

MINUTES OF THE EAST IBPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING — FEB. 4, 2021

The meeting was held online via Zoom.

In attendance

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Sara Richardson, principal | Lorraine Choi |
| Michael Boykins, IB coordinator | Tamala Coccanauer |
| Meghann Ewy, IB counselor | Elroy Christie |
| Tanya Flores, president | Sheena Jenkins |
| Jason Niblack, vice president | Madyson Jones |
| Steven Smith, treasurer | Donna Khamsysopha |
| Kirk Seminoff, secretary | Dena Lee |
| Patricia Blessant, Class of '21 representative | Lida Lett |
| Sean Killingsworth, Class of '24 representative | Mila McKenzie |
| Arti Gupta, at-large representative | Tina Morris |
| Doreen Papadatos, at-large representative | Lynette Murphy |
| Ross Lee, past president | Kathleen Pham |
| Anthony Au | Mini Siddique |
| Jodie Bann | Linlin Wang |
| Sueanna Budde | Srinivas Yendru |
| Jonathan Callstrom | Kun Zhang |

Flores called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Monthly topic — Teams: Ewy shared information on Teams, the application students and staff are using in the Wichita school district for classes and communication. She shared her screen to display a typical student's classroom tabs, club tabs, assignment tabs and other notifications. Ewy recently began "take it or leave it" videos that offer a student messages about IB and encouraged students to take advantage of the optional series.

Introductions were made.

Monthly topic — IBO evaluation: Boykins shared information about the international IB organization's evaluation of East's program, which occurs every five years. Normally done over a week with IBO representatives at East, this year it was done virtually in the fall. He said what he and Richardson emphasized was that there are no longer secrets about the IB program that stay only with the leaders, that it is important that teachers, students and parents have a voice. For the first time, teachers and staff were able to meet with evaluators to be open about the program. Students and parents also met with evaluators.

After the meetings, evaluators shared their report with East. Matters to be addressed by June are: 1. They want to ensure teachers are continuing with training. IB training was paused last year when the district stopped all travel. Knowing this would be pointed out by IBO, leadership has already begun looking at what training may look like this summer and even during the academic year. 2. They wanted to meet with a Board of Education member or the superintendent during the evaluation, but that was not possible because of Covid-19. Boykins said he and Richardson have spoken with an assistant superintendent since then to talk about

IB, its budget, and what the program will look like going forward. Boykins said both matters have been addressed.

Boykins said an emphasis has been placed on community within IB. An example is Ace Time, where students of the same class are no longer together. Now, members of all IB classes are together for tutoring opportunities and sense of family.

IBO reported it was impressed with teachers' creativity with meeting IB deadlines. It reported teachers were proud to be affiliated with East IB.

Overall, he said the report said East is doing what it needs to be doing with IB. It was happy with the changes in the leadership team and with what East is doing with its IB funds. Staff members were pleased with the results.

Boykins was asked if IB leaders are contemplating changes or improvements to the program. He mentioned two things: 1. To be intentional with the concept of international mindedness. In past years, IB has used these examples of international mindedness: student clubs and organizations; a diverse student population; and literature being read in English, Spanish and history classes. But he said that's not enough, and he and the IB leadership team are exploring how the program can be intentional with international mindedness and how can would look in each classroom. 2. To be intentional with the IB learner profile. What does it mean to be open-minded? What does it mean to be balanced or reflective? PIB English teachers Ortiz and Tolbert are already integrating that into the curriculum. Eighth-graders testing into the program had to write about the IB learner profile's attributes. Monthly topics incorporating the learning profile are possible.

A question was asked about curriculum choices. Boykins said IBO has a list of courses and there are opportunities to have self-made courses approved by IBO for a school. East's courses were chosen at the beginning of the program 30 years ago and haven't changed much. A poll of students two years ago showed they were interested in other classes available from IBO. Next year, IB Philosophy will be offered. East is considering making IB Business Management an HL as well as the already-offered SL. IB Sports and Exercise Science could be added in two years, and the program is looking at adding a second foreign language. Issues are teachers and training, and how do additions or changes interact with the master schedule.

A question was asked about whether focus groups of students could help with curriculum choices. Boykins noted past Black and Hispanic student groups have taken advantage and given back to the community by promoting the program to middle schools. Clubs and groups are promoted through Ace Time classes and social media.

A question was asked about end-of-year IB exams and IBO's expectations given the various learning models worldwide because of Covid-19. Boykins said he told IBO the greatest concern was testing and keeping students and faculty Covid-19 safe during that time. No changes have yet been made to the testing schedule. There have been changes to some course exam requirements.

Monthly topic — In-person learning update: Students may enter the building no earlier than 7:40 a.m., Boykins said, and may grab breakfast before going straight to their first classes. Assigned seating helps contact tracing, and both students and teachers are on laptops since there are also students learning remotely. Teachers are told to give frequent breaks. Students are not allowed to use the restrooms during passing periods. Boykins has been pleased with students' behavior, mask-wearing and distancing. Five-minute passing periods have not been a problem, though freshman students in school for the first time often get lost.

Students have three lunch options: The Hangar, either of the libraries, or outside. He said attendance has been much smaller than predicted, as many students have decided to continue learning remotely even though they could come to school. Richardson said she expects more students to return to East as the weather gets warmer.

