

MINUTES OF THE EAST IBPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING — NOVEMBER 14, 2019

In attendance: IB Coordinator Michael Boykins; President Ross Lee; Vice President Tanya Flores; Secretary Kirk Seminoff; Representatives Grishma Ajmera, Patricia Blessant, Arti Gupta, Jason Niblack, Deborah Smith; parents Anthony Au, Tamala Cocannouer, Kathleen Dang-Pham, Priscilla Phur.

Lee called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Minutes: A motion (Flores/Dang-Pham) to approve the minutes of the Oct. 3 meeting was approved without opposition.

Treasurer's report: Deborah Smith, reporting for Treasurer Steven Smith, said IBPA had an ending balance of \$3,883.38, which includes \$399.98 not yet removed from the account for approved expenses. The balance as of the meeting was \$4,283.36. The approved \$250 for the October CAS project has also not been taken out of the account. D. Smith also reported \$100 in contributions received since the Oct. 3 meeting.

IB coordinator's report: Boykins began a discussion on CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service). He said CAS is often viewed by students as another obstacle between them and an IB diploma. Students were not receiving their IB diplomas because they were not completing CAS requirements. Changes have been made as to what counts for CAS. According to IB, what students are doing within their school community should be able to count for CAS. Examples: Being on an athletic team counts for CAS because it enables students to learn about themselves and better the community through activity. Taking a business class counts as learning about oneself. The caveat, Boykins said, is that if you're IB testing for a class, you cannot count that class for CAS. The idea is to reflect on what you're doing and find purpose in it.

Another major change, he said, is the way students may reflect on the service. It used to be exclusively writing, but now they may do other multimedia such as recording, art and photography. Due dates are another change. April 1 of a student's senior year is the due date for all CAS, and parents will be notified if deadlines are missed. IB transcripts will be withheld with the idea of holding the student accountable, with it not meant to be punitive.

Boykins said he is looking for a better management system that keeps track of a student's CAS for all four years. He emphasized students should not turn in all their CAS by their junior year because some must be submitted as a senior. There is no longer a signoff needed on number of hours of service, which has meant that nonprofits that have in the past called on East IB for volunteers have found those needed hours aren't there anymore. Boykins said that has meant lost accountability and connection with those organizations.

Boykins presented three teacher requests. The first was \$189 from Psychology teacher Crystal Archibold for an APA teacher affiliate membership with access to psychological databases. The second was \$50 from science teacher Joe Hutchinson for a classroom copy of IB supplemental material. The third was \$300 from science teachers Hutchinson, Randy McMinn and Peter Reimers for sets of IB Science flashcards. The requests were considered simultaneously. A

question was asked about Archibold's request being a duplicate of last year. It was noted it was a repeat request because the license is only good for one year. Hutchinson's request is also yearly. A motion (Gupta/Flores) to approve all three requests passed without opposition.

Boykins offered information on the IB application process. Among the changes:

- All information, including the application, is now online at the East website.
- Shadowing, which used to be available November through February, will now be available only six days (three November, three January). They will be half-days, first through fourth hours.
- Applicants will now meet in the foyer, receive a badge and some East gear. A student ambassador will meet them after Boykins speaks to them in the auditorium.
- The applicant will receive an email within a day for feedback on the shadow experience, and ambassadors will make contact again with the applicant within 24 hours. Boykins said the follow up is important.
- Teachers have been asked to include applicants in class discussions instead of only watching. Applicants will receive an IB Bingo card with things to watch for during the shadow.
- While applications and testing remain, there will no longer be IB interviews. Boykins said interviews were negative with warnings of hard work, which put IB's worst foot forward. Interviews also required staff members on a Saturday and will save that extra pay. An information session after acceptance will focus on the positives of the program rather than the "are you sure you want to do this" warnings.

Boykins said the changes are being made to accentuate the positives of the program and to compete for students who have options with programs at other USD 259 high schools.

Letters for donations: A question was asked about donation letters going out before the December holiday season. A suggestion was made to have the letter mailed in late November or early December. Flores said she would contact former IB parent Kim Curry about past letters, and that this letter should come from the president. A suggestion was made to be specific in what donations could do for IBPA, such as a whiteboard and other supplies for the newly created IB room.

Teacher holiday gifts: Organizing the gifts will be done at the December meeting. Flores said she would make an order to Nifty Nut House, and Cocannouer said she would pick it up. Other details will be handled by email before the Dec. 5 meeting. A motion (Ajmera/Seminoff) to approve up to \$250 for edibles from Nifty Nut House passed without opposition.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

The next meeting of the IBPA board of directors is at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 5.

— Kirk Seminoff, secretary