

PTIA Meeting Minutes

Feb. 3, 2021, 7pm

- **Bloomfield Hills School District Superintendent Patrick Watson provided some updates:**
 - Joint Steering Committee / IA Governance Body – Working with districts on updates to the agreement and amendments. All districts will vote by Mar 15. Districts are all committed to IA and want to continue moving forward.
 - Bloomfield Hills Bond – sprint to fall 2023. The focus is on 4 K-5 schools and 2 Middle Schools.
 - IA Improvements:
 - LED lights have been installed in the parking lot.
 - This summer – new windows, new floors, corridor improvements - take out lockers and add seating, collaboration space. Bathroom improvements appropriate for HS students.
 - The \$200million bond has been allocated. If there are funds available at the end, the school board will decide if additional money can be directed to the IA.
 - Maybe new furniture on a rent to own basis.
 - Return to school – next week the school board will be updated on getting K-8 fully back to school. He will talk to Lynne and Chris about how many students are showing up on the in-person days to determine if IA comes back full time. Also need to be cognizant of staffing issues.
 - Lynne Gibson and Chris Smith met with Brian Goby (former district employee and now bond consultant) to go over plans for replacing the lockers with benches.
 - Questions for Pat Watson
 - Steve Broutin – IA has 28 classrooms with 33 teachers, physics teacher has to move hour to hour. The school needs to add 5 classrooms and an auditorium. What would it take to get 5 classrooms?
 - Looked at leasing a different space – not economically feasible. Pat can't speak to the rooms – not his decision and he doesn't know how much bond money will be left. Priority is on K-8. HVAC and other improvements are also already planned at the IA. IA will also be able to utilize the auditoriums at the new middle schools.
 - Steve: How can IA campaign for additional funds?
 - Keep talking to Lynne and Chris so they can advocate. Board needs to look at long term investment as a district property. ROI for an auditorium is very low. ROI for classroom much higher. There won't be opportunity to talk about additional items for IA until after Fall 2023 when the new schools launch. Board wants to be great stewards of the community's money.
 - Holly Drimby: How much money is IA getting from the bond?
 - Per Jennifer Cook - \$2.4-\$2.6M
 - The improvements that are planned are coming from the sinking fund.
 - Is there talk of increasing # of seats open to Bloomfield students?
 - No, but they did bring back sibling preference, on top of seats. So next year there will be 14 siblings on top of the 30 seats that Bloomfield has.
 - Are there opportunities for synergy between the 2 IB programs (IA and BHHS)?
 - They have looked at it a bit, but complicated because of schedules.
 - From Lynne in the chat: Yes, bathrooms will be added. There will be a boys and a girls bathroom towards the front of the building. Additionally there will be two all gender bathrooms that will be upgraded. There will also be bathrooms added in the existing bathrooms in the ISC.

- **The three new Bloomfield Hills BOE members were invited to attend the meeting.** Angel asked: Why did they want to get involved in the BOE? Where do they see IA in 5 years?
 - Siva Kumar: It was time to give back now that his children have graduated. In 5 years he wants to see IA in a better place. Leverage both BHHS and IA to make it better. He was an IA parent and had 2 students who graduated in '18 and '20. Future of the IA is a topic for the board and something they need to look at over the coming year.
 - John VanGemert: Wanted to make sure the board stayed in good hands, carry the legacy of the outgoing board members. Help higher achieving students do more, help the proficient ones grow. Keep board running efficiently. He has high respect for the IA. Not sure on future, it is a topic in committee meetings. Board members are concerned about how everything fits together.
 - Trustee Southward was not able to attend.
 - Angel thanked the board members on behalf of the PTIA for their dedication to the community. All board members will get IA spirit wear.
 - Steve: we are trying to improve the IA for future kids.
 - Ranya: Bloomfield kids feel like they are on the back burner. They come through Bloomfield Schools, and then they get to the IA and feel like they don't matter. They see the improvements that other schools are getting. The school needs new rooms, and has space behind the building for an addition. The students have the mindset that the IA is not going to be treated the way the other schools are.
 - Jennifer Cook (current BOE member and dedicated IA liaison to the BOE): The board understands and is working hard to change that mindset in the district. They are working hard for more investment. They speak regularly with Superintendent Watson about IA.
 - Angel: We need to advocate for all children. What IA is getting is not equitable.

