

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

The meeting was held online via Zoom.

In attendance

Michael Boykins, IB coordinator	Sueanna Budde
Meghann Ewy, IB counselor	Lorraine Choi
Tanya Flores, president	Marie Christie
Jason Niblack, vice president	Tamala Coccanauer
Steven Smith, treasurer	Nicole Fox
Kirk Seminoff, secretary	Amy Kuttler
Patricia Blessant, Class of '21 representative	Chiaw-Weai Loo
Sean Killingsworth, Class of '24 representative	Mila McKenzie
Arti Gupta, at-large representative	Reena Patel
Doreen Papadatos, at-large representative	Kathleen Pham
Deborah Smith, at-large representative	Mini Siddique
Andrew Aitken	Sue Tirukonda
Anthony Au	Linlin Wang
Fernanda Belton	

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

Monthly topic — Paying for college: Sue Tirukonda, a certified financial planner and former East IB parent, presented. Highlights of her message included:

- The objective should be to get the student into the school of their choice without you losing your sanity, sobriety and savings.
- There is a great need for college planning. College costs continue to skyrocket; there is increased competition for admission, scholarships and financial aid; and parents must balance retirement goals with their students' college dreams.
- The average cost per year for a four-year public university is \$26,820, \$54,880 for private universities. That includes tuition, fees, room and board, books and supplies, and personal expenses. Changing majors can increase costs by 25% to 50%.
- Make your child irresistible to colleges. It's not just the GPA, it's looking for things from a holistic perspective:
 - Academics, athletics, activities
 - Building diversity
 - Business of higher education. Colleges are looking to fill seats. Learn the freshman profile for the college to see what it's looking for.
- Most families don't pay sticker price.
 - Financial aid strategies
 - Published charges do not represent the cost that most students pay
 - Only about one-third of full-time students have no grant or scholarship aid

- Many high-income earners assume they will not qualify and never apply
- How a family pays for college
 - Parent income and savings, 45 percent
 - Grants and scholarships, 25 percent
 - Relatives and friends, 1 percent
 - Student income and savings, 8 percent
 - Parent borrowing, 8 percent
 - Student borrowing, 13 percent
- There is a lot of money out there in scholarships and grants
 - In 2013-14, \$122.7 billion were awarded in scholarships and grants
 - 39 percent comes from colleges and universities
 - 13 percent comes from private sources
 - 8 percent comes from state sources
 - 40 percent comes from federal sources

Remember that that most merit- and need-based scholarships from colleges and universities are not competitive. You can receive them by meeting certain requirements.
- Expanded Family Contribution (EFC) is the minimum amount a family is expected to contribute toward the cost of college, based on the parents' and student's income and assets, the size of family and number of students in college.
- Formulas are determined by federal FAFSA forms, used by most colleges. There is also an institutional formula (CSS profile) used by 300 private schools.
- Financial aid under federal methodology
 - Expected student contribution: 50% of student income, 20% of student assets
 - Expected family contribution: 22-47% of parents' income, up to 5.6% of parents' net assets
- Finesse your FAFSA filing date based on your finances at any point in time after Oct. 1. It is a snapshot of your finances at that point when you file. Pay your bills before filing. Send your FAFSA information to all schools you're applying to, as they see who else is getting the information and may be more competitive in a financial aid offer.
- Financial Aid Process
 - Student completes FAFSA and/or CSS profile
 - Colleges receive student's EFC and subtract it from their total cost
 - Colleges send aid award letter detailing all aid that student is awarded
 - Cost of attendance minus EFC is your financial need
 - Private schools may award more need-based aid, but not as much merit-based aid
- Examples of an aid award for a need of \$15,000
 - A tuition discount or scholarship.
 - Stafford loan (self-help), work study (self-help), tuition discount/scholarship

