

IMSA PAC MEETING MINUTES  
January 27, 2007  
(<http://parents.imsa.edu>)

The January PAC meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by President, Kim Schmitt. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum. A motion to accept the December meeting minutes was made by Leslie LaResche and seconded by Vangie Hovermale.

**President's Report**

Kim Schmitt reported on the December IMSA Board meeting and reminded all of us that the general meeting is an open meeting and parents are welcome to attend. The Board meets every other month, with the next scheduled meeting to be March 14, 2007. The December meeting included the report from the outside review of the Wellness, Fine Arts and World Languages Departments. Each department undergoes review every 5 years by a team of outside reviewers to make suggestions on improvement as well as note areas that are excellent and should remain the same.

The Strategic Action plans have been turned in and the planning committee will review these plans during January.

An upcoming IMSA 20 event will be held at Tellabs on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Tables of 10 are available and there will be a PAC table. Tickets to the event are \$250 per person. Please contact Kim if you are interested in purchasing a ticket for the event and sitting at the PAC table.

The PAC received a note from the family of Colin Woods, for the plant we sent to express our collective sympathy. Please continue to keep the family in your thoughts and prayers. They also expressed a desire to stay in touch with students and families at IMSA who were friends of Colin.

Co-President, Barb Kulbida reported on the recent hiring of a new chef for Sodexo. Student Council will remain involved in continued discussion on menus and food quality and variety.

**Vice-President's Report**

Kim reported in DD McInerney's absence that the Downstate Meeting would be held March 10. It is suggested that if you need a hotel room for the weekend in Champaign (U of I Engineering Open House) that you make your reservation soon. An all-parent e-mail will be sent out with links regarding meeting details, restaurants, things to do in the area, etc.

**Treasurer's Report**

Gary Dittmer presented the report. The Friday Fest continues to be very popular with the student's resulting in continued expense to supplement food donations from parents. The Insurance Bond and Non-Profit Status have both been renewed. The first expense for the Senior Banquet (down-payment for photo albums) was reported. There was a deposit from the IMSA fund for \$15,417.85. Continued anticipated expenses will be Friday Fest and the Banquet.

**Downstate Coordinator**

Noble Redmon reported that an effort to recruit Region Reps. is continuing. Bus Coordinators have been established for most routes for next year. It is his desire for the Summer Picnics to be scheduled by the end of the school year to enable parents to place these dates on their calendars. Discussion regarding encouraging alumni/alumni families to attend is often helpful as well.

**Metro Coordinator**

Pat Davenport is in the process of establishing Metro Parent Reps for next year.

**Student Council**

John Li reported that Intercession was largely a success. The group of students that participated in the Habitat for Humanity project is currently featured on Satellite Channel 1. The Clash of Halls will be February 26-March 2 and will feature a variety of activities, pep rally, talent show, etc. Five Student

Council members will attend the Consortium meeting at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in mid-February. They will have the opportunity to attend classes as well as participate in the scheduled meetings. Discussion was then held regarding operation of the Mail room (hours, process for receiving packages, etc.) with a general request that Student Council encourage/request better processing of mail. Timely package delivery seems to be the biggest issue at this time. Dr. Hernandez suggested that parents initiate discussion with specific complaints, directly to Pat Furlong, VP of Business Affairs.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Academic**

Julia Husen presented later in the meeting.

#### **Communications**

Barb Kulbida continues to seek someone to write the PAC Newsletter next year.

#### **Multicultural**

No report

#### **Student Life**

Marcia Carter reported on several items. Talks continue with Sodexo regarding healthier food choices available to the students and menu variety. Male students seem to be doing better at wearing appropriate clothing, but female students are reminded to dress appropriately for the weather and reminded that mini-skirts and very short shorts are also not appropriate for the school day. Marcia would like to recruit a new Student Life Coordinator for next year. Ann Iglesias and Allison Boldrige will remain in charge of Friday Fest. Ann and Allison reported that the December Friday Fest was well attended and are anticipating a large attendance at the Super Bowl Fest on Sunday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. Parents are always needed to help serve and clean up.

#### **Senior Banquet**

Lucinda Dittmer thanked the members of the team responsible for compilation of the Photo CD. Invitations will be mailed after the February PAC meeting. A meeting of the Sr. Banquet committee was to take place after the PAC meeting.

#### **Technology**

Bruce Biber reported that data is being compiled from the group of students who participated in the 35-day experiment utilizing the Tablet PC's in a variety of environments and activities. Discussion regarding laptop choices for next year continues as Staff requests for use in the classroom continues to change. All teachers are required to use Powerschool during the second semester. If you are looking for last semester's grades and teacher comments, you will find them in the History folder. The use of Moodle will be discussed at the next meeting of the Technology committee, at 9 am on February 24<sup>th</sup>. David and Mary Jordan then gave a detailed explanation of the Robotics Competition (see: [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org) for detailed information about the national competition). IMSA students are building a robot and needed help from parents to build a practice rack for the task they will be expected to perform at the competition, to be held at the University of Chicago Pavilion, the weekend of March 15-17.

