



International Academy East PTIA Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 24, 2009 7 PM

Call Meeting to Order: Meeting began at 8:02 PM
(In the IA East Media Center)

In Attendance: Shalaka Kulkarni, Subha Mukundan, Raj Sandadi, Bob Gamelin, Debbie Gamelin, Emma Huber (for Laurie Huber), Jane Chen, Susie Kim, Ramesh Gummalla, Daksha Gohil, Srilaxmi Seethamachar, Awni Fakhoury, Victoria Gojcaj, Elizabeth Gojcaj, Ana Urian, Rubab Huq, Kim Radke, Lisa Taylor, Jeff Taylor, Maliha Naveed, Theresa Ivan, Mi Jeong Oh, Priscilla Lu, Paul Fleck, Eva Fleck, David Trepanier, Lalitha Badey, Yeon Sook Hwang, Adil Mohammed, Mana Seetharamen, Usha De Souza, Kay Villanaseril, Antony Villanaseril, Soji Oho, Ms. Gamero, Ms. Kinney,

PRESENTATION: *What to expect for 10th Grade* (Ms. Melissa Kinney):

In the 9th grade, the only standardized test given to the students is the MEAP. Students should continue to focus on turning in every single assignment. They should also continue to prepare and study for each and every test. They should also get to know and build their relationship with their teachers as the students need to be able to advocate for themselves.

In the 10th grade, the students will take the ACT PLAN test in the fall. The PSAT is optional. It is important to note the ACT PLAN test score ranges from 1-32. The ACT test score ranges from 1-36. The IA Students typically score 25% higher than predicted ACT scores. This is due to the rigorous preparation achieved by the core curriculum at the IA. The PSAT is not used in consideration of Merit Scholarships and competitions and is NOT provided to colleges. Students are welcome to take prep courses, but Ms. Kinney does not recommend they do so until after their first test, unless it is evident that they have trouble taking standardized tests.

IA East scheduling for 10th grade begins in a few weeks. Some keys points:

1. Math-go to next level (Math Methods, Math Standard & Higher Levels--- readiness for the IB Diploma. If student is struggling with Math, there's no problem to going to a lower level of Math.
2. Language- continue with language selected in 9th grade
3. Kids will need to be good stewards and contribute to the IA community (E.g., welcoming and nurturing the freshmen).

Every college is different with weighting GPAs. Some re-calculate using their core classes.

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Most colleges look at their ACT, SAT scores. In many cases, U-M-accepts IA students with a 3.6 GPA where at the student's home school the GPA would have to be higher. All schools look at the AP/IB being an advantage; whether it is counted in the recalculation or considered in their overall application. Ms. Kinney explained there is little benefit in taking the SAT early and it should be taken during the student's junior year. The SAT DOES count towards College Admission (even if you take it early). The SAT is NOT designed for 9th & 10th grades. The trend with College Admission Offices is to request all copies of the standardized tests (ACT & SAT) to see how many times an individual has taken the test.

GOAL for next year: Coursework and pad their GPA.

Ms. Kinney recommends the students begin to explore the colleges they are interested in. Begin to look at their websites, understand admission requirements, set goals for their performance and begin planning how they will get there. Parents should ask their student questions about their search, how are they planning to get there, etc.

Career Cruising continues in the sophomore year. **Career Day:** The students will take a field trip to a local community college, organized with a key note speaker, several sessions of guest speakers to discuss opportunities in the fields they are interested in. (they select their top 3 picks)

Students should get involved with things they like. Colleges want to see commitment over time. Ms. Kinney does not advocate over commitment of a student's time where it begins to impact their grades.

IB Program:

The IB Program starts in the student's junior year. There will be an orientation late in the sophomore year for the students and the parents led by our IB Coordinator. The IB Program includes the Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay and the CAS. The Theory of Knowledge course consists of a semester in the junior year and another semester in the senior year. The Extended Essay is an argumentative essay where the students are expected to research thoroughly and write a 4,000 word essay. Failure of only one of the four areas can result in the loss of the IB diploma.

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Students will be able to pick a science. They should select what they like, what they are interested, and what they are good with. Ms. Kinney recommends they do not choose courses they think they must have, unless they are certain they want to apply to an engineering program, direct med program, or the like. She can help them understand what those are, if the student already knows what they would like to pursue in college.

