

MINUTES OF THE EAST IBPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING — SEPT. 3, 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: Approximately 45 people attended the Zoom meeting. With no signup sheet, the secretary identified people by names on the call and by recognition. The rest, who did not have cameras on and used incomplete screen names, are not listed.

Michael Boykins, IB coordinator	Patresa Ebersole
Tanya Flores, president	Jenny Findling
Jason Niblack, vice president	Bradley Hanson
Steven Smith, treasurer	Denise Jett
Kirk Seminoff, secretary	Ciara Johnson
Ross Lee, past president	Sean/Stacey Killingsworth
Deborah Smith, representative (at-large)	Brenda Lawton
Patricia Blessant, representative ('21)	Dena Lee
Marlena Aitken	Lida Lett
Konigin Astrid	Mark/Jana Lincoln
Anthony Au	Tina Morris
Jodie Bann	Chau Nguyen
Danzel Bond	Doreen Papadatos
Patrice Borders	Kathleen Pham
Sueanna Budde	Priscilla Phur
Paloma Bustos	Linlin Wang
Lorraine Choi	Chiayi Wei
Tamala Cocannouer	Traci Weiford
Candy Denk-Connolly	

Flores called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Flores began with an introduction of the IB Parents Association to new attendees, including expenditures for 2019-20 and the reason for monthly topics at meetings.

Introductions of board members were made.

Monthly topic: Boykins was asked to present an overview of what was ahead for IB in the 2020-21 school year. He spoke for more than an hour answering submitted questions. What follows are those questions and summaries of his responses.

Are students allowed to choose between face masks and face shields, particularly if they have asthma?

East is following Gov. Kelly's guidelines with safety protocols, and everyone entering the building must wear a face mask, including students. Temperatures are being checked as individuals enter the building. Students and teachers may wear a face shield but a mask must

also be worn. If a student has asthma, they are encouraged to contact nurse Adrianna Seward, who will work with the student to ensure safety.

What will a normal day look like in regards to temperature checks and large groups of student interaction?

Once students are back, everyone will have temperatures checked entering the building. If it's above 100.5 degrees, specific protocols will be followed. There will be PPE stations located throughout the building, whether it's masks, sanitizer, Clorox wipes, and classrooms have those supplies, too. Students will be "wiped down" with sanitizer entering classrooms and desks/seats will be wiped down between classes. Administration continues to figure out a plan for social distancing during passing periods. Some restrooms are being closed, others will be cleaned every 30 minutes (possibly an hour).

Other precautions include where students can eat lunch. There will be two lunch periods, basically split between two halves of the building. The opposite area will be cleaned during the lunch period. Sequestered rooms will be in place for people with high temperatures with very limited access.

Outside visitors are not permitted inside the building. The only exceptions may be for college representatives. Those entering the building will be traced where they go in the building so contact tracing is possible should that person test positive.

What if a student does not want to wear a mask? How will East communicate mask-wearing to students?

Masks must be worn, it is non-negotiable. Masks will be provided to students without them, and if they refuse to wear them, they will be sent home. Staff has been told that if a student refuses to wear a mask, notify administration. A specific administrator is in charge of ensuring everyone is following Covid-19 procedures.

Staff members have been training for a month about technology with remote learning, how to help the social well-being of remote-learning students, and with PPE.

What processes are in place for cleaning desks and shared workspaces?

Shared workspaces no longer exist. Faculty rooms have been closed. The cafeteria will remain open because of the number of students eating. Other spaces, such as the courtyard, will be open for lunch.

How will students collaborate on projects and how will IB requirements be met?

Collaboration will be virtual the first nine weeks. Teachers are getting creative in how to do so within Microsoft Teams.

We have received permission for science students and are trying to orchestrate ways for juniors and seniors to come on campus and work on their labs. Those are specifically classes at the concurrent level or for college credit — not PIB courses.

IBO has been good about specifying ways each IB course can be taught and enhanced virtually.

There have been testing changes based on Covid. Teachers will relay changes to students. IBO has removed some external exams in an effort to streamline. Some internal exams have changed, as well.

What percentage of IB students are doing in-person learning vs. My School Remote?

Of the 338 IB and pre-IB students, 30 to 33 percent are in My School Remote (roughly the same as all East students). When the BOE decides to send students back to high schools, one-third will continue to learn remotely.

