

Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy®

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

**IMSA Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
1500 Sullivan Road, Aurora, IL 60506
Tellabs Studio for Professional Development
August 20, 2014
Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order

Chairman Griffin called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Roll Call

Ms. McKenna called the roll.

Members Present: Sheila Griffin, Jay Budzik, Steven Isoye, Leslie Juby, Carey Mayer, Luis Núñez, Erin Roche, Marsha Rosner

Members Absent: Eric Brown, Kathy He (arrived 9:50 am), Mary Kalantzis, Paula Olszewski-Kubilius, Karen Hunter Anderson, James Applegate, Christopher Koch and Jeffrey Craig

Closed Session

Chairman Griffin requested a motion to go into closed session to review Closed Session Minutes from the June 12, 2014 Special Board Meeting and the July 9, 2014 #1 & #2 Regular Board Meeting (5 ILCS 120/2 Sec. 2 (c) (21); a matter relating to an individual student (5ILCS 120/2 Sec. 2 (c) (10); Litigation Update (5 ILCS 120/2 Sec. 2 (c) (11); and Employment, Performance and Compensation of Specific Employees (5 ILCS 120/2 Sec. 2 (c) (1).

Trustee Rosner motioned and Trustee Juby seconded to go into closed session for the purposes specified. Voting aye were Trustees Griffin, Budzik, Isoye, Juby, Mayer, Núñez, Roche and Rosner. The motion passed by a vote of 8 ayes to 0 nays.

Closed Session Held

Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in open session at 10:45 a.m.

Roll Call

Ms. McKenna called the roll. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Sheila Griffin, Jay Budzik, Kathy He, Steven Isoye, Leslie Juby, Carey Mayer, Luis Núñez, Erin Roche and Marsha Rosner

Members Absent: Eric Brown, Mary Kalantzis, Paula Olszewski-Kubilius, Karen Hunter Anderson, James Applegate, Jeff Craig, Christopher Koch

Liaisons Present: Paul Milano for the IMSA Fund, Melvin Bacani for IMSA Alumni Association, Bryan Mathie for IMSA Parents Association Council and Vinesh Kannan for IMSA Student Council

Liaison Absent: Eric Hawker for IMSA Faculty

Chairman's Remarks

Welcome to Our Next President

Chairman Griffin welcomed Dr. José Torres to his first Board meeting emphasizing that he was the Board's clear choice for president from a strong candidate pool and Trustees were very impressed by his intellectual curiosity, commitment to excellence and equity, entrepreneurial mindset, candor and authenticity. She noted that the Board will vote on his contract shortly and looks forward to his September 17th presentation and his leadership as a new era for IMSA begins, "building on the good of our past, shedding and leaving behind some things, and plowing new ground."

Dr. Torres thanked the Board for its trust in his stewardship of what Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall and others have created and grown. He spoke of his gratitude for the opportunity to take IMSA to the next level, honoring and building on the past. He expressed his hope that we can all work and learn together and prepare students to thrive in a world of the future, one that does not exist today.

Trustee Juby shared a recent *Daily Herald* newspaper article on Dr. Torres.

Good News Items

2014 graduate James Tao traveled to South Africa to compete with the US International Mathematics Olympiad team this summer, and we were thrilled to hear that he took home a gold medal for Team USA which finished second in this prestigious competition. Congratulations to James and all members of the U.S. team!

William Robin Lindemann, IMSA 2011, was recently awarded a Goldwater Scholarship, one of the most prestigious undergraduate science awards in the U.S. Lindemann is a senior at Iowa State University, majoring in Materials Engineering and Mathematics. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Materials Science and ultimately lead a team researching bioceramics and other biomaterials.

Executive Director for Professional Field Services Michelle Kolar, Director for Statewide Educator Initiatives Dora Phillips, and Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness Christopher Kolar wrote an article, *Experiential Learning Drives STEM Interest from an Early Age*, which was published in the July 2014 issue of the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition Catalyst explaining how our IMSA FUSION program can reverse the trend of students losing interest in STEM.

Chief Innovation Officer Britta McKenna previously published a piece in the ISTC Catalyst titled *The Value of Creating an Innovation Talent Pipeline* for Illinois Innovation Day. On August 27, we have our Innovation Hub Design Charrette; Trustees are cordially invited to attend.

Moment of Silence in Memory of Tito Rodriguez

Chairman Griffin ended her remarks on a somber note. She asked everyone to join her in a moment of silence in memory of Tito Rodriguez, IMSA 2004, who tragically passed away in a recent motorcycle accident. Tito was a Chicago Police Officer. Chairman Griffin said: "Our hearts go out to his family, friends and fellow officers. Rest in peace, Tito."

Trustee Comment

Carey Mayer remarked that her son attended IMSA's June Summer Camp at Rock Island; he enjoyed it very much and is still talking about it.

Reports of Liaisons

Chairman Griffin welcomed the liaisons and reviewed the criteria for their reports.

