

## **MINUTES OF THE EAST IBPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING — APRIL 2, 2020**

The meeting was held online via Zoom. Minutes are to be posted on the East IB website and the East IB Facebook page.

**In attendance:** IB Coordinator Michael Boykins; Vice President Tanya Flores; Treasurer Steven Smith; Secretary Kirk Seminoff; Past President Steve Whisenant; representatives Grishma Ajmera, Patricia Blessant, Jason Niblack, Deborah Smith; parent Kathleen Dang-Pham.

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

**Minutes:** The minutes of the March 5 meeting, sent to members of the board of directors via email, were approved (Blessant motion, Dang-Pham second) without opposition.

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Smith's report showed a balance of \$4,545.04, with approved expenses of \$246.12 not yet charged to the account, which would leave a balance of \$4,298.92. There were three changes since the March meeting: 1. A \$200 contribution received; 2. A pending expense for \$15.99 to renew the EastIBPA.org domain name registration; 3. Purchasing the books approved by IBPA for Mr. Maack's request (\$230.13, Watermark Books). The report was approved (Flores/Whisenant) without opposition.

**IB Coordinator's Report:** Since not all IB parents could attend the online meeting, and Mr. Boykins' report is of great interest to parents, what follows is a transcription of his report.

"I know that a lot of the communication that has taken place has been sent via a robo-email through Synergy, as well as posting everything on our East High webpage, and the students are getting the same message via Remind. That's our best way of trying to reach the masses. A lot of the frustration is when the district is rolling out these different phases, IB really isn't included as part of the general population.

"My office is a couple of days behind in communicating with parents what it is we need to do. Especially for our juniors and seniors, in all honesty I seriously do get the (IB) updates when everybody else does. They post them online, I have to review them, I have to review them with the faculty, and then we have to determine how that's going to impact our students, and then what can we do for our students? Then it goes into a message to all the parents.

"I will say one of the biggest frustrations so far has been in the continual change in the rules for our May exams. I had a meeting with IB faculty on Monday at 1:30, I got an update from IB at 11, and then I got an update from IB the day before at 6:11. And so it's the continual updates, they continue to say the most recent update is the new rule. So it becomes a matter of me going back to those teachers and thinking how does this apply to us? Specifically the IAs (Internal Assessments) and then the expectations that the teachers have to do for uploading all this work."

Question: What are summer school plans in USD 259 and will Maize offer Geometry in the summer?

"I can't say summer school has been cancelled, but it's currently paused (in 259). We don't know what it's going to look like and how long the social distancing is going to last. If it continues all the way until June, which is what we're hearing, we can't feasibly have 100 students in a gym class. As far as online is concerned, online is tied to 259 summer school, so we'd also have to pause that. I'm not sure what Maize or Goddard or Andover are doing. I'm going to jump out on a limb and say their online programs will still be available, however 259 at this time is not taking place.

"I also know that's a big concern for students who wanted to take Financial Literacy or incoming ninth-graders who were going to take PE. We have a couple of ideas of what we might have to do if summer school doesn't take place, but that's all I have for that one right now."

Question: Would 259 still honor a summer class from another district when 259 had paused summer school?

"The only summer class that a student can take for original credit would be Geometry and/or PE. So if they're taking those two classes from an accredited institution, then we would acknowledge it. There are no other courses we would accept for our program."

Question: Are there plans to do some form of IB Senior Recognition?

"I'll answer that in a second, but to backtrack to another idea. ... As we discussed social media, I know for our Group 6 students, those are the individuals who are testing in art, theater or music, one of the requirements for their exams — even though they're not testing for IB, they still have to do this — is to perform a live piece and then receive feedback. Talking with those Group 6 teachers, we're really considering using social media to promote those performances. I also think it's another way to build up the East High IB community and celebrate what our seniors are doing.

"Regarding our seniors, I do have a couple ideas. It's not ideal, but it might get the job done. I've spoken with Tina (Peterson) and she's going to continue to do the IB senior recognition brochure. Mrs. Ewy, in the senior Google Classroom, sent out the documentation necessary for our kids to complete so they can make that brochure. So the brochure will still happen. I have spoken with the two seniors who were already slated to make the senior farewell video, they are going to reach out to seniors and they will continue to do that. That's when we have the baby picture followed by the senior picture.

"The senior talent show will also continue. I don't know how that's going to look but I think something along the lines of a student performing and sending it to us, me or Tina uploading it to social media. I'm looking to get that senior recognized. I even like the idea of let's say, knock on wood this is all done with by June, so right before school starts I think it'd be great and beneficial to have some form of senior recognition. So right before school, right before seniors go off to college. I know we talked about not doing an ice-cream social for our incoming ninth-graders next year, maybe we do an ice-cream social farewell or our seniors where we play the video again, maybe have the students do live performances, find another unique way to recognize them for what they've done."

Question: Could the senior brochure be posted on the IB website?

“Posting it, definitely, (and) I was going to email it out to every IB family. A big change for IB Senior Rec that I wanted to do was encourage all families to attend, not just senior families. I would love the idea of having a filled auditorium. ... Letting freshmen see this is one of the things you can experience, and really recognizing our students. I was going to send it out to every IB family.