A question was asked about whether students are counted absent if they are expected to be in person but instead are logging in remotely. Boykins said no, as long as students are logged in, they are not considered absent. Richardson said the sheer number of students does not allow the staff to track who is logged in when they are scheduled to be in class.

A question was asked about a timeline for getting faculty and staff vaccinated. Richardson said procedures are in place and the district is waiting for Sedgwick County to deliver the vaccines. Once delivered, vaccinations would begin almost immediately. Her hope is it starts in the next couple of weeks. Most vulnerable staff — age, pre-existing health concerns — will be vaccinated first, and she's been assured by the district those who are most exposed to students will be vaccinated before others not exposed to students.

A question was asked about vaccinating many East staffers at one time and whether that could cause staffing shortages. Richardson said she didn't expect a large number of East staff to be vaccinated on the same day.

A question was asked about the Feb. 23 in-school ACT and whether all social-distancing aspects could be maintained. Richardson said East has to adhere to ACT rules of keeping students at least 3 feet apart. They may be closer than 6 feet of distancing, but all students will be contact traced that day. East will do its best to keep all students and staff as distanced as possible. East will use both gyms, the testing center and auditorium to help keep classroom sizes down. Additionally, Richardson said 10 to 15 percent of would-be test takers traditionally don't show up for the test.

A question was asked about spring sports. Richardson said students participating in spring sports are, as of Feb. 4, required to learn fully remotely during the sport, but she is anticipating a relaxation of that rule as we get closer to the spring season.

A question was asked about teacher morale. Boykins said morale is better than what was expected. Richardson said any encouragement for teachers as the Internal Assessment period begins would be appreciated.

A question was asked about enrollment of incoming freshmen compared to past years. IB leadership was concerned about what it would look like. Ewy used to go to middle schools and

would take students with her. Shadow opportunities at East were also available for eighth-graders, but they were not available this year. This year's process started with two parent overview meetings, the first of which Boykins described as a disaster because the Powerpoint and video couldn't be seen by parents, along with other problems. A second meeting went much better, and a third meeting including district leadership sharing the meeting on social media. Plus, for the first time, the district's Choices Fair was during the IB recruitment period. Boykins spoke with all Robinson PIB eighth-graders, and Ewy contacted other middle schools. With an expectation of 120 applications, IB received 145. Boykins said applications for all district magnet programs were also down.

IB leadership asked whether it was looking for quality of quantity in a ninth-grade class. It stopped and asked itself why it tests and what does it test. Last Saturday's testing sessions were 25-26 students each, two sessions in two rooms. The Watson-Glaser critical analysis test administered in past years was not used. Boykins said the test, while being a predictor of IB success, is approaching 100 years old and is culturally biased. This year, essay writing was used as critical analysis.

Boykins said more than two-dozen middle schools were represented in the 145 applications.

Minutes: A motion (Blessant/Budde) to approve the January minutes was approved without opposition.

Treasurer's report: Smith said there has been one additional contribution, for \$25, since the January meeting. Contributions are down from last year and similar to two years ago. Expenditures are also down. Four student scholarships have been the biggest single expense. We have a balance of \$3,856.19. A motion (Siddique/Budde) to approve the report was approved without opposition.

Scholarship requests: Flores said she talked with Boykins about having scholarship applicants fill out a federal free and reduced lunch applications. If they qualify, federal money would reduce their IB testing fees. We would still consider funding the scholarship no matter whether the student qualifies for free/reduced. A question was asked about whether that form would already be on file. Richardson said sometimes high school families don't fill them out because they don't understand what's available to them, especially since all lunches have been free since March. She endorsed having them fill out forms, saying it could possibly save IBPA hundreds of dollars. Exam fees are \$119 for full price, \$59.50 for reduced and \$24.25 for free qualifiers. Consensus was IBPA will ask students' families to fill out the federal application.

IB coordinator's report: A discussion began about an IB fee — \$50 for freshmen, \$25 for sophomores, juniors and seniors. The \$50 has been in place the past four or five years. Richardson said to offset some costs similar to magnet costs, the registration fee was divided over four years. All money goes back to student support in the program. Concerns over the fee arose when some families were billed recently as they didn't pay it as normal during online enrollment. Those fees were often explained during in-person enrollment of previous years. Richardson said the "cattle call" in-person enrollment of past years will not return.

Teacher requests: Ms. Archibold, IB Psychology teacher, is requesting access to the database she asks for yearly. This year, she won a drawing that will pay for the access, but it does not pay for the American Psychiatric Association membership fee of \$50 for database access. A motion (Budde/Siddique) to approve the \$50 fee request was approved without opposition.

Senior recognition: A discussion began about the May IB recognition ceremony. Richardson doesn't anticipate the county allowing a mass gathering of more than 100 people inside for a ceremony. She suggested having alternative plans in place. A front-lawn ceremony and drive-through ceremony were briefly discussed.

Senior IB T-shirts: A brief discussion took place on designed T-shirts for IB seniors. Boykins says students can design the shirt, and a form would be created on the Teams IB senior page.

Student wellness: Flores and Gupta talked about a recurring student wellness discussion with students. They said they will talk with Ewy.

March topic: It was decided that starting the college process for the Class of '22 will be the March topic.

Flores adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The next meeting of the IBPA board of directors is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 4, via Zoom.

— Kirk Seminoff, board secretary