

IMSA PAC MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 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 January minutes were approved as written. Kim read a thank you note from Carolyn Johnson to the PAC for our donation of three \$50 gift certificates to be raffled off at the staff appreciation dinner on Thursday, March 9.

President's Report

Sandy reported that the January 29 VIP Day was a huge success. She thanked all of the parents who attended to answer questions and share information with the prospective families. There were over 900 people in attendance that day.

Downstate Coordinator

Dean Drake has sent an e-mail to the PAC region reps regarding the issue of a downstate meeting. Please let him know how you feel about this issue ASAP, especially if you have objections. He offered that the meetings held at the U of I had the best attendance. Perhaps we could hold the downstate meeting there and coordinate a tour of the campus, etc. In put was given regarding the downstate meeting. The need to keep in contact with the downstate parents was expressed, whether through an official downstate meeting or a more informal get-together held once per semester. Dean is also looking for new bussing coordinators for next year. He offered that the math placement exams were a great starting point for contact with the sophomore parents. Last year he attended the exam in Godfrey, IL, and the sophomore parents were very eager to receive practical information regarding life at IMSA. Please contact Barb Kulbida or Dean Drake if you would be interested in serving as bussing coordinator for your area.

Treasurer's Report

Varsha Pancholi did not have much to report after just two weeks. She had written two checks.

Metro Coordinator

Sandy Hamman requested volunteers for the College Fair for Jody Bogdan. 120 representatives are coming on April 22, and Jody needs 10-12 MORE volunteers to help that day. Please contact her if you are available.

Multicultural

There was no report.

Academic

David Jordan reported that the committee's presentation on the English and History departments' curriculum was videotaped and will be posted on the website. David noted that beginning next year the sophomore class will be spending less classroom time in History and more classroom time in English.

Communications

Barbara Kulbida again 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

There was no report.

Technology

Bob Kapicka asked us all to be good ambassadors for IMSA's new lap-top program. He reminded us that the recommended lap-tops will be available for purchase by the entire IMSA community.

Bob also addressed the issue of IMSA parent information being available on the internet. Some parents have begun to receive SPAM because of this. Discussion ensued and several options were offered including: phone numbers and e-mail listings are optional, a guest log-in situation, or a separate sign-in/log-in with a password. Sandy and Gina stressed the need for easy access to parents in order to keep good communication levels. Jim Gerry said that there are technical ways to address the SPAM and information availability issues. He will address these with the committee next month. Bob thanked everyone for the in-put.

Student Life

Kemi Beausoleil informed us that the next Friday Fest is scheduled for Super Bowl Sunday, February 5, at 4:30 pm. The theme is chili. The food is pretty well covered although more fruit or desserts would be appreciated. The next Friday Fest is on St. Patrick's Day.

The committee is discussing ways to get more parents involved. It seems that the same parents are participating each month.

Gina Zager reported that the invitations to Senior Banquet will be mailed next Saturday, February 11. Baby photos for the banquet can now be e-mailed to IMSApics@imsa.edu, or mailed to Gina Zager. Each student will receive seven tickets for the banquet: one for the student, and six additional.

Discipline

Don Driscoll reported for Mitch Roth that the committee is working on the Student Discipline survey and it will go out in late March or early April.

Student Council Report

Jennifer Zhan and Susan Xu reported that Clash of the Halls was a huge success. The winning Hall was 1501.

Thursday, February 9, through February 12, the Student Council and their new advisor, Germaine Taylor, will be hosting a consortium on campus. Five schools from North Carolina, Wisconsin, Indiana, and South Carolina will be spending four days on campus. They will be attending the hypnotist presentation, visiting Navy Pier, as well as having a PAC sponsored dinner on Thursday evening. These students are from other residential schools. The student council hopes to share some of their ideas as well as learn from these students. The student council is also trying to address the issue of vandalism on campus. An article will appear in the Acronym quoting the council and their feelings about the problem.

Alumni Association

Ande was not present.

IMSA Administration Comments

Eric McLaren thanked everyone for their help with the January VIP Day. He said 900 to 1000 people participated. The sign-up for the Kid's Institute programs was especially successful.

Eric shared that Kelly O'Sullivan had a beautiful baby boy, Michael Walter O'Sullivan. He was 7 lbs and 19.5".

A leadership symposium was held on February 1, 2006. The sessions were well attended and the highlight of the day was the student presentations. The staff has received both positive and negative feedback on the afternoon key-note speaker.

Over the extended break, there will be two days of faculty development sessions.

Thursday the topic will be a multi-cultural awareness, and Friday the "state of learning" will be discussed for the second time under Dr. Abler's direction. The staff is looking forward to being "immersed in data and conversation."

