

# Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy®

*igniting and nurturing creative, ethical, scientific minds that advance the human condition*

**IMSA Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
September 10, 2012  
8:30 a.m.-12 noon  
Horwitz Conference Room  
Minutes**

## **Call to Order**

Chairman Griffin called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

## **Roll Call**

Ms. Veal called the roll.

**Members Present:** Sheila Griffin, Jay Budzik (via teleconference), Steven Isoye and Jack McEachern

**Staff Present:** Max McGee, Mary Spreitzer and Cathy Veal

**Members Absent:** Mary Kalantzis, Luis Núñez, Paula Olszewski-Kubilius, Erin Roche, Marsha Rosner, Christopher Koch, Geoffrey Obrzut, George Reid and James Rydland

Absent a quorum, Trustees agreed to go into closed session as a Committee of the Whole.

## **Closed Session Held**

## **Reconvene in Open Session**

The Board reconvened in open session at 9:45 a.m.

## **Roll Call**

Ms. Veal called the roll. A quorum was not present.

**Members Present:** Sheila Griffin, Steven Isoye, Jay Budzik (via Adobe Connect) Jack McEachern, Marsha Rosner, George Reid and James Rydland

**Members Absent:** Mary Kalantzis, Luis Núñez, Paula Olszewski-Kubilius (joined via Adobe Connect at 10:59 a.m.), Erin Roche, Christopher Koch and Geoffrey Obrzut

**Liaisons Present:** Stephanie Pace Marshall for IMSA Fund Board of Directors, Ron Kimberling for IMSA Parents Association Council, Kevin Zhang for IMSA Student Council, Dan Gleason for IMSA Faculty and Melvin Bacani for IMSA Alumni Association

## **Chairman's Remarks**

Chairman Griffin reported on the following "Good News" items:

- 1) Alumna Kathleen Plinske, IMSA '97, was recently recognized as Outstanding Female of the Year in *Orlando Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 competition. She is president of Valencia College's Osceola and Lake Nona campuses.
- 2) IMSA sophomores contributed nearly 450 hours of community service during the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Day of Service on August 22<sup>nd</sup>
- 3) IMSA Trustees' achieved 100% participation in the FY12 annual giving campaign for the IMSA Fund and in "friendly competition" beat the IMSA Fund Board of Directors. Chairman Griffin asked Trustees to make their FY13 gift before the end of the calendar year so that staff and volunteers can carry the 100% participation message forward in the second half of the fiscal year.
- 4) IMSA will dedicate the "Gail Lieberman Memorial Reflective Garden," a donor-funded landscaping project approaching the west main entrance of the academic building. This brick patio with benches and raised bed areas of plants will be an inviting space for conversation, study and relaxation and a fitting tribute to Ms. Lieberman's exemplary service to the State of Illinois, including the key role she played in IMSA's start-up as a member of Governor Thompson's education staff.

## **Board Business – Action Item**

Minutes July 18, 2012 Board Meeting Closed Session

Chairman Griffin announced that the July 18, 2012 closed session minutes were reviewed in today's closed session and would be voted on at the next Board meeting where a quorum is present.

## **Reports of Liaisons**

### ***Faculty***

Dan Gleason highlighted two of many faculty summer projects: 1) SI Biology online courses for sophomores who did not master content, developed by Don Dosch, Sarah O'Leary, and Megan Schrementi; he noted a 90% successful completion rate with a need to determine how to handle the other 10% of the students (Strategy 2) consulting work by History Teacher Lee Eysturlid on content and curriculum development for a charter school system run by AVISTA in the Albany Park-Mayfair area (Strategy 3).

### ***Student Council***

Kevin Zhang reported on student research projects at various Chicago area institutions and organizations (Strategy 2), beginning the Leadership Education and Development (Lead) program for the Class of 2015 (Strategies 2 and 1) and the August 27 legislative panel discussion on education reform during which students had the opportunity to ask questions of the visiting legislators (Strategy 1).

