

IMSA PAC MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2006

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

Co-President Kim Schmitt called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum. There was a correction to the April minutes; Jon Koch is not the new treasurer for Student Council. Marsha Carter moved to approve the corrected minutes, Lucinda Dittmer seconded. The April minutes were approved as corrected.

President's Report

Sandy thanked all staff and faculty for their thank you gifts. Kim reported from the IMSA Board Briefs that IMSA will be celebrating its' Twentieth Anniversary on Columbus Day Weekend, with a full schedule of events and Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall will be retiring at the end of the '07 school year. A volunteer form for the June 6th placement breakfast at IMSA was passed around. We will be providing placement breakfast at the remote sites. The Fernandez family in Marion will open their home, and Champaign was looking for someone to sponsor their breakfast. Orientation weekends will take place on July 8th and August 5th at which reps from each region will try to attend.

Downstate Coordinator

All downstate reps and alternates were called to confirm that they would remain for next year. Senior reps are needed in Regions 3 and 5; junior reps are needed in region 1. Bus Coordinator handbooks were sent out to Area Coordinators.

Treasurer's Report

Varsha Pancholi reported that Senior Banquet payments were received and that payment was made to the Carlyle. See treasurers report.

Metro Coordinator

There was no report.

Student Council Report

There was no report because they were getting ready for Prom.

Alumni Association

Carolyn Johnson reported that planning was on track for Alumni Weekend, Saturday June 24.

Academic

Linda Biwer will be the Chair of the Academic Committee next year. At today's meeting, they were presented with the results of the analysis of how well the Scientific Inquiry test determines a students understanding of SI

CAC

Gretchen Stauder in her last report stated that rising seniors will have their schedules before school lets out and juniors will get theirs with final grades. Junior parent meetings about the college process were underway. She and Philip Trout would be leaving at the end of June.

Communications

Barbara Kulbida again asked that parents and PAC members e-mail her to provide input for the next newsletter and for someone who would like to take over.

Multicultural

Josephine Herrera-Miller held a meeting with James Valdez where ideas for the new school year were discussed.

Student Life

Marsha Carter reported that the special interest dorm was dropped due to lack of interest by students. All packets and paperwork need to be in by July 1st for next year. Paula Altacruse gave a presentation at the Committee meeting about a new tutorial program set up for students at risk. There will be peer tutors available on Monday through Thursday evenings, and a supervised evening study program in the main building. Any student with a grade of 'D' or multiple 'C's will be required to attend. In addition, any students who have difficulty staying on task, seek help, or are overstressed can participate. Students will be informed when they must participate. At present, we have 39 students with a failing grade and 43 with multiple Cs. Athletic eligibility will still be governed by IHSA rules. This is believed to create a better monitor of student work and classroom expectations. Finals Fest will be on May 25. We will be Bar-B-Queing and picnicking outside, weather permitting. Volunteers are needed from 4:30PM to 8:30PM. Finals Fest officially opens at 6:00PM. Allison Boldrige and Ann Iglesias are the new PAC Friday Fest Coordinators.

Senior Banquet

Gina and Lucinda will meet with the Carlisle next week. Attendance is down this year to 588 from a high of 900+ last year, although orders are still coming in and they will accept reservations as long as possible. Since PAC cannot carry a balance over to the next year unless allocated, we will allocate \$3000 for carryover for next year's banquet. A motion was made that we "Transfer \$3000 to the Senior Banquet Account." Varsha Pancholi motioned to approve, Marsha Cater seconded and the motion was approved by voice vote unanimously. As of today, 184 seniors are graduating. The speakers at the banquet will be Dr. Kiley, Dr. Skinner and Ms. Cain.

Technology

Bruce Biwer is the new chairperson. The laptop has been chosen for the 1 to 1 initiative, a replacement for ACRUX has been found. The faculty was invited to a meeting where they were shown the various uses.

Discipline

Kathy Schmidt reported that the Ad Hoc Discipline Committee would continue for one more year. This decision was made at their last meeting. A survey is being sent out, hopefully Sunday, to gather opinion about the revised discipline policy. An Alumni parent is needed to sit on the board that considers dismissal appeals.

IMSA Administration Comments

Eric McLaren thanked PAC for their efforts during Faculty/Staff Appreciation Week, specifically Gina Zager for her help providing the treats for Student Council to distribute. He announced that Dr. Marshall is retiring from the IMSA Board as of 6/30/07. The board is identifying the process for searching for the new president. The selection process for the class of 2009 has finished and letters to prospective students have gone out. The annual IMSA Board Retreat is coming up and on the agenda is a new admission policy for the class of 2010. The new plan is to change the nature of the selection process and consider only the math component of the SAT, not the composite score. Advanced placement testing will take place with many candidates participating. Eric introduced Pat Furlong, who will speak later about student fee changes. Eric ended his portion of the meeting by thanking all the current Senior Parents who have served IMSA, the students and PAC throughout their student's IMSA years.

Bob Hernandez reported that the 2006 Prom went very well with 216 students attending. They all returned safely to IMSA at 3AM. He also politely begged that all seniors remain on best behavior because they would like all 184 to cross the stage on Graduation Day. All forms for continuing students are due on June 1 and reinvitations are expected to go out one week later.

Pat Furlong, the CFO of IMSA spoke and presented a handout about the new student fee structure. The results were based in part on a survey sent to eighty families. Pat reported that fees increase an average of 7.5% annually, 1/3 of students receive a reduction in student fees, and 3/4 of IMSA money comes from the State. With these limits, IMSA tries to 'squirrel away' some funds for emergency expenses. The IMSA Advancement Office plays an increasingly important role in the IMSA funding package. Because of all the components of funding and wanting to be able to more accurately control costs, a new fee structure has been developed. For the coming year and after, costs for each grade level will be averaged over the three year period of attendance, preventing parent sticker shock. Each class will pay the same fee amount all three years that they attend.

Jim Gerry thanked Gina for her help over the years. He released some information about the tablet PC that IMSA is looking at for students to purchase. It is a Toshiba tablet with additional memory, bundled software, possibility of additional batteries, three year warranty and loaner service. At this time it is being offered to Sophomores but will be available to other students for purchase. Bruce Dixon came here to talk with Jim about his tablet laptop experience. He reported that we now have wireless access at IMSA.

They are piloting this with eight teachers who are in the process of modifying their curriculum to accommodate tablet use. In the future, he sees students using electronic books. Jim announced that a replacement was chosen for the ACRUX system. The new system is called Power School. Milton Chen will be here on Tuesday at 7PM and his presentation will be video taped and streamed on the IMSA web site.

Carolyn Johnson reported that the IMSA Fund had a 13% parent participation rate. In the past three weeks, the rate has increased by 19%. The fiscal year ends on June 30, so there is still time to contribute. On Tuesday, the new baseball dugouts will be dedicated in memory of IMSA Alum, Javal Shah, whose family donated the dugouts in his honor. On Tuesday there will be a ceremony followed by a reception and then a game.

Announcements

The next PAC Meeting is September 30, at IMSA. The PAC will be responsible for treats.

Nobel Redmon moved that the meeting be adjourned. Leslie LeResche seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by: Barbara Kulbida