Have any students left the IB program for Education Imagine Academy?

No. Six students left the program for other schools because parents didn't believe 259's decisions about learning options were made in a timely manner, choosing schools that had made definite decisions about how the school year was starting. The majority of those students were freshmen entering the program.

It looks like students have five minutes between classes. How does that give them enough time to get to their next classes?

With a third of students learning remotely once in-person students return to East, those in-person students will have plenty of room to navigate their way to the next class in five minutes. Tardies will be given after an early grace period.

Students often do their CAS projects during spring of their junior year, or the following summer before their senior year. During the shutdown these seniors have not had the chance to work on their projects or implement them as they planned due to social distancing restrictions. Has IBO given any indication that expectations will be modified due to Covid?

No, that grace has not been extended. The expectation is that juniors and seniors must be completed their senior year. IBO has provided documentation, however, on how students can be creative with their CAS and do something virtually. It must be remembered CAS is not always about reflecting on a successful project. It's about reflecting about what you have learned. For last year's seniors, it was completing the reflection that got them the credit they needed.

CAS has been put on the back burner. A new advisor must be found. Boykins has been the go-to person for CAS project opinions while a new advisor is not in place. CAS will be discussed after a couple weeks of school once everybody has gotten into a rhythm.

Are students expected to be engaged in Teams class meeting for the entire 80 minutes of each class, or will teachers have the latitude to lead discussions or other activities part of the time while leaving the students to work independently the rest of class?

The expectation is yes, they will be logged in during the entire class period. What the teacher does during that time may vary and could include small group discussions.

Attendance will be taken. If a student must be away for an appointment, the parent must still notify Crystal Ingram with the excuse as if the student was in the building.

Say a student was put into an elective he or she did not request and does not need for graduation from East or from IB. May that student instead enroll that hour in a study hall?

IB counselor Meghann Ewy sent a note to students last week explaining not all class requests could be met for IB students. It usually takes four months to create an East master schedule. This year because of Covid, counselors had to create two master schedules in less than four weeks. One of the issues was whether teachers thought they could blend their classes (in person and remote learning). Once those decisions were made, IB's four-year plans had to be adjusted. Some students did not get the classes they wanted. Juniors and seniors were given priority. A few students' testing choices will change. Most were SLs, but a few HLs were changed. Electives were sometimes changed. Students can make counselor requests, but they likely won't be approved unless the class is a repeat. Students should look at it as a wonderful CAS opportunity. So long as a student isn't testing in that subject, they can use that class as a CAS opportunity and reflect on what they've learned.

To answer the specific question, yes, a student may request a study hall if they are an on-site student. Study hall does not exist for remote learners.

Will teacher assistant positions remain in place second semester?

A teacher assistant position will be a possibility. At first it wasn't, but because teachers may teach a blended class, they will receive a student assistant that will monitor the Teams call, its chat, and may act as a student coach if they've taken that class in the past.

What efforts are being made to ensure students and their EE advisors are working together?

The overseeing IB advisors, Ms. Archibold and Ms. Cicenas, sent an email to advisors encouraging them to continue conversations with students. Students will be encouraged to seek out their advisors. A two-way street is encouraged.

What will review for IB tests look like with block scheduling?

The original schedule for this fall, a quarter schedule, would not have been approved by IB because it does not lend itself to a continuation of learning. Some students would not have a subject in the quarter prior to testing. It was the driving force to going to a block schedule. Students will continue to review as they traditionally have. If students are learning remotely in March, April and May, then review will have to be different. Traditional IB exams are being planned for next spring, but exceptions can be requested if Covid necessitates.

Will students learning remotely perform their Theory of Knowledge presentations through the online platform?

Yes. Same with oral presentations in English and Spanish.

What will finals look like remotely?

Finals will be taken virtually. Software is in place that can track students while they're testing. *Any insight into potential for school activities such as Big Do, football games, dances, homecoming?*

We are not getting rid of activities because they are essential to the enthusiasm of students and staff, but we are going to have to be creative. We will have a virtual Homecoming and will get students enthused about it and other activities. We will still have a Big Do as a way to promote clubs. But once students are back on campus, club meetings in the building won't be available because of social distancing. Fall sports are back on but without spectators. The school is working with journalism teacher Mr. Clift on livestreaming of games. Virtual prom was a big success last year.