### ***Parents Association Council***

Ron Kimberling said PAC continues to partner with the IMSA Fund for developing parent donations in support of Strategy 6, goals for 2012-2013 have been set which includes a 50% participation rate, regional representatives have been recruited for the downstate regions and most of the metro area regions, bus routes are being mapped, and Julie Geldner is chairing an ad hoc committee to draft proposed Bylaws changes.

### ***Alumni***

Melvin Bacani spoke of electing new board members in July, holding a cabinet planning retreat on September 29, working with Linsey Crowninshield and Elissa Larkin '99 to explore opportunities to engage students in service (Strategy 1) including the SkyRise Chicago event, a stair climb up the Willis Tower with proceeds benefiting the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago where Eric McLaren spent some time this year.

### ***IMSA Fund***

Stephanie Pace Marshall reviewed financial information, fund raising work and Board governance and operational activities. She said alumni and parents' participation rates exceeded previous years, King Harris is hosting a luncheon for us, new business models are being explored and a new finance manager for the Development team and IMSA Fund began at the end of August.

### **Report of the Treasurer**

Patrick Furlong said a portion of IMSA's FY12 EAF encumbered appropriation was unspent for various reasons including the complex and cumbersome requirements of the State's new procurement procedures and will be returned to the State after prompt pay interest payments are made. He pointed out that the unspent portions of the Income Fund and Locally Held Fund remain available to spend in subsequent years as do most, but not all, of the Special Purpose Grant Funds. He said spending for FY13 is slightly ahead of last year and IMSA was pleased to be back under higher education for procurement purposes. Trustee McEachern asked about the State's slow payment of bills. Mr. Furlong acknowledged this is still a problem and some vendors will not do business with the Academy.

### **Report of the President**

Dr. McGee noted that one factor contributing to the lack of a quorum is the Chicago teachers strike, causing Trustee Roche to have to stay at his school. He said Trustee Kalantzis was back at work and eager to return to her IMSA Board duties. He said Diana Sharp did a fine job at Convocation, thanked Ron Kimberling and Bob Hernandez for a successful Parents Day and thanked Diane Hinterlong for coordinating staff. He announced that Dr. Yusra Visser would conduct an online teaching and learning professional development workshop for staff and faculty on September 12 and thanked Trustee Rydland for his assistance. He spoke of hosting IMSA's first Legislative Panel of the year discussing "Education Reform" attended by Representatives Linda Chapa LaVia and Kimberly duBuclet along with about 110 students, and he invited the Board to attend the second Legislative Panel on September 17, "The Race to College: Closing the Achievement Gap" with expected legislators Rep. Mary Flowers, Rep. Ken Dunkin, Rep. Daniel Biss, Sen. Linda Holmes, and Sen. Toi Hutchinson.

## **Action Items – discussed but not voted on due to lack of quorum**

### ***Consent Agenda***

#### ***President's Goals for FY13***

Dr. McGee said the six goals listed in the Report of the President were developed with input from the Board, his leadership team and the President's Management Council to ensure high quality leadership in the future. He said along with the goals, professional development would be provided for IMSA leaders, measures and deliverables discussed in closed session would be added and goals would be published after the Board votes. He noted the importance of frequent communications with the Board and working at the policy level. He discussed completing the strategic plan, personalized learning measures and deliverables, piloting different types of student inquiry and research opportunities, online teaching and learning, scholarship and policies with incentives, and private sector funding.

Chairman Griffin commented that these were ambitious goals and some might take longer than one academic year to complete. Trustee McEachern questioned the definition of scholarship and how policies were being developed to create incentives for faculty and staff. Dr. McGee said Mr. Furlong and Mary Spreitzer continue to discuss IMSA's reward and recognition system and how to get more people involved in scholarship. Trustee Rosner advised to view this in the context of a laboratory.

#### ***FY14 Budget Requests to BHE***

Dr. McGee recalled that IMSA's FY13 EAF funding was cut by 2.8%, though \$50,000 was added to the STEM diversity grant for IMSA FUSION. He said that in consultation with IMSA's government relations team, he and his leadership team were proposing a modest increase for FY14. Mr. Furlong referenced the purpose and rationale in the write-up, adding continued funding of IMSA's compensation structure was not included and would need to be addressed in other ways. He pointed out the Capital request was the same as the last several years. He said IMSA anticipated updating the residence halls over the next two summers.