- Paying for college using personal resources
 - Determine how much of your current income and assets are available to pay for college. Parents should talk to the student about how much they can afford.
- Using loans to pay for college
 - It's becoming a huge problem because more parents/students are taking out loans to fund education.
 - Parent borrowing: PLUS loans, 13%; home equity loans, 8%; credit cards, 25%; retirement accounts, 25%; private ed loans, 9%
 - Student borrowing: federal loans 30%, other loans 6%, student credit cards 7%, private loans 13%.
- Federal loans families can use (first three are student, last is parents, all rates for '20-21)
 - Subsidized Stafford loan: need-based student loan, 2.75 fixed rate (interest doesn't accrue until after graduation)
 - Unsubsidized Stafford loan, non need-based student loan, 2.75 (interest starts immediately)
 - Perkins loan, need-based student loan, 5% fixed rate
 - PLUS loan, non need-based parent loan, 5.03% fixed rate
- Max amounts for these loans
 - Stafford: \$5,500 freshman, \$6,500 sophomore, \$7,500 junior and senior
 - Perkins: \$5,500
 - PLUS loan: All the way to the full COA less any other financial aid
- Apply for FAFSA each year student is in school, deadline is June 30. A FAFSA forecaster is available online to give an estimated financial cost.
- Do not pay someone to look for scholarships for your student. It's a scam.

Ewy said college career coordinator Cammie Kennedy said EFC can no longer be seen by private schools beginning next year.

Ewy said on March 12 is junior English classes, the college unit will begin in an abbreviated state. In a survey before the unit, the 45 responses all said financial aid is a factor in the school to be applied to. Topics will include Zillow, a step-by-step cost estimator, how to be irresistible to colleges, the application process, and CommonApp. There will be an introspection exercise March 18. The college folder will be turned in electronically by May 11, earlier than past years. She has shared a 20-minute video from six seniors about the process. Seniors are having a hard time taking the lead in contacting admissions and financial-aid offices. They should be aggressive in asking financial-aid counselors if there is more aid available. She encouraged parents to look for resources on the IB counselor's page.

Introductions were made, including descriptions of officers' roles. Many officer positions will become vacant because those parents have seniors in the program.

IB coordinator's report: Boykins said current on-site school is four days a week for seniors, with freshmen returning March 8 per Board of Education decision. He believes the fourth quarter will return all on-site students to school five days a week, though there's a question about whether students who signed up for remote learning would be required to return to school. This is likely because of vaccinations for staff members and lower positive Covid-19 test rates in Sedgwick County.

Boykins was asked how in-person school is going for teachers and students, given remote learners are still at home. He said candidly that there is frustration for teachers that attention is split between in-person students and students online.

Boykins was asked if the school is ready, Covid-wise, for 2,300 students to return to campus. The school is ready, he said. He said social distancing is regarded differently in classrooms. It will not be possible to have 6-foot distancing. Masks and breaks for cleaning will be mandated. Lunch period will be different with that many students.

A question was asked about teacher vaccinations. Boykins emphasized vaccinations are optional and teachers do not have to report if they are or are not vaccinated.

A question was asked if students would have any options if all students, including My School Remote, were required to come back to school. Boykins said if the Board of Education are mandating all students come back, students would not have a choice. Niblack commented there will be pushback if mandating all students return to school. Boykins agreed, though he pointed out nearby districts have been fully onsite for some time.

Boykins was asked about Internal Assessments and whether students and teachers were doing well under remote learning. He said there is much concern because East doesn't have control of the IB dates and deadlines. He asked teachers who needed an extension, then asked IBO for extensions. All IB exams will be in person, an IBO decision. Because of space, those will be conducted at the district administrative center, 903 S. Edgemoor.

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

Treasurer's report: Smith said IB received \$50 in one contribution. There is a pending expense for Ms. Archibold's American Psychiatric Association membership. For the year, IBPA is running at a \$245 deficit. The ending balance is at \$3,854.59. A motion (Niblack/Siddique) to approve the report was approved without opposition.

Senior Recognition: East graduation is May 25. Discussion moved to selecting a date for IB Senior Recognition. After considering a handful of dates, May 16 was chosen. Boykins preferred the date because if an IB graduate misses the ceremony, he has time to track them down. This will be an outdoor event, likely on the school's front lawn, and would be cancelled in case of inclement weather. Flores is working on a prepackaged food option.

IB senior T-shirts: Boykins contacted a person who has designer friends who can create a design. Flores asked about cost. Boykins said he would find out, as well as surveying seniors for their preferences.

April topic: April will not have a specific monthly topic. Flores asked those at the meeting to contact her if they are interested in serving as a board member in 2021-22, including returning board members.

Flores adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

The next meeting of the IBPA board of directors is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, via Zoom.

— Kirk Seminoff, board secretary