

MINUTES OF THE EAST IBPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING — APRIL 1, 2021

The meeting was held online via Zoom.

In attendance

Michael Boykins, IB coordinator	Lorraine Choi
Tanya Flores, president	Tammy Coccanauer
Jason Niblack, vice president	Candy Denk-Connolly
Kirk Seminoff, secretary	Donna Khamsysopha
Patricia Blessant, Class of '21 representative	Gung Nguyen
Sean Killingsworth, Class of '24 representative	Kathleen Pham
Doreen Papadatos, at-large representative	Mini Siddique
Jewel Akpan	Ima Ukoefreso
Anthony Au	Srinivas Yendru
Sueanna Budde	

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

Introductions were made.

IB coordinator's report: Boykins said some of the students who came back for in-person learning are still learning through laptops and may be frustrated. Teachers have been told to focus on students in the classroom, and Boykins emphasized it's not in students' best interest to be in IB classes remotely. In the future, all IB will be on-site. Killingsworth said his freshman daughter felt invisible this week at home, and noted it appeared as if the district was muscling students back to school. Boykins said teachers have been pained that they have not been able to respond better to remote students. Akpan said her freshman daughter has experienced something similar to Killingsworth's daughter.

Pham asked about students returning who signed up for remote learning. Boykins said two-dozen students have done that and they are welcome back. Parents are asked to communicate whether transportation is needed. Boykins said IB exams are required to be in-person.

Siddique said her daughter has experienced classmates not wearing masks in elective classes. Boykins said he thinks 90 percent of students are wearing masks. He reiterated administrators can't do anything about teachers not enforcing masks if they don't know.

Flores asked about Aces in the Community and drills on that afternoon. Boykins said several drills were held while students were remote. A tornado drill was conducted early in the second semester. He doesn't believe drills are planned for the second part of Aces in the Community.

Ukoefreso asked why East has required IB exams when some countries (and Boykins said other U.S. schools) are not requiring them. Boykins said East was surveyed by IBO on how students are learning this year (remote/site), do you have space for exams (yes), and another question Boykins couldn't remember. Boykins said part of him wanted to lie, but it's not his style, so he said we can hold the exams. Flores noted that meant some schools' students will receive

predictive scores plus Internal Assessments, while East will have that plus IB exam scores, which doesn't create a level playing field. Boykins said he didn't disagree.

Seminoff asked if Boykins anticipated some IB seniors were falling through the cracks in earning an IB diploma. He said yes, based on the response he was receiving from counselor Meghann Ewy. He had no doubts about students' talents, but knows the emotional situation through Covid has been taxing. He said East usually never loses seniors at semester, but lost 4-5 this year. They had a semester left and didn't want to do it anymore. The spark for learning for learning's sake isn't what it used to be for some students. He said teachers and students are "busting their ass," but there's an unseen hurdle that can be chalked up to Covid. He said he used to tell families it's more than a score, it's an experience. He still believes that because there are soft skills IB kids are getting that they can't get anywhere else. But for as hard as they're working, it would be great to receive a score that considers their efforts, but that doesn't always happen. He said that's one of the reasons East considered ala carte certificates, the school's way of saying we hear and understand you. Though it won't be done, it may be considered in the future.

Boykins said teachers have been fighting with IBO about scoring. IBO has said this is how many As will be awarded, Bs and Cs on Extended Essays. Teachers have "raised hell" and said they know their training and they trust students and demanded IBO give teachers a different allocation. It was fought for and received. There has been staff frustration with district mandates and IBO, and teachers are trying to work through it without taking it out on each other, the students, parents and Boykins himself.

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

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Steven Smith was not present but told Flores there was no change to the finances since the March 4 meeting. A motion (Niblack/Coccanauer) to approve the report was approved without opposition.

New business — Learner Profile Scholarship: A motion (Siddique/Papadatos) to approve \$250 toward the Learner Profile Scholarship and \$10 for engraving was approved without opposition.

Old business — senior IB shirts: Boykins said the decision was made not to do the T-shirts.

Old business — Senior Recognition: Boykins said a change in the program will emphasize celebrating this year's seniors. Celebrations that may include students not in IB will include those students. Every testing subject will have its own senior superlative presented by the teacher, with the final superlative to be the Learner Profile Scholarship. CAS and TOK will also be highlighted.

The recognition is at 2 p.m. May 16 in the theater. Mask-wearing is mandatory. Boykins will look at how many seats are available and will decide on tickets per family. Students won't be invited unless part of a senior's family. IBPA will not hold the reception that usually involves food and drink.

After discussion, a motion (Blessant/Ukoefreso) to approve up to \$70 for individually packaged sugar cookies for IB seniors was approved without opposition. Boykins said he would email the board a number of available seats in the theater and tickets per family.

New business — teacher recognition: Budde suggested a student survey for best teacher in any East PIB/IB class. After discussion, it was agreed to do a senior survey that Boykins said he would send. A motion (Budde/Niblack) to approve \$50 Watermark Books gift cards for the top two vote getters and a third \$50 Watermark Books appreciation card was approved without opposition. The group recognized that this may not be able to be an annual event.

New business — 2021-22 board nominations: Flores said many people have expressed an interest in several positions for next year. Vice president, treasurer and secretary are positions that need to be filled, as well as representatives. Elections will be held at the May 6 meeting. Boykins said meetings next year may also want to be virtual since turnout was better than in-person meetings. Niblack said he will look into an IBPA Zoom account.

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, May 6, via Zoom.

— Kirk Seminoff, board secretary