

IMSA PAC MEETING MINUTES

December 3, 2005

(<http://parents.imsa.edu>)

Co-President Sandy Hamman called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum. The October minutes were approved as written.

President's Report

Co-President Sandy Hamman announced that some senior families did not receive their mailing from Herb Jones. There were extra packets available.

Sandy reminded us that IMSA is seeking parents to attend the Regional Informational Meetings around the state, being presented to give parents of prospective IMSA students information about the Academy. Volunteers should be prepared to answer questions of parents of prospective IMSA students and give them the "parents' perspective" of IMSA. She reported that the admissions team was extremely pleased with the meetings thus far. The remaining meeting dates are as follows:

- 12/6 -- Charleston
- 12/7 -- Collinsville
- 12/7 -- Urbana
- 12/12 -- Normal
- 12/13 -- Palatine
- 12/13 -- Springfield
- 12/14 -- Peoria
- 1/17 -- Grayslake
- 1/19 -- Chicago Heights

If interested, please contact Sandy (sshamman@adams.net) or Gina Zager (dgzager@comcast.net) for the specific meeting places and times.

IMSA is also seeking parents to attend the VIP Day on January 29 to provide parents of prospective students with information about life at IMSA from a parent's point of view. Please contact Sandy or Gina for details or to volunteer.

Sandy introduced Felecia Bragg as the new chair of the Minority Relations committee. We no longer have a paid staff person in this position. We have three interviews this week. Felecia announced that she is applying for the position.

Gina requested help with looking into a new yearbook photographer. The present photographer is adequate; however there is an issue with the timeliness of the return of senior portraits.

Downstate Coordinator

Dean Drake announced that a bussing policy had been drafted and there would be a meeting to discuss the plans following the general meeting. Everyone is invited to attend and feedback is welcome.

Treasurer's Report

Varsha Pancholi was taking the LSATs and therefore absent from the meeting. Gina announced that the PAC is incorporated and now we are awaiting our tax-exempt status.

Metro Coordinator

Jody Bogdan was absent.

Academic

Dave Jordan reported that they had an excellent presentation on the math department at today's meeting. The meeting was videotaped and he will try to have it posted on the PAC website soon. The October Meeting on the Science department is now on the web.

Communications

Barbara Kulbida again asked that parents and PAC members provide more input for the newsletter. The next newsletter will go out with semester grades in January.

CAC

The next college fair is in the spring and 20 parent volunteers are sought. We presently have 9 volunteers.

Technology

Bob Kapicka reported that the speed in which the students are getting IRN is improving. The sophomores are getting access quicker which is both a good and a bad thing.

The Technology for Learning Committee wants parents to be advised that any laptops purchased for use at IMSA must have WindowsXP. WindowsXP Media will work, but WindowsXP Home will definitely not work. Bob also suggested exploring the availability of academic discounts before purchasing software.

The Technology Committee is seeking volunteers to update the PAC website this year and next. Interested individuals should contact Bob at bobplus3@yahoo.com

Student Life

Kim Schmitt reminded the Parent Partners, and all the parents, to remember to include your students in as much of the holiday season festivities as you can. IMSA's diversity provides a great opportunity for all the students to learn new traditions. Share your family's traditions with your student's wings.

Marsha Carter reported that the Mexican theme Friday Fest was a hit. The next Friday Fest is scheduled for the 16th of December. The theme is baked potatoes. She needs parents to provide toppings for the potatoes, as well as fruit, desserts and soda.

Gina Zager reported that she received the theme for the Sr. banquet from the senior class. The idea is that we came as strangers we leave life-long friends. The photo books will be ordered soon. The invitations will be mailed in February. The committee needs help with the photo show. Please contact Gina.

Discipline

Mitch Roth stated that the discipline committee will be sending out a survey to all parents towards the end of the school year to get feedback on how the new discipline policy is working. The committee had contemplated a survey of the parents involved in the 1505 Slab incident, but after much discussion they decided to focus on the year end survey.

Student Council Report

Codi Kuhlmeier reported that Student Council will be doing their annual door-to-door in December. Student Council members go from room to room after 10 pm check and talk to the students about what is working and what concerns they may have.

December 8th from 5:30-7 pm, Roly-Poly will be selling sandwiches in the Café.

December 13th Key Club will be sponsoring the mixer.

Jamison presented the students' academic survey to the academic committee. The Liaison will come out soon. The Council is requesting Student involvement in discipline matters as well as addressing the tray problem in the Café.

Plans are underway for next semesters 'Clash of the Halls', which is like Homecoming without the dance. The Council also hopes to have a course evaluation report published by February 1st. This student written report would help other students choose which electives they would most benefit from taking. The Quality of Life survey will be administered with the AMC in February.

Alumni Association

Ande was not present.

IMSA Administration Comments

Eric McLaren noted that approximately 15 seniors did not receive Herb Jones mailing. All seniors were measured for their cap and gown on registration day. If you missed getting measured, please stop by the principal's office.

