

## **MINUTES OF THE EAST IBPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING — MAY 7, 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; President Ross Lee; Vice President Tanya Flores; Treasurer Steven Smith; Secretary Kirk Seminoff; Representatives Grishma Ajmera, Patricia Blessant, Jason Niblack, Deborah Smith; parents Candy Denk-Connolly, Chris Grabon.

Flores called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Minutes:** A motion (Niblack moved/D. Smith second) to approve the minutes of the April 2 meeting was approved without opposition.

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Smith reported no changes from the April report. A pending expense for senior-level novels remains pending. There is 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. A motion (Seminoff/Lee) to approve the report was approved without opposition.

**New business:** Flores proposed keeping the format of having 2020-21 meetings at 6:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month, with the exception of the August meeting. That meeting would be Aug. 13, after school is scheduled to have started. Boykins said the school district is tentatively using the approved 2020-21 calendar but acknowledged it could be altered because of pandemic precautions or changes enacted by the district.

Boykins asked if IBPA would again fund the \$500 IB Learner Profile scholarship, given to a senior who exemplifies the ideals of the International Baccalaureate program. A motion (Lee/Flores) to approve the expense was approved without opposition. Discussion of the scholarship included talk about the annual Senior Recognition program, which was to have been May 17. Boykins said administrators hope to learn Friday about the possibility of a graduation ceremony and whether an IB senior recognition ceremony would be allowed. Boykins said whether or not there is a senior recognition ceremony, East will still send the senior slideshow and pamphlet (listing graduate, parents and college choice) to all IB students and parents via email. It would also be promoted through social media.

A motion (Ajmera/D. Smith) to purchase a \$50 Watermark Books gift card for IB's only retiring teacher, Mrs. Ozbun, was approved without opposition.

**IB Coordinator's report:** Boykins was asked several questions about the program's status.

*Is the district going ahead and planning on school beginning as usual or are they holding off?*

"They're holding off. A lot of it is getting held off. Summer school, extended learning and then just what the calendar will look like for the fall. They haven't given it a definite start date. I know they are still using next year's calendar, but it is also with just an asterisk as in enrollment might look differently — actually, enrollment will look very different than it has in the past — but when that first start date is. We don't have that yet."

*What can Mr. Boykins tell us about IB, how kids are handling working remotely, anything we do or don't know about next year?*

“It’s been ... interesting. I think interesting is a combination of a little bit of frustration from some individuals, maybe some relief. I think in the very beginning there was frustration because as a district we did not know what we were doing. It always felt like we were kind of behind in communicating, so I think once we upped our communication for a little bit, some of the tensions decreased. From there, there was a really big upswing with student input and the students were really involved. They were really staying on top of their work and doing what was necessary, whether it was to improve their grade or simply just to help them prepare for next year or because they want to learn. As time has continued, there’s been a decrease in participation, especially from our seniors. I think they realize their last day is a couple days away and so I think right now there’s kind of a sense of, ‘I’m done.’ But yeah, it’s been very interesting.

“I know from the IB side, we’re looking forward to seeing what they do next because everything has had to go virtual school-wise, as well as training. We actually had six individual teachers who were scheduled to train this summer, but IB canceled all their training and the district canceled all their travel for the summer. But IB is realizing they can do everything virtually, and so now that’s going to be interesting to see what training looks like for teachers to make sure we are still compliant with IB standards.

“Another thing from IB is very interesting — I keep saying interesting and I can’t think of a better word because it sums up all the emotions that go with it. As far as uploading scores, we had to do that drastically different this year, and that was incredibly frustrating, to be honest, with our teachers, but I will say their patience was phenomenal. IB, in that case, was very understanding and gave us an extension because they were asking for more than what they’ve had to do in the past. Just from my side alone, there was over 600 documents that I had to upload for our students because they’re not taking their exams in May. So every individual student has their own profile in IB. Like if your child is taking Business and Management, I would upload their Internal Assessment for Business and Management, I’d then have to upload the teacher’s comments, and then any other supporting documents. So there’s three different documents I’d have to upload per student for that one class. But compared to say, TOK, there’s four documents I’m uploading. Teachers had to put a lot of extra work in this testing season because the kids weren’t actually testing, so IB wanted to make sure the predictive scores vs. what was being submitted was really connected. We had some teachers ask for extensions and IB was really understanding. Then talking with MIBs, an organization of Midwest IB schools, a lot of them asked for extensions as well.

“All of the uploading is completed and I’m now sleeping well. As far as the students are concerned, it was good to see the seniors at least yesterday, when they were returning their stuff, for the most part they were like, ‘Yeah, we’re done, Mr. Boykins.’ And I understood. I told this senior you’ve been working so hard these last four years, take these next couple weeks as a well-deserved break from what they’ve been doing.”

*Will they be having any senior IB exams?*

“No, they will not have any senior IB exams. If a student is not happy with their IB scores and they would like to retest, they can do so in November.”