A lengthy discussion of Powerschool was initiated by several parent reps, including the request that syllabi would be available on the Powerschool site. It was suggested by Dr. Hernandez that parents communicate directly with Colleen in the Principals office (630-907-5053) to voice questions, suggestions, and concerns with the Powerschool Implementation team. At this point in time, 40% of parents who have access to the Internet still have not looked at student grades using Powerschool.

#### **Discipline**

Don Driscoll reported that Keith McIntosh had developed a list of mitigating circumstances, enabling some flexibility in leveling punishments. An email is supposed to be distributed. The suggestion was

made that a non-binding resolution vote that lends support to the list of mitigating circumstances could be entertained at the next PAC meeting.

### **Administration Report**

Dr. Bob Hernandez reported today. Dr. McLaren was in California at an IMSA Alumni event.

Presidential Search: In a few weeks, updates will be sent out. It is projected that a new president will be named by July 1, 2007.

The Hollister Lecture (in honor of Bernie Hollister, an original IMSA instructor) will be held February 7, 2007. IMSA Alum, Michael Broady, Assistant Director of Homeland Security in Illinois, will give the lecture at 1:00pm in the Auditorium

The calendar for the next school year is currently in draft form. Tentative date for graduation of the class of 2008 will be May 31<sup>st</sup>.

FYI: February 14 will be a C day. There will be no I day that week.

James Valdez, who was in charge of Minority Relations, has resigned. A new position of Assistant Director of Enrollment Management/Coordinator of Multicultural Development has been created and applicants will be interviewed to fill this position.

An external review of IMSA security has recently been completed and a report will be issued.

### **New Business**

Kim reminded Region Reps to reserve shelters now for picnics in the early summer.

PAC officer nominations are being taken with a slate to be presented at the February meeting. This slate will be voted on at the April meeting. Please let Kim or Barb know if you know of anyone who might be interested in holding an office.

An item of note is the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics website (ncssm.edu). They have an interesting Parent website and there may be an attempt to develop a relationship with their organization in light of the relationship being established with our Student Council.

Carolyn Johnson spoke to in regards to updates on the IMSA Fund. She invited us to participate in the next IMSA20 event at Tellabs. Many awards will be given that night to past Alumni.

The Phone A Thon was explained. A handout was distributed and discussed. This will take place during the month of March. We will need many volunteer callers. The more callers we have, the less the number of phone calls each person will need to make. Please call Carolyn Johnson to volunteer ([cjohnson@imsa.edu](mailto:cjohnson@imsa.edu) or 630-907-5041). All training materials will be distributed at the Feb.24 PAC meeting or can be mailed to volunteer's homes. The manual will include guidelines for calls, a script to follow, FAQ's, etc. All calls are to be completed by March 25<sup>th</sup>.

We really need to step this program into high gear in order to come anywhere near the goal of 75% parent participation. Currently we are at 22.2%.

### **CAC**

Julia Husen took a break from oversight of the SAT exam being held at IMSA to give us a very complete explanation of the **Course Selection** process for next year. Meetings were to be held on January 31, including presentations from the faculty to review options for next year. The course offerings are also online for parents to be able to view and discuss. Visit the IMSA CAC main page and look for the link to learning options. Then find 2007-2008 Course Offerings.

New courses include:

Mathematics: **Theory of Analysis** and **Computer Science in Emerging Technology**

Science: 2 new **seminars** for **seniors** with very strict pre-requisites

English: **Gender Studies** and **IMSATube: Non-Fiction Video Production**

History: **History of Technology and Culture** and **Women and Power**

World Languages: **Literature and Language Through Culture** and **Explorations in Linguistics** (these are electives only and do not fulfill the World Language requirement)

Fine Arts: Band will be split into two offerings: **Concert Band** and **Wind Ensemble**

Orchestra will be split into two offerings: **String Orchestra** and **Chamber Strings**.

Wellness: **Individual Physical Fitness**

Students must sign up for individual meetings with their CAC and these meetings must be completed by February 26. Parents must discuss course options with their students and also sign the course selection form.

Counselor assignments have been re-distributed for next year so that CAC's have a better chance at knowing their students. This becomes very important when a CAC must write a letter of recommendation for College entrance, as these letters must be thoughtful and meaningful.

College meetings for rising Seniors will begin February 26<sup>th</sup>, until April 20<sup>th</sup>, in preparation for the College Fair here at IMSA on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Please check on the PrepHQ site for more information.

We were reminded that College Application monitoring is a two way street. Each college/university tracks incoming applications uniquely. It is important to monitor this process using PrepHQ on a regular basis. The CAC's are very happy to fax information to a school, if necessary (ie. in regards to a piece of missing information that had previously been sent, etc.).

### **Announcements**

The Jordan family and the Robotics Students participating in the FIRST competition invited us to view a demonstration of the Robot, as well as asked for volunteers to help build the practice rack after the meeting.

The next PAC meeting will be Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the Academic Pit.

Mary Jordan made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ann Iglesias seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vera Koch  
Secretary