise the Executive Council for the 2005-06 school year:

President: Sandy Hamman and Gina Zager

Vice President: Barb Kulbida

Secretary: Debra Horn and Kimberly Schmitt

Treasurer: Varsha Pancholi

The meeting then broke up into small regional groups to discuss to select regional representatives for the

junior and senior spots during the 2005-06 school year. Roll call was then taken by region and many of the positions for the 2005-06 term were filled.

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**Announcements**

The next PAC Meeting will be held on April 23, 2005. Executive Meeting 8:30 AM. General Meeting 10:00 AM.

Herb Sharpless moved that the meeting be adjourned. Cheryl Lape seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

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