

Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy®

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

IMSA Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

January 21, 2011

Completed on January 22, 2011

Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Isoye at 9:03 a.m.

Members Present: Steven Isoye, Jay Budzik, Samuel Dyson, Mary Kalantzis, Jack McEachern, Jacklyn Naughton, Luis Núñez, Paula Olszewski-Kubilius, Marsha Rosner and Jim Rydland

Members Absent: Sheila Griffin, Erin Roche, Christopher Koch, Geoffrey Obrzut and George Reid (arrived 9:38 am)

Liaisons and Representatives Present: Stephanie Pace Marshall for the IMSA Fund Board, Shawon Jackson for IMSA Student Council, Stuart Bloom for IMSA Parents Association Council

Liaisons and Representatives Absent: Dan Gleason for IMSA Faculty (arrived 9:45 am), Maliha Mustafa representing Matthew Knisley for IMSA Alumni Association (arrived 9:25 am)

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Isoye reviewed the ambitious agenda for the business meeting and data retreat. He welcomed IMSA's new ex-officio Trustee, Dr. George W. Reid, executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and a former higher education leader in Maryland. He recognized and thanked Don Sevener, IBHE's interim executive director from August-December, who provided strong and steady guidance during the leadership transition.

The Chairman reported that effective January 1, John Hoesley, partner at Prism Capital in Chicago and IMSA '89, is the new president of the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education, with Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall assisting with Fund Board leadership transition needs until March 1.

Dr. Isoye announced that 64% of Trustees have donated to the IMSA Fund in FY11. He asked the remaining Trustees to do so as soon as possible so staff and fundraising volunteers can carry the message of 100% participation.

Trustees Comments

Trustee Rydland stated that he will make a donation to the IMSA Fund in honor of his new granddaughter.

Public Comments

Chairman Isoye recognized Harlan Weivoda, noting that in accordance with Board Policy for public comments, Mr. Weivoda had requested to address Trustees on IMSA's Admissions Policy and practices.

Mr. Weivoda said he had a written statement that he would like to read into the public record. He said he wants feedback from Trustees who thus far he characterized as "totally silent." He emphasized the importance of the words "not" and "nor" in the Admissions Policy: "Admissions decisions will not be controlled by quotas nor will admission standards be compromised to achieve diversity." [portions underlined by Mr. Weivoda]. He said IMSA was going against what it said on the website.

Mr. Weivoda distributed and read his statement which began: "Superior students who work hard on their academics should not be passed over by inferior students because of where they live, their gender or color of their skin." He asked that "all answers occur upon completion of my reading into record the entire list of questions."

His statement included seven questions, each directed to a specific Trustee or administrator. These related primarily to the fairness of accepting students with lower test scores over those with higher test scores and the fairness of accepting more students from less populated areas over fewer students from more populated areas. Examples of his concerns: the admission of "23 who scored 90 points lower in SATM" and "ZERO white males were accepted from our community, a community of approximately 2,000,000 people with an 80% white population."

He also asked if IMSA would modify the Selection Committee makeup, allow his son to attend as a junior, and modify geographic region boundaries.

Mr. Weivoda's handout included a chart of cities/towns in the Southwest Suburbs of Cook and Will County, showing population numbers and invited Class of 2013 numbers, an excerpt from IMSA's Admissions Policy, and a frequency distribution of SATM and SATCR scores for IMSA's Enrolled Class of 2013.

In response, Chairman Isoye said the Board welcomed questions about its Admissions Policy and practices, as well as the applicant pool, selected and enrolled students. He said IMSA officials had previously provided Mr. Weivoda with extensive information and addressed a number of questions. He said the Board would be happy to respond to the questions posed at this meeting, taking into consideration the need to maintain the confidentiality of student record information and other personal information, but would not use meeting time to do so.

Chairman Isoye said the Board and staff took very seriously their responsibility to ensure a sound and appropriate Admissions process grounded in the IMSA Law, Board Policy, the Academy's mission, and research in domain-specific talent identification. He said IMSA uses multiple criteria in selecting students as there are multiple ways for students to demonstrate talent and engagement in math and science. Chairman Isoye summarized the Board's longstanding commitments with regard to recruitment, admission, access, and adequate representation.

