

Illinois Math and Science Academy

Parent Association Council

General Forum

December 10, 2011

Members Present: Executive Board: Stu Bloom, Toni Skoog, Juli Geldner

Voting Members: See attendance sheet

Absent: See attendance sheet

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/DECISION
Call to order	Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m.	
Roll Call: Stu Bloom (President)	Roll completed.	Quorum established.
Approval of Minutes	Minutes from the November meeting were not available.	Deferred to the next meeting.
Treasurer's Report: Toni Skoog	Approximately \$9k is in the PAC general account, and the annual \$15k gift from the IMSA Fund is forthcoming, plus \$4,600 in designated contributions made to the IMSA Fund. Monies are also remaining in the bus fund.	
President's Report: Stu Bloom	No report.	
Vice President's Report: Peter Edgers	No report.	
CAC and Administrative Reports: Dr. Bob Hernandez	Dr. Hernandez presented the CAC report from notes prepared by Julia Husen, who could not be present. SOPHOMORES: 12/7 was the last meeting of the year. All sophomores are now registered for Naviance & parents are invited to register. On Mon/Tues next week, sophomores may add/drop second semester courses.	

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<p>CAC and Administrative Reports (continued)</p>	<p>JUNIORS: PSAT results were discussed with student on Dec 9th, with a makeup session on the 16th. Next week, PSAT test results will be mailed to parents. The add/drop period for second semester courses is now open. SENIORS: December 1st was the last CAC meeting with the senior class. There are 1,701 college application requests processed and 200 still pending. U of I and UIC admissions decisions are coming Dec 17th, along with other early decisions before the Winter break. Students are being noticed about sending mid-year grades to colleges.</p> <p>ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Dr. McLaren cannot attend today because he is at his son's state swim meet. There are only 4 more class days for attendance. Parents are urged to tell their students to attend class, because they are still subject to WF grades if they exceed absence/tardy points. Thursday & Friday will be short class days, with some final exams being given this week and others next week. Finals will be done by noon on 12/21, and the halls close at 5:00 p.m. Intersession classes are all set to go, and the second semester starts the Tuesday after Martin Luther King Day.</p>	
<p>IMSA Fund and Alumni Report: Greta Salmando</p>	<p>To date, 33% of parents (55% of goal) have contributed to the IMSA Fund.</p>	

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IMSA Fund and Alumni Report (continued)	35% of the dollars toward the \$105k goal have been contributed. The Fund is finishing work on a humorous student video urging donations. An alumni event was recently held in Chicago, and more events are scheduled during the intersession.	
Student Council: Jordan Williams (Senior At-Large Representative)	94% of seniors (200) participated in the \$5 for \$5,000 campaign, reaching the goal. Seniors contribute \$5 toward the IMSA Fund and receive \$5,000 from the Fund toward the Senior Banquet. Also, 53% of seniors pledged to donate \$5 annually for five years after graduation. January 20 th is the Winter Formal, sponsored by the Junior & Senior Club. Last Wednesday was the traditional Secret Santa gift exchange. IMSA Cribs—short, funny videos of student rooms, will be presented during intersession. March is Clash of the Halls. The Council is also working on student course evaluation guides.	
Multicultural and Student Life Committees	No Report.	
Saturday Something	No report.	
Academic Committee: Nancy Crawford	Nine committee members and Barbara Miller participated in this morning's meeting. At the next PAC meeting, there will be a presentation on problem-based learning. Today's meeting had discussions of Calculus Based Physics, Wellness classes, and SIR. Next month, parents may call-in to the meeting.	

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Technology Committee:	No report.	
Hospitality Committee:	No report.	
Friday Fest: Renita Miller	T-shirts are still available for \$6. The next Friday Fest is in March.	
Senior Banquet: Tara Hornbeck	Everything is on schedule for the June 1 st banquet. Baby photos are still needed. PayPal will be available as a payment option. Tickets will be picked up at the banquet. Next year's chair will be Tara Hornbeck.	
Old Business	None.	
New Business	Stu Bloom called for suggestions for the use of \$5k of PAC funds for discretionary expenses to benefit the academy. Some ideas have been generated from the administration and EC. Last year, the PAC purchased dorm vacuum cleaners and a new drum set for the orchestra.	
Recess	A 15 minute recess was taken so parents could attend the Spirit Wear sale being conducted by the Senior Class.	
Presentation on History and Social Science Curriculum: Dr. Robert Kiely	Dr. Kiely outlined the role of history coursework in a math and science academy. He said that everyone should know the framework of thinking, the philosophy behind the articulation of ideas, especially public policy views on science, which he termed the "politicization of science" Students need training on the relationships among culture, politics, society, and science. They also need training on scientific thinking itself. It becomes too easy to get lost in math and science details.	

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Presentation on History and Social Science Curriculum (continued)	In recent times, there has been a movement from the concept of finding permanent truths to the notion of contingent explanations that can be overturned: plate tectonics is a good example. The American Studies and World History core courses contribute to the mission of placing science in a common historical and cultural context. The junior electives in the first semester are all comparative, with lots of writing, source-based. The required 20 th century course for juniors actually begins with Darwin. Overall, the department seeks to accomplish three things: 1) expose students to issues of power, ideology, religion, government, society, and gender in both Western and non-Western cultures; 2) build students skills in writing about non-fiction, discussion, public speaking, and comfort with ambiguity and situations with multiple right answers; and 3) placing math and science in a social/historical context.	
Adjournment	There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was requested.	Motion to adjourn was unanimously adopted.

Next Meeting: January 21, 2011

Respectfully submitted: C. Ronald Kimberling, Acting Secretary