



International Academy Governance Council Meeting
Hosted by Rochester Community Schools
1361 Walton Blvd, Rochester, MI 48309
September 11, 2024
6:00 p.m.

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

A. Call to Order

The International Academy Governance Council meeting was called to order by Mr. Rick West, Superintendent of Bloomfield Hills School District at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11, 2024.

B. Roll Call

Members Present:

- Birmingham: Dr. Embekka Roberson, Superintendent
- Bloomfield Hills: Mr. Rick West
- Huron Valley: Dr. Paul Salah, Superintendent
- Rochester: Mr. Nick Russo, Interim Superintendent
- Troy: Dr. Richard Machesky, Superintendent
- Avondale: Dr. James Schwartz

Additional Members Present:

- Avondale

Members Absent:

- Avondale, Berkley, Clawson, Lake Orion, Royal Oak, South Lyon, Waterford, West Bloomfield

Other Members of the Audience:

- Ms. Gaby Naus, Assistant Principal of International Academy East
- Ms. Joanne Juco, International Academy IB Coordinator
- Ms. Lynne Gibson, Head of School, Principal of International Academy Okma
- Mr. Anthony DeGrazia, Associate Principal of International Academy Okma.
- Mr. Ryan Parrott, Principal of International Academy West

C. Pledge of Allegiance

In observation of Patriot's Day, a moment of silence was held to pay tribute to those who lost their lives, as well as the first responders who risked everything to save others.

II. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Dr. Machesky and supported by Dr. Roberson that the IA Governance Council approved the September 11, 2024 meeting agenda as presented.

Ayes: Dr. Embekka Roberson, Mr. Rick West, Dr. Paul Salah, Mr. Nick Russo, and
Dr. Richard Machesky

Nays: N/A

Motion Carried 5 - 0

III. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Dr. Salah and supported by Mr. Russo that the IA Governance Council approved the minutes from the June 12, 2024, meeting.

Ayes: Dr. Embekka Roberson, Mr. Rick West, Dr. Paul Salah, Mr. Nick Russo, and
Dr. Richard Machesky

Nays: N/A

Motion Carried 5 - 0

IV. Public Comment (agenda items)

Catherine Hennessey: Math Teacher at IA Central from Birmingham Internal Assessment happening in her course. In math, we have what the IB calls the “exploration”, which is a 12-20 page paper on any mathematical topic of their choosing. Students develop the questions, conduct any necessary research and reflect throughout the entire process. currently students are exploring topics including the population density of Canada over time, the mathematics behind volleyball, the architecture of the renaissance, the correlation behind macroeconomic trends and currency on the FOREX market, modeling ocean waves, and if there is a mathematical advantage in the game Monopoly if you are the first player to roll when compared to the last.

Shane Norris: 4th year at East Campus. Spoke about wonderful things in the Spanish program, including how as part of a school supply review in Spanish, students donated school supplies to fill **25** backpacks that will be donated to Centro Multicultural La Familia in Pontiac.

V. Principal’s Report

Ms. Lynne Gibson, Principal for the International Academy provided a back to school update which included senior sunrise, a report that staffing remains consistent across campuses, IB evaluation review (to occur in fall of 2026), enrollment history, and a reminder that the current Letter of Understanding expires June 30, 2025. Dr. Machesky recommended that we have a closed session prior to the November 13, 2024 meeting to discuss the priorities

Graduation dates have been set for the class of 2025 for Sunday, June 1 at 4 p.m., and the class of 2026 for Sunday, June 7 at 4 p.m., both at Pine Knob.

The IA has partnered with Grace Centers for Hope, the Detroit Children’s Center, Gleaners, and Forgotten Harvest and over 1,074 hours of service has been provided to those organizations over the course of three days resulting in 36,300 meals for the community.

Joanne Juco presented on IA Opening Day PD. A year-long focus on belonging and building community was at the center of professional development for opening day. The theme is inclusivity in the IB Program with a focus on making connections with students; IB data analysis within departments, vertical alignment of skills, and transparency surrounding IB rubrics.

Artificial Intelligence: IA is taking a proactive approach to AI in school. All three campuses are part of the Bloomfield Hills Schools subscription to Magic School. Teachers are experimenting with it to support their lesson planning and also designing ways for students to use it in the classroom. An optional AI staff cohort has been created and will meet once a month to share successes and challenges with its implementation.

VI. 2024-25 Budget Considerations

Mr. Rick West, Superintendent of Bloomfield Hills Schools discussed the budget impact of not receiving an increase in per pupil spending from the state. In order to help offset the budget, he is recommending the credit for retirement expenses applicable to each shared staff member be reduced by 5.75%, reducing the overall operating expenses of the IA and offsetting the impact of no foundation allowance increase. In this scenario, if an employee is charged a rate of 31% for retirement, inclusive of the UAAL 20.96%, the IA will credit or reimburse the district 25.25%, and the State will make the district whole for the remaining 5.75% through section 147a(4). Mr. West will work with his finance team to determine the financial impact of this proposal on each district.

VII. Public Comment (non-agenda items)

There were no requests for public comment on agenda items.

VIII. Other

Upcoming meetings of the International Academy Governance Council for the 2024-25 school year are as follows:

- November 13, 2024, Hosted by Birmingham
- February 12, 2025, Hosted by Bloomfield
- April 9, 2025, Hosted by Bloomfield
- June 11, 2025, Hosted by Troy

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the closed session meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rick West
Superintendent, Bloomfield Hills Schools