Eric also reiterated that he and other staff members would be more than happy to participate in informal conversations with downstate parents once a semester, if the PAC were to forego the annual downstate meeting.

Eric ended his portion of the meeting answering several questions from parents.

Dave Abler reported that curriculum changes have been finalized. The list of learning opportunities will be available for the students next week and they will be posted on the website by the extended in case your student forgets the paperwork at school. Please discuss the topic of course selection with your student over the extended. The changes regarding credit being given for mentorship, inquiry, and TALENT, are still being discussed.

Linsey Crowninshield reported that there has been a plateau in the level of vandalism on campus. She and Bob Hernandez have met with The Student Council about the vandalism and they will be discussing ways to be more pro-active in resolving the issue. Two articles regarding the vandalism were published in the latest Acronym. An expo will be held in February highlighting both physical and mental wellness. Linsey is very pleased with the 75% attendance rate to the res-life programming. She reminded us that upperclassmen are not required to attend. Please remember to call ahead if you know that your student will be absent. Please do NOT call at 3 am to avoid speaking to a staff person. Due to the faculty development sessions, Linsey, Eric, Bob and others may be in the halls for extended check-out. Eric would appreciate it if you would have three forms of identification ready for him. Linsey is working on staff development also over the extended. She is also planning a first ever res-life drive-in workshop, for res-life staff development.

Grandpa Jim Gerry informed us that his granddaughter is home and doing well. He also conveyed that the leadership symposium was a very powerful and moving event for him. Jim suggested that we look into a DVD presentation for the Senior Banquet rather than the traditional power-point.

The wireless internet system is progressing. Tuesday evening the CNS crew met and two students in each hall were given PDA's to report illegal wireless use. In about two weeks, 18-20 CNS students will be given wireless capabilities in order to test the system. Plan B for replacement of the administrative computer system is also moving along. Certain requirements are being looked at, the most important of which is parental access to the system for things like attendance and grades.

Jim reminded us that Milton Chen of Edutopia, the George Lucas foundation for technology in education, is coming to IMSA on May 16 and May 17. He will speak to the students on Tuesday, the public on Tuesday evening, and the faculty on Wednesday. Six IMSA students will be attending the IL computing Conference to serve on a panel for the administrative workshop.

Jim clarified that laptops will be required of sophomores beginning in 2008. They will be available for purchase from an IMSA approved provider. There will be a base model required, but upgraded models will also be available. The entire IMSA community will be able to purchase these laptops.

Carolyn Johnson thanked the PAC again for their donation to the faculty-staff appreciation event scheduled for Thursday March 9, at Mill Race Inn in Geneva.

She reported that as of July 1, 2005, the beginning of IMSA's fiscal year, we have a 4% participation rate in giving. Last year we had a 50% participation rate. She cited the fact that she did not start her job until October and her colleague did not start until November for some of the discrepancy in the numbers. She will be conducting one more solicitation which will include a mailing and then a follow-up phone call if no response is made to the letter. Any level of gift is appreciated. Participation is the key.

Carolyn also shared that the alumni are actively planning their reunion weekend scheduled for June 24.

Old Business

David Jordan had reminded us that some zip codes in Illinois are not assigned to PAC regions. We assigned the following zip-codes to the following regions: 608 to Region 8, 607 to Region 6, 621 to Region 4. Mary Jordan moved and Marsha Carter seconded that we approve these additions. David Jordan will update these on the PAC website.

New Business

Sandy thanked the junior parents for treats. She pointed out that the expense for coffee service was exorbitant; therefore the PAC has purchased two coffee makers and will be making coffee for meetings.

If your region is planning a get-together, please contact Sandy or Barb to get the information in the next newsletter. E-mail addresses of prospective sophomores from your region will be available for the purpose of inviting them to a region get-together. Stay in touch with what is going on at IMSA by getting a copy of the Acronym sent to your home.

Sandy reminded us that if you are not receiving e-mails from IMSA, you need to contact the office. As many as 25% of all e-mail sent by the administration is being bounced back. Don Driscoll suggested that work service students call parents of bounced back e-mails to get new e-mail addresses.

Mary Jordan brought up the subject of recycling in the residence halls. Much discussion ensued with comments from Jennifer Zhan and Linsey. Linsey stated that recycling is not a part of nightly housekeeping chores in several wings. This approach may be adopted school wide. Linsey will follow-up on other options with Stephanie Chang the head of LORAX, the school's environmental club.

Announcements

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

Bob Kapicka moved that the meeting be adjourned. Vangie Hovermale seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by: Kimberly Schmitt