Chairman Isoye said the Board would refer Mr. Weivoda's questions to the Administration to draft a response which would be provided to Trustees and considered by the Executive Committee in February. He said the Committee would finalize and issue a written response to Mr. Weivoda. He said the Committee also had the option of adding this response or portions of it as an addendum to the draft minutes of the 1-21-11 Board meeting which would be considered in March.

Mr. Weivoda thanked the Board.

Reports of Liaisons

Shawon Jackson spoke of students engaging in service projects in Spain and Florida during Intersession, research for IMSAloquium, a recent debate by the Student Committee for IMSA Advancement in conjunction with the Junior State of America chapter on legalizing medical marijuana with Representative Lou Lang, and upcoming events promoting diversity.

Stuart Bloom reported that for Strategy 6, parents' contributions to the IMSA Fund totaled \$75,000 with 39.25% participation rate as of December 31, 2010. He expressed confidence that the Parents Association Council's goals of \$100,000 and 50% would be reached.

Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall commented on engaging the Fund Board in strategic problem-solving and decision-making, reviewing specific initiatives, developing measurable financial targets and planning the Fund Board Retreat. She said the Fund Board would discuss the Board of Trustees' requests for fundraising priorities. She said \$653,000+ had been raised to date in FY11 from 902 donors.

Maliha Mustafa highlighted alumni volunteers' assistance with Intersession and a forum for students about the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She reported on recent changes in IAA Executive Leadership changes and her first-time donation to the IMSA Fund.

Dr. Eric McLaren reported for Dr. Dan Gleason on mini-grants to support faculty and staff in their innovative teaching and learning projects. Eleven projects were accepted, including development of an online teacher math portal for sharing of ideas and lessons across Illinois and beyond, an online grading system to speed the response time for student problem sets, resources and lesson plans for teachers in the Metro East Field Office area, and the use of the iPod Touch for data gathering and analysis.

Report of the Treasurer

Patrick Furlong reviewed interest payments to vendors, lapse appropriations and preparations for next year's budget submittal. He said the tax hike might help with the State's cash flow. Dr. McGee said there was an expectation of level funding for IMSA in FY12, though some legislators were interested in increasing funding for IMSA outreach. Mr. Furlong reported that as of mid-December, no FY11 obligations had been paid by the state. Trustee Kalantzis asked about new procurement laws; Mr. Furlong said moving to Central Management Services (CMS) from Higher Education meant more restrictive guidelines.

Report of the President

Dr. McGee discussed IMSA's international impact, highlighting a recent China trip with 14 students sponsored by Intel. He briefly reviewed work on sustainable energy projects using CoolHub.IMSA and the visit to RDFZ, the high school affiliated with Renmin University. Dr. McGee introduced four IMSA students, Sam Walder, Monty Hayat, Mitchell Bieniek and Jessica Grady, who shared highlights and impressions from the visit and responded to Trustees' questions.

Dr. McLaren cited several other examples of IMSA's international learning experiences, service and impact.

ACTION ITEMS

Dr. McGee recommended approval of the Consent Agenda. A motion was made by Trustee McEachern and seconded by Trustee Naughton to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Voting aye were Trustees Isoye, Budzik, Dyson, Kalantzis, McEachern, Naughton, Núñez, Olszewski-Kubilius and Rosner. The motion passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 nays.

The following items were approved:

Minutes – Regular Board Meeting, November 17, 2010

Personnel Items

New Staff

Dawn M. Waller, Metro East Field Office Coordinator

National Board Certification of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) awarded to the following candidates November 19, 2010

Sowmya Anjur, Science
Mary Jane Myers, Wellness
Brooke Schmidt, Science

Change of Status

Lani Gordon, Resident Counselor, Master of Arts Degree
Jonathan J. Gray, Contingent Part-time Security Officer
Lyndon Leisher, Contingent Part-time Security Officer
Fred Anthony Vargas, Contingent Part-time Security Officer
Richard Johnson, Supplemental Security Assistant

Returning Staff

Ignacio Rojas Jr., Contingent Part-time, Security Officer

Part-time Staff

a. Admissions

Ed Caster, Site Coordinator/Teacher Early Involvement Program (EIP)

Anita Connors White, Site Coordinator/Teacher Early Involvement Program (EIP)

