



International Academy Governance Council Meeting Minutes

Hosted by Bloomfield Hills Schools
Doyle Center for Professional Development
7273 Wing Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

February 16, 2022

6:00 PM

Video Recording of Meeting Available

<https://www.iatoday.org/about-us/consortium-district>

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

A. Call to Order

The International Academy Governance Council meeting was called to order by Dr. Richard Machesky, Superintendent of Troy School District, at 6:04 PM on Wednesday, February 16, 2022.

B. Roll Call

Members Present:

- Avondale: Dr. James Schwarz, Superintendent (non-voting member)
- Birmingham: Dr. Embekka Roberson, Superintendent
- Bloomfield Hills: Mr. Patrick Watson, Superintendent
- Huron Valley: Dr. Paul Salah, Superintendent
- Rochester: Mr. Neil DeLuca, Executive Director of Secondary Education (non-voting member)
- Troy: Dr. Richard Machesky, Superintendent

Members Absent:

- Rochester: Robert Shaner, Superintendent (voting member)
- Berkley, Clawson, Lake Orion, Royal Oak, South Lyon Waterford, West Bloomfield

C. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Dr. Paul Salah and supported by Mr. Patrick Watson that the IA Governance Council approve the February 16, 2022, meeting agenda as presented.

Ayes: Dr. Richard Machesky, Dr. Embekka Roberson, Dr. Paul Salah, Mr. Patrick Watson

Nays: N/A

Motion Carried

III. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Dr. Embekka Roberson and supported by Mr. Pat Watson that the IA Governance Council approve the minutes from the October 27, 2021, meeting and closed session meeting.

Ayes: Dr. Richard Machesky, Dr. Embekka Roberson, Dr. Paul Salah, Mr. Patrick Watson
Nays: N/A

Motion Carried

IV. **Public Comment (agenda items)**

There were no requests for public comment on agenda items.

V. **IA Presentation: Service Learning at the IA-Making an Impact**

Lisa Belotti, Service Learning/Enrichment Coordinator at the IA, presented on the primary Service Learning goal for this school year of helping students understand the “why” of volunteering. The students reviewed the the UN Sustainable Goals and chose to address food scarcity and insecurity in both the students and the community. Danielle Todd of Make Food, Not Waste was a guest speaker for students. Students from all IA campuses in grades 11 and 12 went to Oakland Avenue Urban Farm and Forgotten Harvest over five days of service in September where they served, built community, and made a difference while harvesting over 34,000 pounds of food. As part of Enrichments, students volunteered in other areas including the Rocket Mortgage Golf Classic, Crochet for a Cause, and learning Braille. Service Learning trips took place with students to Peru, Costa Rica, and the Civil Rights Tour. IA Creativity-Action-Service (CAS) projects include four different types of service: direct, indirect, advocacy, and research which students will then implement and build relationships with their community. In the 2022-23 school year the new sustainable goal will be equitable quality education for all as part of a partnership with Detroit Schools.

Council Question: Where did the students visit for the Civil Rights Tour? Coordinator Belotti noted the students visited Atlanta (GA) and Montgomery and Birmingham (AL).

VI. **Principal's Report**

Principal Lynne Gibson presented an update for the IA. Principal Gibson noted that the IA held the first Joint Advisory Committee meeting on February 11, 2022, to talk candidly and openly with representative central office personnel and curriculum specialists who are assisting the tri-campus administration team with some identified issues. Topics covered at this meeting included organization structure and job responsibilities, processes (textbook review, changes to the IA guidebook, renewal of the IA Letter of Understanding, and graduation requirements), and a strategic plan for the IA.

Principal Gibson stated the administrators from the three IA campuses are continuing to work on the following goals: grades reflecting what students know and can do, developing simplified grading categories to help all stakeholders understand the gradebook, and streamlining common grading practices across the schools. At the next meeting on February 17, 2022, the campus administrators will be defining what type of assignments go in each category (formative/summative), creating a balance of assessments, and walking through what an 80/20 model looks like in practice.