*What about the testing fees that we paid?*

“IB has not given us a response on what it is they’re going to do with those fees. So when a student pays for their IB exams, we take that money and automatically send it to IB. We are simply the middle man when it comes to money. IB has not come forward and said, ‘We are going to reimburse or not.’ On one hand, I can see them saying well, you paid to test and you paid for exams, and you are not taking those exams, therefore here is your money back. On the other hand, I can see IB saying you’re not testing; however you’re still receiving IB scores that you can carry over to college, you’re still receiving IB diplomas, therefore like an AP exam you still have to pay and you won’t be reimbursed. But we have not been given a definite from IB.”

*Will juniors know how to access their scores when they come out in July?*

“Yes, that will be an email from me.... Typically when they’re testing, students receive information on how to access their scores and score codes. But toward later May/early June, I’ll be sending out that information to our juniors. Scores are usually ready July 4 week. That being said, I wouldn’t be surprised this year if they’re delayed a week or two because we had to ask for extensions for several of our courses. But I will be giving information on how to access their scores, what is their username and their password, all that information.”

*Should we assume the Extended Essay schedule stays as normal?*

“Correct. The Extended Essay schedule is in-house. East High, we determine that. IB has specific deadlines and we typically have our deadlines a month in advance just to make sure our students are getting the help and assistance they need. That schedule is not going to change. I believe that Ms. Cienas and Ms. Archibold, our EE advisers for East High, have posted information in the Extended Essay Google Classroom, more or less like a scavenger hunt, getting students used to the EE guidebook, helping them with topics and what to choose, so I think some of that’s been taking place a little bit. As far as the due dates we’ve done in the past, that will continue.”

*So if I ask my junior, he should have some information from them, correct?*

“Not to get anyone’s student in trouble, but yes, you should ask them. They should have received some information from Ms. Cienas or Ms. Archibold and they should be able to access the Extended Essay Google Classroom.”

*Is there anything else our seniors to be, or underclassmen, need to know?*

“Our underclassmen received a message from Ms. Ewy regarding summer school. We are not housing summer school for IB students this year. The logistics of it, I fear, Richardson fears, would be too much. I think of PE alone, with 120 or 130 students, would have to be virtual because we wouldn’t be able to house it. That means if students didn’t have that technology, they wouldn’t be able to use their middle-school technology, we’d have to give them our

technology, and then trying to orchestrate that would be too much with what we're trying to do already. So our incoming freshmen and our current freshmen who have not taken PE can do so next summer. So we will either have one large PE summer school or we will do two three-week sessions. Furthermore, our kids who take Financial Literacy in the summer, they will have the opportunity to do so next summer. If that does not work because they will be seniors, then Ms. Ewy has reached out to those students already and we have looked at their schedule and looked over different options and possibilities to make sure they have that Financial Literacy credit taken care of so they're still on track to graduate."

*How many freshmen will there be next year?*

"I don't have that exact number on me. I apologize. I do know that we have freshmen from over two-dozen middle schools represented in our freshman class, which is really exciting. I believe that we're sitting at roughly 115 individual freshmen. We have been communicating with them through robo-emails and robo-text messages, as well. Our freshmen, the way in which they applied, we changed things up a little bit this year and so we have a giant database of all their information, emails, phone numbers, so it's really easy for us to disseminate information.

"Something that applies to everyone here, incoming freshmen and your students now, once the school year comes to a close, we're going to be sending out summer reading information. Summer reading is also going to change. One, because we don't know when school is going to begin. Two, kind of this what can our students do virtually, what are they wanting to do virtually, where are they as far as their motivation is concerned. I know talking with our English teachers, we're thinking of create a Google Classroom and creating check-ins with our students. What I also like about this opportunity is they're talking about it being just really easy points. I know a lot of our students, that very first grade input for English is summer reading. If you do really really well, then it's great. If you don't do so well, then it really is a punch in the gut and you got yourself in that hole of trying to get out of that summer reading not-so-great score. So they're trying to come up with opportunities for students to come in on a positive note. They think as parents, as a former counselor, and even teachers even understand, they hate that if summer reading's not done correctly, it sets the tone for first semester. The four English teachers are having discussions on how do we change that culture, what can we do to get students prepared and ready, how do we make it — especially with what's going on today — accessible for our kids?"

**Elections for 2020-21 board positions:** Discussion moved to filling board of director positions for 2020-21. Under the bylaws, members filling positions may decide to renew their positions for the next school year, and the Vice President moves into the President's position upon confirmation of the board.

A motion (Lee/D. Smith) to approve the following members carrying over to 2020-21 was approved without opposition:

- Ross Lee moves from President to Past President
- Tanya Flores moves from Vice President to President
- Steven Smith remains as Treasurer
- Kirk Seminoff remains as Secretary
- Deborah Smith remains as an At-Large Representative

Patricia Blessant remains as Class of '21 Representative  
Jason Niblack moves from Class of '23 Representative to Vice President

These positions will be filled in August: second At-Large Representative, Class of '22 Representative, Class of '23 Representative, Class of '24 Representative.

**Final mentions:** Members of the board thanked Grishma Ajmera for her seven years of service on the board. Boykins was also thanked and congratulated for his first year as IB Coordinator.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

— Kirk Seminoff, board secretary