

IB Parent Association

Minutes from August 8, 2013

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Board President Aaron Santry.

Board Members present: Aaron Santry, Bob Leake, Joe Camenzind, Melanie Jenney, Jamie Noakes, Deborah Smith, Gwen Duggins, Dawn Monroe, Sue Abdinnour, Sue Tirukonda, and Steven Shook.

Board members absent: Dyana Diffin, Lily Jin

Guests: Ria Farmer, Gina Solbach, Michael Boykins

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 2013 IBPA Board Meeting were reviewed. Gwen moved to accept them and Dawn seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was presented by Joe Camenzind and an extended discussion ensued.

- Joe presented data showing that donations have experienced a steady decline, from nearly \$8,000 in 2009-10 to only \$4,000 in 2012-13. During this period, expenditures have risen.
- In 2012-13, we started with nearly \$5,000 in the treasury. The current balance is approximately \$2,620.
- To address the decline in funding, a two-pronged approach was discussed. First, we need to make parents aware of the many ways in which IBPA supports our faculty and students. Second, we explored ways to make giving easier, such as adding a PayPal link to various on-line locations.
- Much of our support seems to come from the parents of underclassmen. It would be helpful to increase the level of support from families of juniors and seniors.
- Joe also analyzed the pattern of spending over the past five years. Gwen noted that the annual Faculty Luncheon and support of Project Graduation have traditionally comprised nearly 25% of yearly expenditures. She suggested that we reconsider whether this is appropriate in light of the IBPA mission to support the IB program specifically. Deborah agreed that this makes sense.
- Sue Tirukonda moved that we accept the treasurer's report, and Jamie Noakes seconded. The motion carried.

New Business

- Freshman Orientation is August 12th at 6:45. Deborah Smith, Jamie Noakes, Bob Leake and Sue Abdinnour volunteered to attend and provide assistance.

- The IB Open House is August 20. Board members were asked to be present at the table in the library foyer during hours when their students do not have IB classes. Joe and Jane Camenzind will provide a tri-fold board explaining the mission of IBPA to display at both events.
- The IB Speaker Series, which was inaugurated in 2011-12 as a way to directly support IB students, will continue this year. Coach Kemnitz of the WSU baseball program will address freshmen in early fall. Projected topics for other classes will be Social Media or Self-Advocacy (sophomores), College and Career Panel (juniors) and Preparing for College Life (seniors). Sue A. suggested recording these presentations. Mr. Shook will ask faculty members if they have ideas for other topics. He will also check the stock of speaker gifts purchased at the end of last year. Melanie moved that we commit \$600 to fund the speaker series; Jamie seconded and the motion carried.
- The Big Do is September 11; we will repeat the successful "IB Thirsty" booth from last year. Jane Camenzind will provide the set-up equipment. Jamie Noakes will chair the booth; Deborah, Ria and Bob will all take shifts throughout the evening.
- We discussed using social media such as Facebook and Twitter to raise the profile of IBPA.
- Dawn Monroe has offered to set up a database of parent contact information by grade level in order to build e-mail lists. These lists can be used to make parents aware of opportunities to support IBPA events. E-mail addresses will be solicited from parents at events; school staff cannot share this information due to privacy concerns.
- IBPA has traditionally hosted a Faculty Appreciation Luncheon on an inservice day each fall. This is a major expense. We decided that this event will not be held this fall; we will determine mid-year whether we can afford to host a luncheon in the spring.

Proposals/Requests for Funding

The board took action on four requests for funding. Each request was carefully considered in light of the budget issues discussed earlier. We discussed whether each request provided benefit to a broad spectrum of IB students.

- Mrs. Fry and Mr. Boykins requested \$80.00 to provide a special breakfast of bagels and juice for IB seniors on the morning they submit their college folders. This event builds excitement and helps launch the college application process at the beginning of the senior year. Gwen moved that the request be approved and Sue A. seconded. The motion carried.
- Mr. Shook requested that \$100 be approved to provide water and cookies for refreshments at the IB Open House. Joe moved to approve the motion and Sue T. seconded. The motion was approved.
- Mr. Hutchinson requested \$225 to purchase motivational posters linked to characteristics on the Common College Application for his classroom. Considerable discussion ensued. Concerns were raised about the value such posters would actually impart and the fact that only IB physics students would benefit. It was also noted that this is a sizeable amount to spent on decor for a single classroom and could set a dangerous precedent. Melanie moved that the request be

tabled until the October meeting, when we will have a better idea of the donation level. Sue T. seconded and the motion carried.

- Mrs. Fry requested \$550 for the Arts Partners Story Telling Workshop she provides each year to her SL English class. This helps students develop a natural speaking style for their oral presentations in many classes, and assists with the development of voice in their personal narratives. Feedback on past years' workshops has been very positive. Concern was expressed about the expense of this request. Gwen will use personal contacts to see if the storyteller might be willing to do this speech on a volunteer basis; Mr. Shook will see if Mr. Thiessen has funds to subsidize the event. However, Melanie moved that the request be fully funded if alternate funding sources fail, and Joe seconded. The motion carried.

Coordinator's Report

Mr. Shook provided updates on several issues related to our IB program and how it relates to IB worldwide.

- Mr. Boykins attended the IB counselor training this summer and found it a very positive experience. Mr. Boykins dropped in for this part of the meeting and was enthusiastic in his account of the training. He found the training very valuable and has plans for expanding the role of the counselor this coming year, including the establishment of Fusion page for support and communication. He also said that the training made him "very appreciative of what we have here at East." Mr. Shook also stated that our program is one of the best in terms of our PIB curriculum, the district level support we receive, percentage of students receiving the IB diploma, etc.
- Mr. White and Mrs. Chestnut attended TOK training. IB subjects undergo revision every seven years; this year marks the beginning of a new TOK cycle. Mr. White is not happy about the direction that IB international is taking TOK with an additional emphasis on external scoring. However, teacher still have some flexibility and will make the best of the new requirements. Someone questioned how TOK fits into the IB diploma. TOK is a pass/fail subject as far as the diploma is concerned. However, a student who receives high ratings in TOK can earn an additional 2-3 bonus points toward the 24 necessary for the IB diploma.
- Mr. Shook presented information on testing results in various subjects. The average SL Physics score at East (6.09) is nearly two points higher than the international average. SL Math Studies students also scored significantly higher than the international average.
- It continues to be difficult to predict how extended essays will be scored. Even Mrs. Kellerby, who is an IB examiner who scores extended essays from other schools, cannot accurately predict how our students will do. This is frustrating. Like TOK, the extended essay must receive a satisfactory rating for a student to receive the IB diploma; a superior essay will earn bonus points.
- Of last spring's senior class, 69 out of 74 students earned their IB diploma. One of the five who did not receive the diploma was unable to take one of his exams due the unexpected death of his mother. He will be allowed to take the remaining exam this fall at no additional cost. The

other four students had the option of re-taking tests at their own expense; they declined to do so. East IB students earn the IB diploma at a much higher rate than IB students worldwide.

- Enrollment numbers for this fall are as follows: freshmen--120, sophomores--approx. 95, juniors--70, seniors--72

Old Business

A report on the incoming freshman summer reading meeting last May was tabled until the next meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM with apologies for a long meeting. The next meeting will be held on September 12 at 1:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Smith, acting secretary for Dyana Diffin