

IMSA PAC MEETING MINUTES
November 11, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Co-President, Kim Schmitt at 10:00am. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present. The minutes of the October meeting were approved as written.

President's Report: None

Vice President's Report: None

Secretary's Report: None

Treasurer's Report:

Gary Dittmer reported that all payments for picnics have been completed. Major expenses in the future will be mainly for Friday Fests and the Senior Banquet. Details are always available on the printed Treasurer's report.

Regional Coordinators:

Downstate Coordinator, Noble Redmon encouraged regional reps to try to schedule informational coffees starting in January. A particularly successful coffee was held in Region 7 at a local coffee shop in Addison, on a Wednesday evening. 15 parents attended. Topics discussed included parenting from a distance, driving school, RC's, train options, grades. A follow-up coffee will be scheduled in February. Noble also reminded us that current IMSA parents are needed to attend the Local Informational Meetings held in the regions to assist in recruiting future IMSA students.

Metro Coordinator: No report.

Student Council Report:

John Li reported on the Veteran's Day program. A particularly moving element was the use of IMSA students who represented members of the armed services who had sacrificed their lives in the current war in Iraq. Other activities during the past month were mentioned, including the taste of Asia Friday Fest, the student exchange program with visiting students from the Korean Math and Science Academy, and the Math Society Lock-In. Weekend trips are now available on a regular basis to Woodfield Mall and Downtown Chicago. Course Evaluation Guides, especially related to electives, are being updated for aid in scheduling. A "restaurant in" activity was scheduled with Chipotle. Meetings continue with Sodexo.

Administration Report

This was a particularly busy Saturday at IMSA. Dr. McLaren reported that the Illinois Junior Academy of Science was holding their Breakfast Award's Ceremony prior to the beginning of Preview Day. Holding the event at IMSA is a powerful recruitment tool for Middle School students who are considering application to IMSA.

Presidential Search: The Board will hear a presentation by the Search firm at their next meeting. The search process will be outlined with hopes of a new President to be announced in the March/April timeframe.

Strategic Planning: Committees are working. There is an effort to increase the involvement of students and parents. The first round of plans is due in January. Teams will revise these as necessary to present their final recommendations in March. The Board will review these recommendations in April.

Intercession Assignments: Hopefully these will be available before the Thanksgiving Break. The catalogue is online.

Power School: This has demanded many hours of time and effort for the Staff. Initial reactions seem positive. Students like to use it to gauge their progress, but have mixed feelings about parental reactions and access to information. PAC parents were encouraged to submit ideas for conversation starters to enable parents discussions with students that are hoped to be fruitful instead of frightful.

CAC Report: (note: the following information was provided in written form by the CAC dept.)

1. SAT's went well on 11/4 and all 69 IMSA students ate breakfast before the tests. We will continue with the practice from now on.
2. All sophomore CAC meetings are scheduled for 11/15 at 12:30pm. The agenda will include: follow-up on career explorations homework, discussion of college options, IMSA graduation requirements.
3. Second semester drop/add week will take place during the week of 12/11/2006.
4. The CAC office has already processed and set out 387 senior application requests (transcripts, secondary school reports, and counselor's letters of recommendation). This number includes 187 November 1 requests. There are 470 pending requests in the CAC office with December or January due dates.
5. 50 people attended Financial Aid night. Video of the presentation is on the IMSA CAC website.
6. Student Inquiry and Mentorship have merged into one program, Student Inquiry and Research, under the coordination of Dr. Judy Scheppler.
7. The TALENT program now offers a variety of components. These include, but are not limited to existing IMSA courses like Micro Economics, Applied Engineering, and SSF, field trips to universities or Venture Capital meetings, specialized courses like the upcoming, "Selling, Pitching, and Presenting".
8. IMSA is searching for a part-time Chinese language instructor to provide an after school, non-credit learning experience for students in Mandarin Chinese.
9. All sophomores took the Defining Issues Test II (DIT II) in September. The DIT II is an objective measure related to the development of moral judgment. A representative sample of sophomore students took the IMSA combined version of the View's of Nature of Science (VNOS) and the Views of Scientific Inquiry (VOSI) in September. The VNOS and VOSI are measures developed by Norman Lederman and have been used extensively in students by Dr. Lederman and other researchers in the field of science education.

