

IMSA PAC MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 2006

(<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 December minutes were approved as written.

President's Report

Sandy reminded us that IMSA is 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. The January VIP Day is usually the better attended of the two VIP days. There were in excess of 500 in attendance in November. Please contact Sandy or Gina for details or to volunteer.

Downstate Coordinator

Dean reported that the bus committee meeting went well in December. We should have an official IMSA PAC bus coordinator before the end of this school year. He also said that Springfield needs new bus coordinators for their area. Barb added that the bus committee would present the final draft of their proposal at the next meeting.

Dean and Sandy also discussed the annual downstate PAC meeting. For the past several years this meeting was held in November. We have never had a quorum at this meeting. Although the parents do appreciate the informality of the meeting, we are not able to conduct business at this meeting. It has been suggested that we return to having all official PAC meetings at IMSA. This however, would require a change in the PAC by-laws. We would in turn like to encourage each PAC region to sponsor one or two get-togethers during the year in order to facilitate more communication between parents. Jim Gerry added that IMSA is capable of streaming the PAC meetings over the web. Are we ready to try this again? Broadband is much more widely used now than when we attempted this in the past. David Jordan added a suggestion to web cast the meetings at hotels in different regions. If you have any feedback you can contact Dean at Drake194@charter.net or Sandy at sshamman@adams.net.

Treasurer's Report

Varsha Pancholi confirmed that the PAC is incorporated and she is continuing to work on our non-profit status with the IRS. She is also in the process of writing the PAC budget for next year.

Metro Coordinator

Jody Bogdan reported that the informational meetings have been very well attended and applications this year have already exceeded last year's numbers for this point in time.

Multicultural

Felecia Bragg will be meeting with the new Multicultural coordinator this week to receive her instructions for her position.

Academic

David Jordan reported that the presentation on scheduling was videotaped and is posted on the website. Also, course selection papers with parents' signatures are due on February 28, 2006.

Communications

Barbara Kulbida asked that parents and PAC members e-mail her to provide input for the next newsletter. It will go out with quarter grades in March.

CAC

Kudos to the senior class and the CAC office for sending out over 1500 college applications. Gretchen clarified that IMSA does NOT calculate a GPA for any IMSA student. She said that the CAC office would be meeting with the juniors on February 1, to start their college application process. She wants to be sure that every parent e-mail address is included on PrepHQ, so that the parents are receiving the same information as the students. Next year's course descriptions are available on-line.

April 22, is our next college fair. Over 300 invitations have been mailed. Panera is coming again this year. Panera donated 50% of their profits for the day to the junior and senior classes last year. Jody Bogdan has 12 volunteers already on board for the College Fair. She needs a total of 20 – 25 people to help that day. Please e-mail her at talkaboutberners@sbcglobal.net if you available on Saturday, April 22.

A comment was made about PrepHQ not reflecting what the students had sent to their schools of choice. Gretchen is going to look into this.

Technology

Bob Kapicka reported that Bruce Biwer would be taking over his position next fall.

The problem with parent e-mail bouncing back was discussed again. The suggestion was made that every parent be given an IMSA e-mail account similar to what the students receive when they register.

Streaming graduation over the internet was discussed. It is not possible as the current graduation venue does not have broadband access. We may be able to make the videotape of graduation that is made every year available on-line. Please contact Bob with feedback.

Bob also noted that it is difficult to navigate the IMSA/PAC website. He suggested possibly splitting the PAC website into two sites, one accessible to parents of IMSA students and one more general PAC information page for non-parent viewers.

Student Life

Marsha Carter informed us that the next Friday Fest is scheduled for Super Bowl Sunday, February 5, at 4:30 pm. The theme is chili. She needs parents to provide chili in crock pots, cornbread, fruit veggies and desserts.

Marsha also shared that the Student Life Committee had a long discussion on how to develop more of a sense of family within the student body. It seems that over the past few years the students have become increasingly more connected with home and more disconnected with school. Much discussion ensued with a recurring question of "Is attending IMSA a right or a privilege?"

Gina Zager reported that the invitations to Senior Banquet will be mailed in February.

Discipline

Mitch Roth reported that discipline committee did not meet in January, but will meet in February to begin work on the Spring Survey on discipline.