Gibson reported that the IA currently is going through its seven-year review of all curriculum to ensure it is implemented with equity across all campuses and with fidelity to the IB program so

that it fully prepares students for their exams. Expectations include that the curriculum follows the same course sequencing, that exams happen within a few days across campuses, that gradebooks have common weighting of coursework (allowing for variations in coursework), and that all unit planners and common curriculum be reflected in the IB's Managebac by the end of the 2021-22 school year. As part of this review, departments are asking the following questions: how is the department using IB data to develop its goals, how does the department support the internal assessment process, how is the department supporting social-emotional learning (SEL), how is your department incorporating inclusion in the classroom, and how has student input/voice/identity been collected as you make curriculum decisions?

The IA is working on a "Shift to the Core" involving the Theory of Knowledge (TOK), CAS, and Extended Essay (EE) components as a result of stakeholder feedback including the Core feeling like an afterthought, the stress of the Extended Essay and current process on students and staff, the staff feeling like the exam prep class is not well used, and students waiting too long to write their EEs resulting in the use of class time for marathon writing sessions. As a result, some courses will be changed so that the students will take a combined class with content from all areas (TOK, CAS, and EE) starting in the second semester of grade 11 rather than separate classes. This also will allow students to begin to prepare for the EE earlier and provide more meaning to the CAS component. There will be a project evaluation in June 2022 and a results evaluation of the new class structure in July 2023.

In addition, Principal Gibson was delighted with the students' Personal Project capstone products which highlighted interdisciplinary skills and immense creativity. IB Exams will begin in late April and will have a break for Eid this year for the first time. The students also will have a change to the Language B Listening Assessments in the May 2022 exams where they will be listening to native speakers.

West Campus Update by Associate Principal Ryan Parrott: The choir and band had in-person performance; the Drama Club presented *Emma* in conjunction with the Lakeland Drama Club and provided community service through a coat drive; the Red Cross Club collected food and essential items for the community, and student Maeve Spicer has been selected as a finalist for the MHSAA Student-Athlete Scholarship as an athlete in the home school.

Okma Campus Update by Associate Principal Anthony DeGrazia: There have been several new hires including a new associate principal (DeGrazia) and French teacher (Judas); the IA lease has been renewed at \$310,000 per year for 2022-23 and the budget was approved at \$9,200/student; a request for a student support provider, therapy dog, and .5 FTE increase has been sent to the feeder districts at a cost of \$282.50 per student; students performed a fall play and virtual music concerts; the IA has started a Business Coalition with business leaders in the community that can lead to guest speakers, curricular resources, building improvements, and potential internships; a Student Senate with representatives from each organization and club has been initiated and will be facilitated by Instructional Equity Director Margaret Schultz of Bloomfield Hills Schools; and the recent IA Winter Olympics traditional afternoon event allowed students to engage in friendly competition and play in the snow.

East Campus Update by Associate Principal Ryan Briggs: The school held listening sessions with students in conjunction with the National Listening Project to promote inclusion and an equity atmosphere that was supported by Troy Assistant Superintendent Christine DiPilato and Troy Supervisor of Educational Equity, Inclusion, and Community Relationships Cornelius Godfrey; the band, orchestra, and choir recorded virtual concerts; a total of 135 students competed in the HOSA regional with 32 gold medals, 25 silver, and 24 bronze; student Christina

Johnson took first place for Troy Athens in regional powerlifting; the buildOn Club organized the first Tea House talent show of the year and raised \$1,000 for Oxford families; the Drama Club presented Harvey in fall 2021; and IA students were part of the state champion Troy High boys tennis team.

Council Question: As you are walking through 80/20 models, are there any other models being discussed? Associate Principal Briggs stated that the group was looking at 80 percent summative assessments of learning and 20 percent that would be formative assignments, homework, and checks for understanding. Associate Principal Briggs further noted the 80/20 ratio is not a decided value and will be reviewed and evaluated in terms of what semester 1 grades would have looked like, but the desired result will be to provide consistency.

Council Recommendation: As you are working through this model, think of how students will have a voice to supplement those of professional educators?