IMSA Alumni Association

Melvin Bacani highlighted July's Alumni weekend attended by over 300 with 5 milestone reunions and the election of 15 new non-officer cabinet members, last month's gathering in Chicago at 1871 for alumni involved in startups and entrepreneurial projects, and planning an IAA cabinet retreat. He invited Board members to let him know if they are interested in attending the retreat.

IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education

Paul Milano said the IMSA Fund Board of Directors is considering the Trustees' request for a fundraising campaign for capital projects and other needs, per the vote in July. The Fund Board will discuss this at its meeting in October. He cited an informal Finance Committee dinner meeting last Sunday and said Directors want to be sure they have a clear awareness of the project and issues.

IMSA Faculty

Reporting for Dr. Eric Hawker, Britta McKenna communicated the faculty's congratulations to the Board on the successful completion of the presidential search and for the excellent selection of Dr. José Torres as IMSA's next president. She said faculty looks forward to getting to know Dr. Torres better and working with him on improving IMSA both for our students and for students/ teachers across the State of Illinois, as well as on the search for IMSA's next principal.

IMSA Student Council

Vinesh Kannan reviewed upperclassmen assisting sophomores through the Student Council's Summer Sibling Committee and pairing upperclassmen and sophomores through a matching algorithm designed by students. He said Club Verno is setting out to complete a sustainable garden and volunteers are needed for manual help and encouragement. He offered a special thanks to Dr. Hernandez for making the plan to open up the dining area for students' use outside of meal times for study and breaks come to fruition.

IMSA Parents Association Council (PAC)

Bryan Mathie said he was sorry to see Jason Ball leave (Mr. Ball was to serve as PAC President). He expressed his belief that PAC members should roll up our sleeves and become involved. He cited helping with students' move-ins, getting his arms around goals, driving open exchanges with Student Council, bringing on a staff liaison to obtain a better perspective and completing the monthly bus schedule for downstate. He stressed the importance of more participation, communications, community and continuity noting the first PAC meeting is on September 6.

Board Business - Action Items

Closed Session Minutes June 12, 2014 Special Board Meeting and July 9, 2014 #1 and #2

Trustee Isoye motioned and Trustee Núñez seconded to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2014 and July 9, 2014 #1 and #2 closed sessions as reviewed in this morning's closed session.

Voting aye were Trustees Griffin, Budzik, Isoye, Juby, Mayer, Núñez, Roche, Rosner. Trustee He abstained. The motion passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention

President's Contract

Chairman Griffin asked the Board to approve the contract employing Dr. José Torres as the next President of IMSA. She said this is a three-year contract beginning on September 15, 2014 with a starting salary of \$248,000 per year and benefits generally similar to those of other Academy administrators and similar to those in Dr. Torres' last contract.

Trustee Rosner motioned and Trustee Roche seconded to approve the contract employing Dr. Torres. Voting aye were Trustees Griffin, Budzik, He, Isoye, Juby, Mayer, Núñez, Roche and Rosner. The motion passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 nays.

Dr. Torres thanked the Board for its confidence.

Report of the Treasurer

Kimberly Corrao addressed financial reporting and previewed the September Board meeting. She said FY14 is being completed, and our EAF lapse amount is estimated to be around \$32,000. She spoke of aggressive budget monitoring, and praised Joan Dorion who helped tremendously by arranging the use of various funds to reduce the lapse. Ms. Corrao commented on state reporting and registering new students, noting details on activities, our FY15 budget, our 2% budget reallocation request to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), our FY16 budget request to IBHE, and the Student Fees Proposal for the Class of 2018 will all be presented at the next meeting for Board action.

Report of the President

Strategic Update

Residence Halls Renovation

Cathy Veal highlighted the status of the summer residence halls renovation work which affected IMSA's summer programs. She complimented John Wandolowski and his team as well as program staff for their diligence, creativity and flexibility. She reported that mold remediation became necessary in July when old siding was removed, thus the State of Illinois had to become involved again with a special emergency meeting of the Capital Development Board to approve the necessary change orders. Ms. Veal said CDB leaders had been great partners and advocates for IMSA. She said halls through 06 are ready for student occupancy, and 07 is almost ready, though some work will continue into the fall. Problems with rain water run-off and changing the pitch of the ground around the halls were discussed. Mr. Wandolowski said that a 5-month project had been completed in about 3 months. Trustee Roche asked if there was anything on the punch list of concern; Mr. Wandolowski replied the architects are currently developing the list. Trustee Roche suggested that Student Council write a letter of thanks to CBD for its help; Student Council President Vinesh Kannan and the Board agreed.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

Ms. Veal recommended approval of the Consent Agenda as presented. A motion was made by Trustee Roche and seconded by Trustee Isoye to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Voting aye were Trustees Griffin, Budzik, He, Isoye, Juby, Mayer, Núñez, Roche and Rosner. The motion passed by a vote of 9 ayes to 0 nays.