Committee Reports

1. **Academic:** Linda Biwer reported that the entire Wellness team presented the program overview. Health issues, time management, sleep, stress management and good eating habits are being emphasized. Clay Sewell represented the Fine Arts team. The parent turnout for these presentations has been miniscule. There was discussion as to how better to publicize and increase attendance. The Math Department will present information on **December 9th**. The academic meetings are at **9:00 AM** in room **A150**.
2. **Communication:** Co-President Barb Kulbida reported that there would be an attempt to post the PAC Newsletter online, as well as email the link to parents in a bulk email, for better communication. As always, articles are welcomed from PAC members.
3. **Multicultural:** No report

4. **Student Life:** Marsha Carter reported that Friday Fest continues to be a huge success, with the last bite of food offered to the last student in line! December 15th will be the next event. Sub Sandwiches will be purchased and donations of fruit, vegetables, and deserts are requested. We still need a coordinator for Parent Partners, and some wings are in need of Wing Representatives. Reminders to parents to please pick up your students when they are ill and do not bring them back until they are well.
5. **Senior Banquet:** Lucinda Dittmer reported that this committee will meet after each regularly scheduled PAC meeting. Subcommittees are up and running and doing very well. The Senior Club will determine the theme on December 1st.
6. **Technology:** Bruce Biver presented an excellent summary as this committee continues to generate quite a bit of discussion. Power School is felt to be a great resource for parents. Glitches are being worked on. All teachers will be using Power School second semester. The use of Moodle, a file-sharing tool, is being explored as well. It requires an IMSA log-in. If you wish to use this resource, you must call (907-5995) for instructions. 30 new projectors that are network enabled are available as part of the tablet PC initiative. Regrettably, Ed Moyer, who was heading the Tablet PC initiative, has taken a new position at the Proviso Math and Science Academy. IMSA is searching for a replacement for Mr. Moyer. Dr. Abler would like parent input on revisions regarding curriculum and assessment. This will require access to Moodle as well.
7. **Discipline:** No report
8. **Parent Navigation:** Instead of continuing to meet on a regular basis, the use of Moodle for discussion of common questions will be pursued. However, there will be a meeting of this committee at the next PAC meeting, December 9, but at a new time of 11:30, following the PAC meeting.

Old Business

1. **Carolyn Johnson: Advancement Office** Carolyn gave an IMSA Fund update. We are still hoping for at least 75% parent participation. Many activities for that benefit all the students come from this fund, as well as the entire PAC budget. The fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th, but many parents like to give at the end of the calendar year. Please get the word out. We are now at 15.4% participation. A text will be sent to region reps via email for dissemination. Please remind people that all gifts are tax deductible. At the time of this report, at total of \$13,826 has been donated. There will be a parent phone-a-thon in the spring. To get on the "do not call" list, you simply have to make a donation before the phone-a-thon!

New Business

Paula Altekruise, Coordinator of Academic Support, gave an extensive presentation regarding her department. There are so many aspects of support for our students that come into play from the beginning of summer orientation, until graduation. Perhaps the first thing that students need to come to a realization of, and maintain for the duration of their IMSA experience is that everything they ever thought they knew about learning and education is going to change in this new environment. They must take charge of their learning. A handout was provided regarding Academic Resources for All. These include, but are not limited to peer tutors, teachers, RC's, the entire Math Department, the Math study area, the Writing Center, the IRC (library), Mrs. Altekruise (learning specialist), Ms. Townsend (writing specialist), the entire Counseling staff, and the CAC's. The Writing Center is a fun place to study for many subject areas. The IRC has presentation help available during the day and students are urged to use

the many books, as they are sometimes faster than the Web! Learning specialists take appointments. The Counselors have techniques to share regarding stress management and test taking. Tutoring is built into IMSA resources. We were reminded not to overreact to individual grades on Powerschool. Also, parents were informed that at mid-quarter, if a student is really failing in a subject, a team is formed and someone from that team becomes an advocate for the student for follow-up. A plan is put in place and goals for improvement are developed and monitored. Students should be encouraged to use this department to maximize their IMSA experience.

Announcements

December 9th will be the next scheduled PAC meeting in the Academic Pit. Sophomore Parent Reps are responsible for refreshments. The meeting will be from 10:00am to 11:30 am.

Marsha Carter moved that the meeting be adjourned. Vangie Hovermale seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

A presentation by SIR (Dr. Judy Scheppler) and TALENT () was given to interested parents.

As many parents as were able were then encouraged to adjourn to the Old Cafeteria to meet with parents of prospective IMSA students as part of the Preview Day program.

Respectfully submitted by:
Vera Koch, PAC Secretary