“Another idea, and you can tell me if this is stupid or not, we have a LOT of old trophies at East High. We’re not talking vintage that are really cool, we’re talking ‘80s and early ‘90s. We have a lot of them. What we do for faculty, we have competitions or a spirit day and maybe very early in the school year we’ll do things, and we use these old trophies to give to different departments. So I thought I could steal some of those trophies and have IB superlatives where the teachers can vote on (inaudible) based off the IB subjects. So maybe science, who’s the next Einstein? We already do an IB learner profile, so maybe doing something a bit funnier but still related to the academics. For theater kids, who’s that next (great director) or next great historian? It’d be based off teacher feedback. Maybe they have ideas of other recognitions they’d want to give. Of course the learner profile scholarship is a really big deal, but there are other ways we can acknowledge more students.”

“Maybe it’s just a matter of pushing back the recognition until right before school opens and they go off to college, but I like the idea of doing something social media-wise around the time that it was supposed to happen.”

D. Smith suggested the idea of putting signs in the yard of IB diploma recipients. Boykins said that’s an idea East is considering for all graduates. For IB graduates, Boykins said two challenges would be cost and logistics of placing signs in 60 homes that could be all over Wichita/Sedgwick County and not only in the East boundary.

The board made no decisions on Senior Recognition plans, as there remains too much up in the air. Boykins said the brochure and video will go forward, and something to be done physically can be planned later. Individual recognition was discussed further.

Boykins: “I’ve instructed Ace Time teachers to be reaching out to their students, kind of a side conversation. ‘Hey, hang in there, we’re all in this together.’ If they’re noticing any personal, social or emotional concerns, they’re sending those names to Meghann Ewy and Mrs. Ewy’s reaching out to them. ‘Hey, what’s going on, how can I help?’ Kind of doing some distance counseling, I guess.”

Boykins said Aces in the Community will again happen. Ace Time teachers will contact students and the challenge is what can be done at home and tie in CAS as well. Students will send photos via social media. Aces in the Community is Wednesday, April 8.

**New business:** There was discussion about the elections process in May given online meeting options. No action was taken.

A subsequent question was asked of Boykins: Are the predictive grades to be reported to IB frozen in March (along with USD 259 grades)?

“They are two separate entities. A grade in a class has no bearing on a student’s predicted grade, (which is) what we submit to help determine a student’s IB diploma. One would hope that if a student is going to do well on the IB exam, they would do well in the class, but that is not always the case. So there are a couple venues to answer that question.

“The district said we are freezing grades. We are freezing grades for the third quarter. The third-quarter grade automatically carries over (into) the fourth quarter. If a student is happy with their third-quarter grade, they can say, ‘I’m done.’ But the message I sent out the other day was you are here because you want to learn for learning’s sake and to better prepare you for next year, you will continue to do your work. If a student’s not content with their third-quarter grade, they can get with teachers and ask what they can do to increase that grade. The fourth-quarter grade will never be lower than the third-quarter grade. That’s the grading part of it for Synergy and for the transcript.

“Regarding IB, that’s been the really tricky part. We have to act with fidelity, and we have to act with grace. IB says a predictive score is going to be based off the work the student has done within that year. For some of our teachers, there were two more books to read, there was another section to continue, there was still a month and a half of work. So IB came forward and said the predictive grade is going to be what you think the student would have received if they would have continued with the work that is being submitted or is being given, and they continue to act in a way they have been acting.

“I had a meeting with Ms. Zimmerman, who teaches Business Management, and she said, ‘Michael, I had two more sections that we had to do before I had to submit these predictive scores.’ My response to her was to encourage her students to continue to do the work you are posting whether they want to increase the grade or not. In doing so, then give them that predictive score you believe they would have received as if they were in class for the last month and a half.

“If it’s an HL, it’s kind of based off what they did in their junior year, because there is work your junior year that carries over to your senior year. In some classes it’s more difficult because all they have is one year to base it off of. In some classes they have two years. It’s simply a prediction, not a guarantee. That’s been what our statement to families when we discussed predictive grades. But now, the Internal Assessment used to be 25 percent of a student’s diploma, but because they’re not sitting for their exams, it’s going to be weighted a whole lot more than 25 percent. IB has come forward and said one of the ways in which they’re grading is based on your school’s historical results. Historically our school has done very well. I say that because I want a little bit of ease for our students. Talking with Ms. Zimmerman who was very concerned. Historically our students have been phenomenal. So she used that to help guide what predictive scores should be for those kids.

“These are confusing, frustrating times. I can only imagine what your students are going through. It’s very nebulous, this big unknown of whether they’re going to receive their diploma or not.

Question: Seniors will still start college with all the same credits but without May exams?

“There are no external exams. They’re using Internal Assessments, that’s going to determine their score. For some students, what they attach with their IAs is orals. Think of Spanish, right now Senor and Dunkelberger are working on Zoom meetings so their kids can give their oral presentations. There are also oral presentations for English. Those will be added to those specific groups. Think of Group 6, music, theater and art kids. They have other Internal Assessments that will be added to help determine their grade.”

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the IBPA board of directors is at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 7.

— Kirk Seminoff, secretary