CAS Hours: can only be earned at the start of the junior year through March 15th of Senior Year. They can earn CAS Hours over the summer between Jr. & Sr. year. (If the student's would like to) Enrichments are not required to complete CAS Hours. Enrichments can count towards their "action" hours (creativity, community service and action).

1. Athletics: sports, anything that makes them sweat :-)
2. Service: non-paid, volunteer hours, etc.
3. Creativity: Music, Painting, Drawing

Product Team hours may count towards CAS hours.

Answer to parent question: Can enrichment be repeated for CAS credit As junior/senior? Yes - if there is room in the enrichment because first timers have first choice.

IB is much defined on proselytizing for earning CAS hours. You can volunteer (Service work) with your religious organization. But once the discussion // purpose becomes "proselytize" these hours will not be eligible.

IB- 8 Learning outcomes---facilitated through journaling on-line, talk about their experiences, the school teaches them about HOW TO journal. Ms. Kinney can tell when they are really experiencing the work/learning outcome. Ms. Kinney does read through their journals. Students log in the hours they earn as they progress.

In the summer, over the sophomore year, it is recommended students take a tour of a college. It is not mandatory to take the PSAT.

IB Extended Essay: Late 2nd semester Jr. Year through fall of senior year: Extended essay should be worked on. Their extended essay mentors (teachers) will meet with each student over a period of time to see if they are pacing themselves, how they are progressing, and council them as needed.

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2/24/09 PTIA East Meeting Minutes:

Approval of 1/20/09 Minutes: did not have time to approve meeting minutes



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Reports:

President (D. Gamelin): Nothing to report

Teacher Representative – Bettina Gamero:

1. Student elections and campaigning is taking place this week. The final election is this Friday. The competition has been fierce and the students have been very creative with their campaigning posters, materials, etc.
2. Progress Reports will be sent home with students on 2/27/09.
3. Student Brain Breaks- takes place during the Finals Week in June for the 4 days (Monday- Thursday).

Vice President (A. Fakhoury): Awni shared with the parents we still need them to get involved and support the PTIA. He also suggested parents look into their companies matching gifts program and let us know what foundations and grants they are aware of to fund our programs, pay for wish list items, etc.

Secretary (Laurie Huber): Laurie was not in attendance. Debbie Gamelin mentioned that Laurie has been in and out of the hospital the last 3 weeks. She passed a card around for the parents to sign. Get well soon!!!!

Treasurer (Victoria Gojcaj): Victoria shared that our checking account balance is now at \$1,212.38. We have one deposit for \$45.00 pending. We had one distribution to Awni Fakhoury of \$127.20 for the Teacher Appreciation luncheon provided by Franco's Restaurant.

New Business:

Jimmy's Coney Island Fundraiser: Mr. Jimmy Tangas has given the IA East 1 day of each month through June to have a fundraiser with us. He will donate 10% of the proceeds from 3-9 PM on those days to IA East. The first Family Night is March 4th. Please join us for a fun evening where we can socialize, our students can interact outside of school, and our staff can also join us (outside of the academic environment). The more, the merrier! We may also have some raffles and prizes.

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Partners In Education (PIE) Foundation: There were some contributions from the IA East Families to the PIE Foundation. Please note the following on the PIE Foundation: Partners in International Education (PIE) is a non-profit organization serving the southeast Michigan region, dedicated to the advancement of public education that meets global standards of excellence. It is the mission of PIE to increase access to this high level education for students throughout the region, serving the needs of students and their families while providing the business community with a workforce ready for international competition.

PIE offers multiple strategies to reach this goal. PIE works to preserve and enhance the current excellence in existing international education, particularly through the growth and development of the International Academy High School and its International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum. The IB is taught in schools around the world and is a highly regarded international program with rigorous assessments. PIE will fund efforts to support the growth of IB programs by facilitating IB orientation seminars, teacher training, and curriculum needs. PIE will also provide support to businesses with international transfers by providing educational counseling and informative seminars on the American public schools.

We may also submit a grant requests to the PIE Foundation for our school. In the future, please consider a donation to this worthy cause. We will be discussing the Teacher's Wish List and consider a grant request to PIE to obtain some of these items.