PROMISE Program

Daniel Gilford, Program Assistant

Minerva Juarez, Transportation Facilitator/Program Assistant

Vince Matsko, Teacher

Aracelys Rios, Teacher

Jakendra D. Williams, Program Assistant

b. Athletic/Co-Curricular/Sponsor

Athletic Stipends

Quintin Backstrom, Assistant Coach – Girls Basketball

Phyllis Chesnut, Head Coach – Dance Squad

Elizabeth Happy, Assistant Coach – Cheerleading

John Kazmierczak, Head Coach – Girls Bowling

Vantenia Kelley, Assistant Coach – Dance Squad

David Lundgren, Head Coach – Cheerleading

Keith McIntosh, Head Coach – Girls Basketball

Renard Miller, Head Coach – Boys Basketball

Allison Miner, Assistant Coach – Girls Basketball

Vicki Morrow, Assistant Coach – Boys Diving

Jim Mueller, Assistant Coach – Boys Basketball

Ivan Rodriguez, Assistant Coach – Boys Swimming/Diving

Michelle Russell, Assistant Coach – Girls Bowling

Kevin Satler, Head Coach – Boys Swimming/Diving

Troy Tonsil, Assistant Coach – Boys Basketball

Co-Curricular/Sponsor – Stipends

Brad Fischer, Sponsor, Scholastic Bowl

Kristin Strey, Sponsor, Scholastic Bowl

Maria Atienza-Gabás, Ticket Taker

William A. Bueschen, Timer

Michael R. Hoehn, Event Supervisor

Sharon K. McMurray, Ticket Taker

c. Business Office

Ashley Dorion, Temporary Office Help

d. President's Office - Stipends

FY11 Strategic Plan Co-Leaders

Adrienne Coleman, Paula Garrett, Daniel Gleason, Diane Hinterlong, Jeong Hwang-Choe, Janice Krouse, Branson Lawrence, Mary Myers, Donald Porzio, Jane St.

Pierre, Tom Walter

Lee W Eysturlid, 2010-2011, Considerations in Ethics: "With Honors," two new units

e. Security

Kanchit (Ken) Ruksakiati, Shannon M. Stanton, Door Monitor,

f. Student Inquiry and Research (SIR)

Steven Rogg, Temporary, Part-time SIR Program Assistant

g. Student Leadership Development, Student Life – Residential Program

Dan Gilford, OrgSync Coordinator

Kerby L. Mickelson, Student Shadowing Program Assistant

Troy Tonsil, Resident Counselor (RC) Office Coverage

IMSA Learning Opportunities/Courses for 2011-2012

Featured Agenda Items

Strategic Plan Strategy 4 Deep Dive

Roger Spayer, Paula Garrett and Dr. Dan Gleason commented on selected points in the advance video -- <http://www.vimeo.com/18408353>, Password: Scholarship. They highlighted the new scholarship repository, DigitalCommons@IMSA, which will be used to promote and disseminate academic and creative achievements of faculty, staff and potentially students, ensure preservation and access to these works, and foster scholarly collaboration. They also reviewed foundations for student scholarship, Methods for Scientific Inquiry (MSI) and Student Inquiry and Research (SIR), noting that SIR has a rigorous proposal and presentation process with 80-88% participation rates for graduates in last three years.

Trustees and staff discussed opportunities for mutually beneficial collaborative relationships to produce research-based scholarship, whether research should be mandatory, publication of works in various media, the relationship between DigitalCommons@IMSA and CoolHub.IMSA, and the need for feedback from experts. Dr. Marshall pointed out that 25 years ago IMSA's inquiry-based education was very new, however it is not new anymore and though aspects of IMSA's work may be transferable, the IMSA core is not. She commented that teachers in other settings likely would have difficulties if the infrastructures of their schools are not changed to support inquiry-based. She said support from superintendents and school boards would be helpful.

The Board discussed student research and how to make IMSA programs exportable for others and more flexible for IMSA students. Dr. McLaren underscored the importance of assessment, for example determining whether students become more self-regulated learners as a result of research and scholarship experiences.

Faculty Research Projects Snapshot

Trustees, liaisons, staff and guests divided into groups and attended one of three break-out sessions: *Consideration in Ethics*, with Dr. Lee Eysturlid, Dr. Max McGee and Dr. Jay Thomas; *Females in Physics*, with Diane Hinterlong, Branson Lawrence and Dr. Purva

Rushi; and *Changes in Advanced Chemistry Curriculum*, with Dr. Dave DeVol. Participants discussed highlights from the advance video, <http://www.vimeo.com/18392907>, Password: Facultyresearch. When the groups came back together, several Trustees complimented the staff presenters.