Is East still planning to hold the PSAT?

Yes, as well as promoting the ACT and SAT. We have been told to put the PSAT on pause, but we can't pause it much longer because there are deadlines coming up. Testing will be in person, so social distancing must be figured out.

Are there changes with AP classes this year?

AP changes will be communicated soon with students.

What is the plan for consistent and timely communication between administration, students and parents?

East cannot communicate district-wide policies before the district does itself. It can only communicate school-specific information or policies. Information cannot be given piecemeal. East tries to communicate as quickly as it can. Boykins' voice is the same as Principal Richardson's voice.

Communication to students is done through English classes because every IB student has the same English teacher in that grade level. The Remind app is also used effectively. Robocalls and emails are plentiful, as well.

Any plan for increased flexibility to rigid deadlines impacting enrollment and scheduling?

We can only be as flexible as the board will let us. If the board says we must decide by a certain time for in-person learning or My School Remote, we cannot extend that deadline. Same with IB, we cannot extend IBO deadlines.

What will enrollment look like for Classes of 2022, 2023 and 2024 if it must be virtual?

Hard to tell. Ms. Ewy started in December last year to get ahead, but it's hard to say how it would look this time.

Have deadlines for Extended Essay been changed?

The end deadline has not been changed. That is an IBO mandate. In-house deadlines are flexible and if they need to change because of circumstances, that will be considered with grace. There is an EE Google classroom where information is available.

If a student is using his/her own device, are there instructions for logging in?

Login instructions will be sent to students using their own devices.

Is there an option to postpone Homecoming to a later time?

No.

Minutes: A motion (Niblack moved/Blessant second) to accept the minutes of the May 7 meeting was approved without opposition.

Treasurer's report: S. Smith reported final 2019-20 financials. Total contributions for 2019-20 were \$3,474.59. Total disbursements were \$2,802.78. The ending balance was \$4,100.06. It was the first time since 2015-16 that IBPA took in more money than it spent. There are no pending transactions. Contributions came from 33 donors in 42 contributions. A motion (Cocannouer/D. Smith) to accept the report was approved without opposition.

IB Counselor's report: Boykins said the annual school profile is being finalized and will be posted on the IB website once it's complete. This year there are 99 freshmen, 78 sophomores, 78 juniors and 83 seniors, for a total of 338 students. The senior class is one of the largest in the 30-year history of the program.

There were two IB staff changes. Maria Ozbun retired as Spanish teacher, and Kelsey Broadfoot has taken her spot. She was in the building last year. Monica Talbott, who taught sophomore English, has moved to Education Imagine Academy. Keely Tolbert has taken her position. She comes from Heights and is a former 259 Teacher of the Year. Flores said a card was sent to Talbott on behalf of IB, thanking her for her years of service.

Boykins said grading of IB exams globally last spring were criticized as being unfair. Students' grades were lower than predicted. Schools had the opportunity to ask exams be re-graded, but it was to cost \$1,700. IBO, however, waived the fee and regraded all exams. Once re-grading took place, out of the class of 62 Class of '20 seniors, 54 received diplomas. So 87 percent of East seniors received diplomas, better than 70 percent globally. Students sat for 391 exams and had an average score of 4.83. We are seeing an increase in percentage of IB diplomas and percentage of IB exam scores. Boykins said it was great to call students who didn't receive their diploma in the spring and tell them the re-grading got them the diploma.

The IB scholarship, funded by IBPA, was awarded to Lauren Clement.

Boykins reported 47 exits to the IB program for 2019-20, which is a lower-than-normal number. Three exited in August.

There were no teacher requests.

New business: A motion (Niblack/R. Lee) to add two members to the IBPA board of directors — Patresa Ebersole for Class of '23 representative and Doreen Papadatos for at-large representative — was approved without opposition. Flores asked parents of freshmen students to contact her if they would like to serve in the Class of '24 position.

Next monthly topic: After minimal discussion, it was agreed that “Parenting an IB student” would remain as the traditional October meeting topic.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m. The next meeting of the IBPA board of directors will be held via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 1.

— Kirk Seminoff, board secretary