Trustee Reid commented he will support IMSA on Oct. 23 when the budget requests are presented to the Board of Higher Education administrative team. He said he would try to get BHE's position as close to IMSA's position as possible and commented about funding of last year's higher education appropriations. Mr. Furlong said IMSA was one of the first entities to use the state budgeting process to effectively leverage the State's limited resources. Trustee Budzik said he is very excited about the residence halls and IMSA's focus on initiatives that will have the greatest impact across the state.

#### ***Student Fees Class of 2016***

Mr. Furlong discussed the importance of charging student fees and the need to continue generating or at least maintaining IMSA's level of reserves with the objective of having three months spending set-aside. He pointed out that increases have been modest over the past six years and incoming sophomore families know their structure for their three years. He said the proposal is essentially the same this year as in the past, with increases to all levels. Mr. Furlong said IMSA plans to survey families about fees this year.

## **Featured Agenda Item**

### ***Teaching and Learning: Assessment of Standards of Significant Learning (SSLs)***

*Trustee Olszewski-Kubilius joined the meeting via Adobe Connect at 11 a.m.*

Dr. McGee said this was great topic to lead off the new academic year. Diane Hinterlong spoke of the value of the SSLs, pointing out that academic program leaders cannot take for granted that everyone knows about them and all faculty members needed to be “on board.” She said written reports for all areas were being completed and spoke of the ongoing evaluation work.

Dr. Gleason spoke of the methodology for assessing students on SSLs, pre-and post-core curriculum, grading according to a three-part rubric, making it as aligned as possible, and data from the Office of Institutional Research (OIR). He reported that students who achieved proficiency in all 3 rubric categories showed sophomores at 30% and juniors at 60%. Students who were not proficient in any rubric category were sophomores at 14% and juniors 7%. Trustee McEachern asked what constituted proficiency; Dr. Gleason replied 3-4. He said there is a way when grading to attach the SSL to each assessment in Power Grade so students can see where they are.

Joe Traina commented that of the six SSLs in Methods of Scientific Inquiry (MSI) students were doing very well with four of them; however students are struggling with the other two. said that at the end of the semester, teachers evaluate a final student paper and the level of proficiency is still low. He said sophomores are not very organized and need more support and feedback from the writing center early on.

Dr. Marshall reviewed competency-driven experiential personalized learning and cited the need for enrolled students to understand SSLs and be able to assess their own work. She said the habits of mind of an integrative learner are what distinguishes IMSA from other institutions, and IMSA wants the students to be able to track their own mind changes.

Kevin Zhang remarked that he likes the way the SSLs can guide how student learning is assessed; however, from a student’s perspective, being presented with a list of SSLs without tying them to a class can be confusing. He stressed the value of connecting the SSLs to courses so students can see what they are doing.

Trustees discussed setting goals for enacting assessments that tap into the SSLs, developing a plan with benchmarks for progress, establishing a correlation and supporting continuous assessment and knowledge transfer to other school systems. Trustee Olszewski-Kubilius emphasized the importance of setting a timeline for concrete progress. Trustee Isoye expressed concern about data systems for SSLs. Mr. Kimberling spoke of cross disciplinary work and core courses noting many colleges engage faculty in dialogue for their equivalent of SSLs.

Ms. Hinterlong pointed out that initial mapping of core programs was done but is not meaningful until measurements are added. She said time was one of the problems and if many faculty contact the small OIR team, additional resources may be needed. Sue Styer suggested that a week’s worth of focused time would enable significant progress.

Trustees expressed support for the faculty's work on the SSLs and thanked the presenters for their substantive and thoughtful presentation.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Veal said she would poll the Board regarding Trustees' availability for a Special Meeting before the end of September. Chairman Griffin said the goal was to find a date and time when a quorum was available to vote.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila MB Griffin  
Chairman

Catherine C. Veal  
Secretary