- **Principal Update – Dr. Smith**
 - 10th grade Personal Projects presented today. Students recorded a 3-minute presentation of their project, which were broadcast out to the seminar classes. It was a different format than usual, but still a great celebration. Exciting milestone.
 - Return to Hybrid – going well, smoothly. Kids are great, know expectations. 9th grade is true hybrid – 15 in class. 10th – 66% hybrid – 10 in class, 15 at home. Junior blue group (Thu/Fri) – large group – happy to see each other and be in the building. Seniors – small group coming in person. Kids are happy to see each other and happy to be back in the building.
 - 8th grade applications were due 1/24. There was concern that numbers would be down because of the lack of personal contact due to not being able to visit middle schools. But a record 450 applications came in. Usually 390-400. Chris thanks the families for spreading the word and endorsing the program.
 - Question regarding other districts adding sibling preference: Only BHS. Rochester asked to be kept informed on space, and may add more seats.
 - Dates:
 - Seniors will be uploading all internal assessments, Extended Essays, other DP requirements.
 - IA lotteries this week. Math tests week of Feb 22nd for incoming students.
 - Goal of getting more kids into the building more frequently.
 - Summer programs: Meetings with Enrichment and Service Learning coordinators – Mrs. Belotti working on summer enrichment opportunities for students over the summer in math or world language.
 - Jennifer Cook asked about staff vaccinations. He doesn't have numbers, but knows staff is very interested in getting them, high priority.
 - Dawn Jensen asked if the IB exams will be cancelled again. Lynne: It's an IB decision. Current plan – not cancelled. They are confident that the IA can accommodate the students in a socially distanced manner.

Also confident that teachers have prepared the students. IB has asked that all internal assessments be uploaded, usually it's just a sample. There is a back-up plan if the exams don't run. IB schools around the nation, and in North and South America have been in session.

- How does IA decide if students will return to 4 days a week? What's the criteria? Chris: 3 campuses have to stay aligned on A and B day schedules because of resource sharing. Also need to stay tied to fiscal agents. When Bloomfield Hills decides more students can come, then IA will take the next step. Lynne: Huron Valley is back full time, so West Campus is back 4 days a week, but are still live streaming.
- Will the school year be extended? Not feasible for this current year due to families already having plans. The goal is to get more kids into the building this school year. They are looking at Wednesdays, and determining how long to keep current model. IA already has more school days. They will look ahead to fall and see if districts change. Change at the State level may not impact IA.
- Steve suggests all parents contact their districts to push for sibling preference. They are more likely to consider it if there are multiple requests. Dr. Smith – sibling preference creates enrollment stability. Families who know the IA are more likely to stay the whole time, rather than leave after 1 year. Lynne: IA receives only money from the districts, no Title IX funds. When students leave, that money goes with them with no opportunity to recoup that.

- **PTIA announcements:**

- Feb 9 - Senior Snow Day at Bower's Farm – Glow tubes, lights, music, campfire, s'mores, cocoa – Seniors need to sign-up. Senior parent help is needed to serve food and provide security.
 - Seniors Sign Up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C45AEAC2DA0F58-senior>
 - Waiver <https://schoolfarm.doubleknot.com/event/bowers-winter-park-waiver-only-no-ticket/2767637>
- Feb. 25 - Restorative Practices and Mindfulness Seminar – 3 series workshop. Free. Open to anyone in the community. Info on PTIA website and Facebook.
- Mar 4 - Mindfulness Webinar – PTOC, BHHS, PTIA collaboration. Free.
- Apr 7 - Pathways to College Webinar for students and parents. How to hyper focus on school fit and application process.
- Apr 21, 8am - Next PTIA meeting
- May 27 – Bloomfield Hills district wide multi-cultural celebration. Celebrates the diversity of our school and district. Families can participate and highlight a culture they are interested in. It will be outdoors.
- Jun 3, 7pm – IA graduation at BHHS on the football field.
- Senior parents – get involved with the Senior All Night Party. Contact Sarah Williams or Mary Kay Chan.

- **Treasurer Report – Dawn Jensen**

- Due to the dissolution of the Partners in International Education non-profit, the PTIA will receive a \$59,000 donation. Most will be carried over to next year. Please pass along ideas to the PTIA.
- Passive programs – Kroger rewards, RiteAid
- Teacher appreciation is over budget, but the PTIA will keep recognizing and supporting teachers, because we really appreciate them, especially during the pandemic.
- PTIA is funding the senior snow Day.
- Current PTIA Balance - \$32,378
- PTIA needs someone to shadow Dawn next year to take over as Treasurer.

Also need co-President for Steve Broutin next year, and a new webmaster. There will be a number of senior parents on the board next year, so there will be many opportunities and openings.

Meditation close-out. Adjourned at 8:30pm.