

MINUTES OF THE EAST IBPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING — DEC. 3, 2020

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

In attendance

Michael Boykins, IB coordinator	Sueanna Budde
Meghann Ewy, IB counselor	Paloma Bustos
Tanya Flores, president	Donna Khamsysopha
Jason Niblack, vice president	Dena Lee
Steven Smith, treasurer	Mila McKinzie
Kirk Seminoff, secretary	Tina Morris
Ross Lee, past president	Kathleen Pham
Candy Connolly, Class of '22 representative	Mini Siddique
Doreen Papadatos, at-large representative	Kasha Staley
Deborah Smith, at-large representative	Linlin Wang
Steve Whisenant, at-large representative	Srinivas Yendru
Anthony Au	

Flores called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Introductions were made.

Monthly topic: The monthly topic was enrollment, presented by Ewy.

Ewy said enrollment has been different this year because of Covid-19. Four-year plans were sent to students a couple weeks ago and are electronic this year. There is not as much language on the electronic form explaining what SL (Standard Level) and HL (Higher Level) are. Ewy reminded parents that all HL classes that a senior would take, they must take the SL class as a junior, with some exceptions. She said it would take more communication with students and parents this year because parent signatures are not possible on the electronic form for four-year plans and enrollments.

She said she is going to begin calling IB enrollment “course enrollment” so students and parents understand the difference between the IB enrollment (January) and school enrollment (August). New parents can sometimes be confused between the two.

Enrollment will be through Microsoft Forms and she will hand-enter courses for students to ensure courses are correct. She hopes to have form sent to juniors Dec. 10 with completion Dec. 17. Freshman and sophomore forms will be sent out Jan. 8 and due Jan. 15. Course enrollment will come with a tutorial video and helpful links for the process. She hopes these will answer students’ questions.

Question: *How is that information being shared with students, by email?* Information has been shared on three Microsoft Teams platform. Through Ace Time classes, Teams of a specific class, and messages/reminder forms. She suggested parents remind students to check both email addresses or merge the two addresses.

Ewy said parents of seniors should know passcards, which have previously not been offered to seniors because of the belief that IB students should have a rigorous schedule, will be offered in second semester. There has been trouble finding space available in elective classes, so seniors on track to graduate and don't need electives for graduation, are being offered passcards for hours 1 and 4 (first classes of the block-schedule day), and 7 (final class). Ewy hopes seniors will use the time to study or work on CAS or EE projects. Boykins reminded parents that students should make sure with their colleges that passcards aren't detrimental to their transcripts. Ewy said she hasn't received an indication from colleges that they would frown on the use of passcards. Seniors could have as many as three passcards, though Boykins and Ewy could see the use of two.

Ewy said the free ACT for juniors is on and scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 23. East registers juniors for the exam. The students do not need to register. She encouraged juniors to make sure they hold on to their results that will come by mail.

New business: Flores pulled an item out of new business while Ewy was present, "Student well-being and workload."

Flores said from accumulated information she has received from her children and other IB parents, she asked to have a dialogue about student well-being during the pandemic. She noted that while the school district has asked that grace be extended to teachers, that the same grace is also being extended to students.

Flores asked about expectations for class materials to be shared with students. She said many but not all teachers are making sure class materials are available to students. She said she has heard that students' only feedback in some cases has been through grades, that mistakes are not being corrected through teacher feedback. She asked about expectations for homework during the winter break, saying it was important for stress relief during the break from an already-stressful learning environment.

Flores said while students should self-advocate for themselves, but asked what options are available to students who are not comfortable asking questions in a class setting or fear punishment in asking a teacher directly.

Boykins said he was glad the topic was brought up and that it was a conversation for this morning's IB faculty meeting. He said teachers feel the same sentiment as parents. He said teachers were told at the beginning of the school year that they would have to look at their curriculum and determine what they can do without because of the adjusted schedule, which has eliminated 20 percent of class time. He said he asked teachers today, with those cuts made in August, to "discard prime cuts of meat" in curriculum. Option one is to give students the entire curriculum so that they will have all materials for IB exams, but in doing that it will destroy teachers and students personally, socially and emotionally. Option two is to vertically align. IB and PIB teachers of the same subject will meet to determine what IB wants in terms of curriculum. In cutting, he hopes they can continue to look at families and say they've cut back as much as they can, vertically align as much as they can, and use Wednesdays for collaboration. In doing that, not as much will be covered, but it will allow staff to also focus on

students' mental health. The normal rigor will not be possible at the same time. Topics must be perfected because in vertical alignment, it may not be covered again.

Boykins said he has heard these concerns, and drastic measures are being taken to ensure the curriculum is packed as refined as much as possible to make sure students are prepared for their junior and senior years.

Ewy sent a survey to students recently with 270 responses. Based on feedback, more than half of students are saying they can handle this and find ways to make it work. Boykins said he needs to find a way of sharing the survey and will speak with Ewy about getting it to parents.

Boykins said many teachers have made changes to their policies to accommodate virtual limitations. Wednesday afternoons are time for meetings with students. Students and teachers are reaching out to each other, and self-advocacy by students remains important.

Boykins asked parents to encourage, or mandate, turning their camera on during class for 30 minutes or longer. He said cameras turned off becomes demoralizing and exhausting for teachers.

Ewy said she has encouraged students to set up a meeting with a teacher if the conversation is more than one or two small questions, which otherwise can be held by email.

Ewy said many colleges have made standardized testing optional, though scholarship awards still recognize high standardized testing scores as an advantage for students.

Asked about IBO expectations for exams, Boykins said he had not been given specific guidance.

Minutes: A motion (Niblack/Siddique) to approve the minutes of the Nov. 5 meeting was approved without opposition.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Smith said IBPA received four contributions totaling \$495 since the November meeting. Expenditures were for reimbursement for teacher treats and an approved student scholarship. Pending expenses are for the annual fundraising letters and a questionbank license. After the pending expenses, there will be a balance of \$4,033. A motion (Siddique/D. Smith) to approve the report was approved without opposition.

Scholarship request: An IB senior has made a request for a scholarship to cover the student's four remaining IB exams, totaling \$476. This student paid for the first exam. A motion (D. Smith/Siddique) to approve the \$476 scholarship was approved without opposition.

IB coordinator's report: Boykins thanked IBPA for the teacher treats. He said teachers were overwhelmed and excited to receive them. Flores thanked Patresa Ebersole for creating the tags on the treats.

Additional new business: After some discussion, it was decided to make CAS the monthly topic for January's meeting. Boykins said it would be valuable for IB parents to meet April Gutierrez, the new CAS sponsor. He said Gutierrez will teach IB philosophy next year. Additionally, Joe

Hutchinson will train to teach IB Exercise Sports and Science, and there will be an attempt to bring back a second foreign language.

Possible re-entry to the school building for the second semester will also be covered.

A question was asked about eighth-grade testing for IB. Boykins said three options — testing virtually, testing on site, and not testing — exist. A decision will be made later.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m. The next meeting of the IBPA board of directors will be held via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 7.

— Kirk Seminoff, board secretary

ADDENDUM

In email correspondence ending Dec. 4, the board approved without opposition \$100 to cover costs associated with the December fundraising letter. Flores increased the amount to \$175 to ensure all costs were covered.