

## MINUTES OF THE EAST IBPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING — OCT. 1, 2020

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

### In attendance

Sara Richardson, principal	Paloma Bustos
Michael Boykins, IB coordinator	Tammy Cocannouer
Tanya Flores, president	Sheena Jenkins
Jason Niblack, vice president	Sean Killingsworth
Steven Smith, treasurer	Dena Lee
Kirk Seminoff, secretary	Mila McKenzie
Arti Gupta, at-large member	Reena Patel
Doreen Papadatos, at-large member	Kathleen Pham
Deborah Smith, at-large member	Mark Sanders
Candy Denk-Connolly, class of '22 rep	Mini Siddique
Anthony Au	Astrid Teschke Franz
Danzel Bond	Christopher Wessley
Patrice Borders	Sveta Yakubovich
Sueanna Budde	Srinivas Yendru

Flores called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Flores welcomed newcomers to the meeting and made a brief solicitation for donations to IPBA, pointing out ways to contribute.

Introductions of board members were made.

**Remote learning discussion:** Boykins answered questions and reported to the group about early weeks of remote learning.

Papadatos asked Boykins about possible suspensions of IB students who have less than a 3.0 grade-point average. Boykins said the policy remains in place and that IB is not only studying data associated with grades, but with attendance. The goal is to link the two and identify trends. Boykins said IB counselor Meghann Ewy has been meeting with students at risk of suspension and setting goals and determining ways to find success. Counselor, teachers, student and parents should be involved in this process.

Additionally, Boykins took the opportunity to promote IB tutoring, where teachers are available for tutoring. There are also opportunities for juniors and seniors to tutor freshmen and sophomores. That's available virtually and on-site. The emphasis is on being proactive instead of reactive, encouraging students to seek help before they reach a feeling of being overwhelmed. He also mentioned this is a reason Ace Time classes have been intentionally mixed for a second year with upperclassmen and underclassmen.

McKenzie asked about SL and HL Chemistry students being in the same class this year. She expressed concern that it may not be in the best interest of students. Boykins said SL and HL were combined for a couple reasons. One, enrollment numbers made it virtually impossible to

have independent classes. Two, science teachers' feedback and a change in the science curriculum. Students who previously enrolled in a two-year SL would take the SL exam as juniors then enroll in the HL class but take the SL exam. Teachers said it would be more effective if students essentially took the SL class twice. Boykins said he was incredibly happy with Mr. Reimers students' performance based on one year of records. He knows they are being prepared. It's difficult having SL and HL together, but Mr. Reimers presented a plan before the year started and it is being implemented. He has been thorough in pulling outside resources.

Jenkins asked how parents and students could access tutoring options. Richardson said tutoring started Sept. 30 and she will make sure virtual tutoring information is in her Sunday email and will advertise it heavily with students.

Niblack asked parents how their students feel about remote learning and whether classrooms and work are similar. Sanders said his freshman student is adjusting well to the change of not having teachers in front of her and peers near her. Pham said her senior student is enjoying it but missing the social aspect. Flores said her students said it was going smoothly with some minor technology issues. She said communication between teachers and students is critically important, making sure instructions are clear. Niblack suggested setting clear expectations for communication so that students aren't concerned if they haven't heard back quickly from a teacher. Boykins said he's heard a little bit of everything, including some students still in the spring semester frame of mind, and students and teachers missing the social contact. He said Ewy sent an email to seniors asking where they are personally, socially and emotionally, from 1 (struggling) to 5 (doing great). The average was 2.3. This will be asked of other classes.

Wessley asked what course of study, remote learning or on-site, would be recommended for second semester. He said he asked because his daughter mentioned in passing that one of her teachers said continuing with remote learning during second semester would be far more difficult than in person. Boykins admitted to giving a political response: Families must do what's in their student's best interest.

McKenzie asked another Chemistry question, saying her student labels the class unproductive and confusing. Boykins suggested a one-on-one meeting with Ewy to address specific concerns.

Flores asked how it is going for teachers and staff four weeks in, and can parents help in any way to make things easier? Boykins said it ebbs and flows. He said he makes many in-person visits while teachers are holding remote classes. He said teachers are tired and a lot of teachers didn't go into teaching expecting this is what teaching is. They feed off what students' energy gives a classroom. He said that a random attaboy, especially from a parent, goes a long way to encourage a teacher.

D. Smith expressed interest in sending IB staff a small token of appreciate and a note of encouragement. (See addendum at end of these minutes.)

Au asked if his senior student could return to school to do a Biology lab. Boykins said yes, students in AP, concurrent credit or SL/HL courses may return for labs. Department chairs are

meeting with those science teachers to examine calendars and determine times when it can be done, being mindful of social distancing.

Boykins said IB counseling continues. Students have a Teams number and URL to access Ewy.

Boykins reported that administrative walk-throughs in classes continue, 15 per week. Some are for evaluations, others for new teachers to the building or first year overall. He emphasized teaching rigor continues during remote learning.

Technology issues are being addressed with leniency, Boykins said. Students unable to join a virtual class because of tech problems are not to be counted as absent.

Students who are in Learning Center courses received letters and robocalls. Parents must sign off that yes, the child is receiving virtual learning through the Learning Center.

Boykins said the BOE will meet Oct. 26 to look at remote learning and on-site options. Richardson will communicate instructions on changes.

Killingsworth said his daughter was told if she dropped offline during an online math test, she would be docked points. Boykins said teachers cannot dock points because of tech issues. There are concerns about academic honesty. He said the staff is hopeful East students will uphold the IB learner profile where honesty and trustworthiness are concerned.

**Minutes:** A motion (Niblack moved/D. Smith seconded) to approve the September minutes was approved without opposition.

**Treasurer's report:** There was no update to the September report, as there was no incoming revenue nor expenses. The current balance is \$4,100.06. A motion (Seminoff/Niblack) to approve the report passed without opposition.

**IB coordinator's report:** Boykins met with bookkeeper Paula Horsky and Richardson about IB testing fee information. He will go into junior and senior classrooms beginning next week and give students information for deadlines on exam fees and registrations. Robocalls and online reminders will go to families.

IBO's evaluation of East recently took place. It is a three-step process. Last year, East documented its program in 80-some pages that were submitted to IBO. Last week East had its evaluation. Evaluators typically come to school, but this year it was virtual. He said the meetings went extremely well over three days. For the first time in Boykins' 14 years, all diploma teachers met with evaluators. It gives evaluators more of a connection with teachers and the program is more than Boykins' face. It also allowed teachers to relate the program's strengths and weaknesses. Boykins said the final meeting revealed there were no large matters to be addressed. Some things East knows it has to do haven't been done because of Covid-19, which evaluators understood. After the feedback, the leadership team will meet go to over how to implement recommendations.

**New business:** A motion (S. Smith/Cocannouer) was made to add Sean Killingsworth as the Class of '24 parent representative. It passed without opposition.

**Next meeting topic:** CAS is generally the November meeting topic. East's new CAS advisor is April Gutierrez, who comes to East from south Texas. She recently sent out a video introduction. She is an IB Philosophy teacher, and Boykins said to look for new classes next year. She is fine-tuning CAS forms and information will be given to students soon. After some discussion, however, it was decided to invite Richardson to the November meeting to talk about on-site students' possible re-entry to the school building. We'll possibly have CAS as a December topic.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The next meeting of the IBPA board of directors will be held via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 5.

— Kirk Seminoff, board secretary

**ADDENDUM:** Smith's idea of a token of appreciation for IB staff was not addressed again during the meeting, but Flores emailed board members afterward asking to vote on spending \$50 for those items. The motion passed 14-0.