Council Question: When will feedback from evaluation be received? Principal Gibson stated that the expectation was the end of January, but staff emailed the IB again two weeks ago asking for that information.

Council Question: How often is the Joint Advisory Council meeting? Principal Gibson stated that the group agreed to additional meetings in March, May, and June for this school year.

Council Question: You mentioned the National Equity Project. Who is working with you on this? Associate Principal Briggs stated that Cornelius Godfrey of Troy Community Schools is facilitating the Circle Team of staff, administrators, and students at IA East which is meeting every three to four weeks to discuss current issues and bring student voice into conversations.

VII. Public Comment (non-agenda items)

Angel Lau (IA Parent): In general, is very proud of the education and diversity of the IA. Requests that the IA be provided with equity and mental health support, specifically a social worker, referencing a recent survey from Bloomfield-Birmingham Community Coalition showing serious mental health concerns among community teams and reminding the Council that the IA students are their districts' students.

Susan Tang (IA Parent): In general, loves the Okma environment especially the curriculum, diversity, and staff. Wants the Council to address equipment needs such as basic science equipment, furniture, and Chromebooks which had to be paid for by the Parent-Teachers of the IA (PTIA) in the sum of tens of thousands of dollars. In addition, expressed concerns related to equity with the 10 different teacher contracts and with a lack of action to address the IA ranking and needed improvements. Requests that the Council have a plan to get better.

Jennifer Matlow (IA Parent): In general, appreciates the travel opportunities and bonding that happens in the IA, but remains concerned about transparency related to the JAC being reconvened while the Board of Educations of the 10 consortium districts were not informed. Would like to have the same person be at the JAC meetings each time for continuity, transparency, getting things done, and reporting back to the consortium Boards. Noted that the initiation of a strategic plan is welcomed because every district has an interest. Is concerned about the closed meeting this evening; hopes that it meets legal requirements such as a pending lawsuit and asks that it be opened to the consortium district Board of Education members.

Katia Fischer (IA Parent): In general, appreciates the staff and diversity, but is concerned about the volume of mental health concerns within the IA population and that a part-time psychologist is not enough. Requests that the IA be given equity through the appointment of a social worker as the counselors are great but they are new and have many other tasks. Also, expressed concern about the number of staff members leaving which is a loss of knowledge and a loss of trusted mentors. Requests that the Board come up with a plan for mental health support.

Amy Hochkammer (Birmingham Board of Education Trustee): In general, requests that the strategic plan will treat the IA as one school with potential for individual campus goals so that the consortium Boards of Education can better understand what it offers. As Birmingham sends the most students, would like the Council to address equitable tuition rates, building concerns, and national/statewide rankings. Additionally, requests that the Council add a discussion of the budget to the April 20 meeting agenda to review the budget for all three campuses, per pupil spending, and the Okma campus budget issues.

Ranya Shabib (IA Parent): In general, believes the IA is a special gem in the community but has concerns as to teacher inequity, particularly in terms of pay within departments which is creating a loss of teachers who have IA knowledge and culture. Requests a long-term plan that focuses on teacher retention.

Steve Broutin (IA Parent): In general, appreciates the community built by the academic-focused students, but remains concerned about the inequity of the buildings including a lack of classrooms, missing science materials, lack of storage room for science equipment, lack of group meeting space for clubs and activities, and other facility challenges. Notes the IA students have a world-class education in a building that needs additional safety measures, more mental health workers, and fixes to building inadequacies. Requests the Council support a long-term plan.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

Paul Salah moved that the IA Governance Council convene a Closed Session per MCL 267 Section 8(c), Attorney-Client Privilege. The motion was supported by Pat Watson. Dr. Richard Machesky conducted a roll call vote.

Ayes: Dr. Richard Machesky, Dr. Embekka Roberson, Dr. Paul Salah, Mr. Patrick Watson
Nays: N/A

Motion carried.

The Council left the open meeting to go into closed session at 7:14 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

There being no further business, the closed session portion was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pat Watson, Superintendent
Bloomfield Hills Schools

PW/bk