The final exam schedule is as follows:

Friday 12/16 mods 1-10 in am – study, see teachers, etc. in pm – all papers are due

Monday 12/19 mods 11-20 in am – study, see teachers, etc. in pm

Tuesday 12/20 FINALS

Wednesday 12/21 MATH FINALS

Thursday 12/22 FINALS Residence Halls close at 5pm

It was noted that the sophomores may have three or more finals.

The calendar for the 2006-2007 academic year is being planned.

Copies of the Executive Summary of the 2005 Parent Satisfaction Survey were distributed. Eric pointed out some interesting facts, specifically that parents of girls were more dissatisfied with the science program than parents of boys. More feedback is needed to address the discrepancy. There is a need to keep the survey consistent in the near future in order to track the results; however suggestions may be made to improve or add to the questions.

The issue of the IHSA multiplier is still being discussed. As it stands, we are an AA school already. We just hope we can avoid playing some of the super large schools in the area.

Eric reported for Gretchen that the PSAT results will be sent home this month. Also, there was an over-whelming request for the tape of the financial aid program. 70 tapes were made and more are needed. They are being made and will be mailed the week after Christmas.

Bob Hernandez noted that add/drop week for the second semester will be December 5th-8th. Instead of having massive confusion the first week of the semester, we are trying something new and having it the end of this semester. He reminded us that the Residence Halls close at 5pm on December 22. Please call the Hall Coordinator or Linsey Crowninshield if you cannot be there by 5pm.

Kelly O'Sullivan is expecting a baby very soon. Her position will be divided into three stipend positions while she is on maternity leave.

Bob reported that there were no cases of the flu on campus in October or November, and we have had a below average amount of colds and stomach flu.

IMSA is having difficulty with parent e-mail addresses. If you change your e-mail address, please be sure to notify IMSA. Please call or e-mail Ms. Ellen Heinz in the principal's office, or contact the student life office. You would not move without telling you student your change of address, your e-mail address is just as important!

There has been a significant increase in the amount of vandalism and thefts on campus this fall. Damage has occurred inside as well as outside. Much discussion and speculation as to the cause of the increase ensued. There will be a Res Life program this week focusing on entitlement and ethics. The humanities teachers will address the topic in class and the Student Council is discussing ways to get the students involved in peer discipline. Bob shared that beginning in the second semester every student will receive an itemized bill for damages incurred in his/her specific wing. It is yet unclear how billing for outside damages will be handled. Please remind your student to keep their wardrobe and their room locked when they are not present. Every day flash memory sticks, calculators, watches, jewelry and coats are turned into the student life office. Check there first if you are missing something.

Jim Gerry reported that the CNS secretary, Loraine, is retiring on December 16th. The CNS strategic framework that has been in place for the last three years is finally getting a foothold and starting to move forward. Wireless access is available for all staff today. The students will have access beginning second semester. The IRN crew is being trained now. There will be formal recommendations of what type of computer to purchase given to the incoming sophomores in 2006. Every student will be required to have a laptop beginning in the 2007-2008 school year. Next year, computers may be made available to students to lease for a nominal fee: \$100-\$200. With all this advancement in technology, the bigger question becomes: how will this effect learning at IMSA?

The ACCRUX system has fallen short of expectations. The company that sold IMSA the program went bankrupt. A new company has purchased them and we are in the process of formulating Plan B. February 1st is the optimistic goal for Plan B to be in place. Deb Horn has been an instrumental part of this new committee. If you know of anyone with experience in administrative systems in an educational environment, please contact CNS, they need your input.

Dave Abler thanked the Jordans for their help on the academic committee. He addressed Codi's earlier question regarding inquiry. Inquiry is not mandatory for graduation. There is, however, a proposal to award inquiry, mentorship, and TALENT, elective credit. Revisions in the course load requirements may be necessary.

Carolyn Johnson spoke about the annual giving appeal. The e-mail appeal got off to a slow start as Carolyn just started her job in October. She and Jennifer replaced Michele Whetstone. Carolyn will be following up the e-mail campaign with a student calling session. Parent giving to the IMSA fund in the period beginning July 1 stands at \$1,145.

New Business

David Jordan noted that some zip codes in Illinois are not assigned to PAC regions. Sandy and David will look into this matter.

It was also noted that the downstate meeting did not have a quorum again this year. Although it is worthwhile to have a parent get-together, not having a quorum at the November PAC meeting every year is unproductive. We may need to consider changing the by-laws and eliminate the official downstate meeting. It has been suggested to replace the official meeting with two parent meetings per year possibly sponsored by the region reps. These meetings may be held in several different regions. They would not necessarily be held in parents' homes but may be held at Panera for example. The Jordans suggested placing the regular meetings of the PAC on the Web to help keep the parents informed. More discussion will follow.

Announcements

The next PAC Meeting is January 21, at IMSA.

Vangie Hovermale moved that the meeting be adjourned. Don Driscoll seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by: Kimberly Schmitt