The following items were approved:

Minutes

- June 12, 2014 Special Board Meeting
- July 9, 2014 Regular Board Meeting

Ratification of Modifications to Previous Board Actions

- Use of an additional \$100,000 for Residence Halls Renovations if needed this summer
- Revised 2014-2015 Academic Calendar

Information & Discussion Items

Proposed FY15 Board Meeting Dates – 1st Reading

The Board meeting dates for the remainder of this fiscal year were presented for a first reading. Ms. Veal mentioned the possibility of adding a Board Retreat later. She asked Trustees to look at their calendars and let either her or Karen Ruscitti know if any of the dates will not work. She said this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for action at the September 17, 2014 meeting. Chairman Griffin requested sending out the dates to the Board again as a separate item; Ms. Veal said she would.

Groundings, FY15 Priorities and Our Job

Ms. Veal presented “Groundings, FY15 Priorities and Our Job” reviewing with the Board the same information she shared with staff in June, highlighting the public policy context for IMSA’s work and key language in the IMSA Law, e.g., “stimulate further excellence...”

Ms. Veal stressed that by design IMSA is not a public school under ISBE, thus certain requirements of schools do not apply to IMSA. She reiterated that IMSA is a “state agency” ... “a preparatory institution” ... “a catalyst and laboratory for the advancement of teaching.” Several acknowledged the challenges of a “not a school” message when IMSA does have an academic program with many functions of “school.”

Ms. Veal reviewed the mission IMSA chose (written by Strategic Planning Team, adopted by Board) and the six needs identified by the Board for the Presidential Search: Quest, Funding, Innovation, Evidence, Voice and Mobilization.

She noted the “messages from Springfield” for FY14: to improve compensation, especially for faculty, and to increase IMSA’s impact and visibility, both of which IMSA did. During the year a third message emerged from a few members of the House Appropriations Committee: to address demographics of the student body and IMSA employees, especially faculty.

Ms. Veal reviewed *FY15 Big Things to Do* relating to the Academic Program, Student Life, Admissions, Residence Life, Extension Programs-Field Services, President’s Office/Strategy and Advancement, and Operations.

Regarding the Academic Program, Diane Hinterlong said though IMSA is not subject to the Common Core, our teachers will be looking at those standards because connecting to them is important if we want to be a leader for Illinois schools. She observed that the Science program will drive the Science Labs’ space needs, and she addressed a mini-review by the computer science component of the new academic team, bringing in external experts, and possibly moving the computer science graduation requirement in the direction of a stand-alone program under engineering rather than science. Trustee He reported that when her daughter attended IMSA many SIR students were frustrated because they did not have the level of experience needed; she suggested moving computer science to engineering might be beneficial. Trustee Budzik spoke of applied sciences and Trustee Rosner voiced concerns about limited time and changing the day if necessary. She pointed out IMSA should be working towards an integration type mode – not separate. Trustee Núñez emphasized cultural harmony and clarity that we are a laboratory.

Dr. Marshall cited KnowledgeWorks’ expansion of innovative learning with focus on personalized learning to create sustainable improvement in student readiness for college and careers and their recent partnership with a New Tech Network (NTN). She mentioned Google, 2040 and what education will look like in the future noting a lot of thoughtful work being done with the word “school” being used very little.

Michelle Kolar commented that Field Services Extension Programs have had staff transitions, and the next phase is moving forward well. She said we are looking at ways educators can provide opportunities, portfolios, next steps, developing partnerships, and operating and scaling processes. She pointed out the ones we most want to serve are those who do not have the resources and come from a variety of different backgrounds. Trustee Budzik asked that all the systems be tied together so the Board has an overall view of everything.

Ms. Veal pointed out we have made progress in the past year with Bud Bergie's leadership and finally have an institutional data repository coming. She said other priorities include the onboarding of our new President, an anticipated fundraising campaign, decisions on the future of CoolHub and its Mentor Matching Engine, and institutional communications including strategic digital marketing.

Mary Spreitzer discussed operational support, documenting processes, procedures and training, compensation and revisiting work that was done prior to when she came to IMSA as well as asking the Board to adopt a compensation philosophy for the next phase of IMSA's development.

Ms. Veal closed her presentation with the question, "If the job of all NASA employees was to "land a man on the moon and return him safely to earth," what is the job of all IMSA employees?" She cited how she answers the question now: "...to develop world-class STEM talent from all walks of life that benefits Illinois (and beyond)." She said IMSA and our partners strive to develop "STEM researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, educators and policy experts who think, create and lead well ... impact players for our state, nation and world."

Chairman Griffin thanked Ms. Veal for her helpful overview.

Adjournment

Trustee Budzik motioned and Trustee Núñez seconded to adjourn the meeting. Voting aye were Griffin, Budzik, He, Isoye, Juby, Mayer, Núñez, Roche and Rosner. The motion passed by a vote of 9 ayes to 0 nays.

The meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila MB Griffin
Chairman

Britta W. McKenna
Secretary Pro Tem