Student Council Report

Codi Kuhlmeier reported that next week is Club week. Different clubs on campus are sponsoring events including a talent show during the week. Next Friday night is winter dance.

The following week is Clash of the Halls. Hall spirit events will include a pep rally, hot cocoa night, singled out, movie night and Titan wear night at the basketball game on Friday night, as well as judging for deck the halls competition.

Thursday, February 9, through February 12, the Student Council will be hosting a consortium on campus. 24 students from North Carolina, Missouri, and South Carolina will be spending four days on campus meeting with student council and attending various activities as well as classes on Monday. These students are from other residential schools. The student council hopes to share some of their ideas as well as learn from these students.

Alumni Association

Ande was not present.

IMSA Administration Comments

Eric McLaren is working on the 2006-2007 school calendar. The new calendar will largely mirror this year's calendar. The goal is to get a draft of the calendar on the web next week, with Board approval at their March meeting.

Eric would like to bring two specific things to our attention.

First, please read the recent IMSA Board Briefs carefully. The admissions policy has been the same for the last twenty years. The Board went to the experts in school admissions and asked what we needed to change in our policy. The revised policy will be presented in March and approved in May for use beginning in 2010.

Secondly, the Board has been considering strategic planning. This cycle of our strategic plan ends in 2006, with a new cycle set to begin in 2007. We have again contacted the expert in the field, Bill Cook. He helped devise our current mission and belief statements in 1986 and 1987. Our core identity is still the same, but our mission and beliefs may need to change to reflect where we want to be in relation to what is going on in the world right now. The current framework we are working under was developed by a leadership group. The present process will change to include cross-representation of staff, parents, and students on the planning team. Parents interested in working on the team can contact Gina or Sandy.

Intercession 2006 was a success. Eric has received positive feedback, but would like some more comments. More alumni taught Intercession classes this year.

The issue of the IHSA multiplier is still being resolved. It will affect us at the regional and sectional levels.

Linsey Crowninshield shared that a letter defining the vandalism that has been occurring on campus would be going out soon. There may be communal damage charges associated with the vandalism. There will also be an article in the Acronym about the vandalism. Regarding the vandalism, there was a res-life program in December on Rights or Privileges? What does society say?

Next week there will be a res-life program entitled "Empowering Women of Color." And February 1, the sophomores will have a leadership symposium. This is the first year that attendance has not been mandatory and attendance for the first program was about 50%. Linsey is hoping for an even better rate this time.

Jim Gerry reported that wireless equipment has been installed in the halls and beginning next week 18 CNS students will be testing the service. All students will have access in late February. Milton Chen will be here in May discussing how wireless technology will affect the classroom experience.

Next year's sophomores will be advised as to what computer to purchase. The following year, lap-top computers will be required for all entering sophomores. The students will own their equipment. IMSA is working with vendors to negotiate pricing. Discounts will be available to all students and staff. If you have a senior, you may want to look at what their college of choice is recommending rather than following IMSA recommendations

Plan B for dealing with the Accrux system is progressing.

The Illinois Computing Conference will be held on March 1, at Pheasant Run. Six IMSA students and school administration have been invited to participate and will attend.

Dave Abler reported that curriculum changes will be finalized soon. The most significant changes will be credit given for mentorship, inquiry, and TALENT, and the revision of the bio electives to include: molecular, organismic, and human anatomy/disease in addition to seminars.

Carolyn Johnson informed us that 23 out of 649 parents have given a total of \$14,945 thus far. She would like to focus on participation. So many grants and foundations want to know the percentage of parent and staff participation in giving. This fall her office e-mailed a general appeal. A letter went home with the grades. She is planning one more solicitation, probably a phone-a-thon.

Thursday March 9, the faculty-staff appreciation event is scheduled to take place at Mill Race Inn in Geneva. Last year the PAC donated three gift certificates, one for each class. Carolyn requested a donation for this year.

Old Business

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

New Business

Sandy read a list of tentative dates for next years PAC meetings. The list will be presented at the next meeting.

Announcements

The next PAC Meeting is February 4, at IMSA. The junior parents are responsible for treats.

Vangie Hovermale moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jody Bogdan seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by: Kimberly Schmitt