Information Items for Discussion

Expansion Planning with Deloitte

Dr. McGee briefly reviewed the background of the Deloitte pro-bono expansion planning project. Consultants Peggy Chin and Geny Khoury said they were eager to partner with IMSA, noting they would help with decisions but not make them. They outlined the process, timelines and deliverables.

Dr. McGee said the project would help the Board and Administration develop and use strategic criteria to narrow the campus expansion models for further study at this time. He added that doing so would not commit leadership to recommending or establishing a second campus, only to moving forward on a feasibility study of one or more models.

Trustees commented on several expansion planning issues such as the need for clarity on the populations IMSA most wanted, needed and was positioned to serve and the roles of the Executive Committee and full Board in the expansion planning project. Trustee Kalantzis asked if the Board was “beholden to the models.” Dr. McGee replied “not necessarily.” Trustee Kalantzis said that was good, as evolving potential expansion need not be “bricks and mortar.”

Ms. Veal invited all Trustees to attend the February Executive Committee meeting discussion of this item.

Recommended Fundraising Priorities for IMSA Fund Board of Directors

Dr. McGee reviewed the work this year to reconnect and better align both Boards and the administrative team on fundraising priorities. He cited the Fund Board’s upcoming retreat and said the directors wanted and needed to know the institution’s thinking. In consultation with Chairman Isoye, Trustee Núñez, Mr. Hoesley, Dr. Marshall, Ms. Price and Ms. Veal, Dr. McGee recommended Board endorsement of the following nearer-term priorities for the Fund Board’s work:

- IMSA’s 25th anniversary year (special activities)
- Endowment for innovation
- “Excellence gap” for signature programs, more specifically: (1) IMSA FUSION, (2) Student Scholarships (for special learning experiences in our academic/residential program and in our field services program); and (3) IMSA Energy Center.

Trustees discussed these and other needs. Trustee Dyson asked about the integration of FUSION and Field Offices; Ms. Veal said Field Offices would be a featured agenda item for the March Board meeting. Trustee Olszewski-Kubilius said she was “thrilled” to see FUSION on the list, calling it a “wonderful model” that serves teachers and students and

has evidence. Trustee McEachern wondered about the need for resources for institutional research. Trustee Núñez said one key for the Fund Board was having something it could sell. Trustee Dyson recommended tabling this item until after the data retreat conversation. Dr. Marshall said she will be asked if the Board of Trustees endorsed these priorities or had others. Chairman Isoye responded that the Board would come back to this item following the data retreat and would inform Fund Board leaders.

Regular Meeting Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee McEachern and seconded by Trustee Núñez to adjourn the Regular Board meeting. Voting aye were Trustees Isoye, Budzik, Dyson, Kalantzis, McEachern, Naughton, Núñez, Olszewski-Kubilius and Rosner. The motion passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 nays.

The regular meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Completion of Business Meeting on January 22, 2011

Motion for Closed Session

A motion was made by Trustee Dyson and seconded by Trustee McEachern to go into closed session at 11:35 am to discuss closed session minutes, litigation, and personnel matters. Voting aye were Trustees Isoye, Budzik, Dyson, Kalantzis, McEachern, Naughton, Núñez, Olszewski-Kubilius, Rosner and Roche. The motion passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 nays.

Closed Session Held

Reconvened to Open Session

The Board returned at noon to the unfinished agenda item from Friday, the recommended fundraising priorities for the IMSA Fund Board. Ms. Veal provided additional information on how the recommendations were made; Trustee Rosner said this was helpful. Dr. McGee reiterated that the priorities were the priorities "for now." By consensus, Trustees endorsed the recommended fundraising priorities for the IMSA Fund Board as presented. Dr. McGee, Ms. Price and Ms. Veal thanked the Board and emphasized that this would be helpful for the Fund Board retreat.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee McEachern and seconded by Trustee Rosner to adjourn the meeting. Voting aye were Trustees Isoye, Budzik, Dyson, Kalantzis, McEachern, Naughton, Núñez, Olszewski-Kubilius, Roche and Rosner. The motion passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 nays. The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven T. Isoye
Chairman

Catherine C. Veal
Secretary