Old Business:

IA East Teacher's Wish List: The PTIA will partner with the Teacher's to research funding (or provide the funding) for the following items needed in the classrooms):

1. New white board for math classroom – installed higher than the current one
2. 30 sets of 3 dimensional shapes (\$29.95 each)
3. 30 sets of 3 soft dimensional shapes (\$24.95 each)
4. 30 sets of clear geo-solids (\$16.95 each)
5. 30 sets of dice (\$3.49)
6. Dissectible cone (\$42.16)

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7. 30 decks of cards
8. 4 Basketballs
9. 4 Volleyballs
10. 30 tape recorders for language classes (small portable for regular cassette size) (\$9.95 each)
11. 3 electric pencil sharpeners
12. 1 electric hole puncher
13. 30 dry erase markers
14. 30 dry erasers
15. 30 Spanish/English classroom dictionaries

If you have any ideas on how to obtain a grant or would like to contribute or assist with any of the above items, please contact anyone on the PTIA Board. Thank you in advance!

501 (c)(3) Filing: No update from IRS.

IA Spirit Wear: Audra as 1/2/09 the samples in her possession. She is still waiting for Lynne Nagy to submit the costs and says she will ask her today again at their Tri-Campus Meeting.

World Studies Grant: No answer yet from grant submission by Mr. Rokicki to the Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence.

Spring Flowers program : Debbie Gamelin asked the team for volunteers to help with this fundraiser. Theresa Ivan volunteered to help. The plan is to have the order forms distributed to families (and any other individuals who wish to participate) in mid-April. Forms would be due 1st week in May. Plan for delivery to be the 3rd week of May at the school. We will work with Hessel's Greenhouse in Macomb Twp.

Parent Participation: We would like to have a guest speaker at each meeting. Please share your ideas. We will also be happy to have your input on any suggestions to improve parent participation. You may e-mail any member of the board or submit your suggestions to the PTIA Mailbox in the Main Office. Our Office Manager (Janice Meganck) is aware there may be suggestions submitted and will be sure to place them in the mailbox as she receives them.

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Committee Reports:

IA East Newsletter – Deadline for April-May Newsletter is March 20. Articles can be submitted to: jaenewsletter@gmail.com. Parents and Staff are encouraged to submit articles/contributions for the newsletter.

Teacher Appreciation/Social Gathering Parents & Staff: Awni Fakhoury and Ana Urian are planning the Dinner Dance with Parents and IA Staff. The plan is to have a social gathering in the evening as a fundraiser and a way to allow parents to get to know our teachers, leadership, staff, etc. outside of the academic setting. We would love your ideas for a silent auction, raffle items, type of dinner (kinds of foods, restaurant or hall, etc.), music/entertainment, date & time, etc. Please share them with [Awni Fakhoury](#) and [Ana Urian](#).

Troy Families for SAFE Homes (Theresa Ivan): Theresa presented information from the last Troy Families for SAFE Homes meeting:

1. **Troy Youth Assistance presents *Teenage Sex: At What Price?*** for parents and their children in grades 6-12. Monday, March 16, 2009 from 7 PM- 9 PM, Room 303 at the Troy Community Center. To register: call TYA at (248) 823-5095 or e-mail Robin Lilly at rlilly2@troy.k12.mi.us
2. The ***Streetwise Parenting*** sessions continue at the Troy Community Center. There is no charge to attend. March 26, 2009 is the next session. For questions, please call (248) 643-6708.
3. The ***Spring Break 2008 parent survey results*** are available. The brochure includes parent feedback and recommendations, safety issues to be considered and the survey results for 2008 Spring Break. To request an electronic copy, please contact Debbie Gamelin.
4. For any parent looking for 2009 Spring Break activities in Troy, please see for a complete list of activities, free and discounted items in Troy and the surrounding communities: <http://www.troymi.gov/SpringBreak/>.
5. For the City of Troy March Newsletter, please see: <http://www.troy.k12.mi.us/community/Feb27/citymarchevents.pdf>

Correspondence: We received a lovely greeting card signed by all the PTIA Staff thanking us for the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. The teachers & staff

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enjoyed the fine food, and specifically thanked us for all of our support. They greatly appreciate what we're doing for our school and our efforts to support them!

Announcements:

The next meeting is March 17, 2009 at 7 PM. Guest Speaker to be announced.

Help Wanted: for the rest of this school year on the Spring Flower Sale, IA East Parents & Staff Social Gathering (see Awni Fakhoury), Fundraising Project Lead, and nominations/volunteers for the PTIA Board / Committee Members for the 2009-2010 school year.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 PM