



## International Academy Governance Council Meeting Minutes

Hosted by Bloomfield Hills Schools  
Doyle Center for Professional Development  
7273 Wing Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

**April 10, 2024**  
**6:00 PM**

### Meeting Minutes

#### I. Call to Order

##### A. Call to Order

The International Academy Governance Council meeting was called to order by Dr. Embekka Roberson, Superintendent of Birmingham Public Schools, at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

##### B. Roll Call

Members Present:

- Birmingham: Dr. Embekka Roberson, Superintendent
- Bloomfield Hills: Mr. Keith McDonald, Interim Superintendent
- Huron Valley: Dr. Paul Salah, Superintendent
- Troy: Dr. Richard Machesky, Superintendent

Members Absent:

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

##### C. Pledge of Allegiance

#### II. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Keith McDonald and supported by Dr. Rich Machesky that the IA Governance Council approve the April 10, 2024, meeting agenda as presented.

Ayes: Dr. Embekka Roberson, Mr. Keith McDonald, Dr. Rich Machesky

Nays: N/A

Motion Carried 3/0

#### III. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Dr. Rich Machesky and supported by Mr. Keith McDonald that the IA Governance Council approve the minutes from the November 8, 2023, meeting.

Ayes: Dr. Embekka Roberson, Mr. Keith McDonald, Dr. Rich Machesky

Nays: N/A

Motion Carried 3/0

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

There were no requests for public comment on agenda items.

## V. Principal's Report

### Commencement

Ms. Lynne Gibson, IA Principal, shared information about the commencement scheduled for 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 2, and that the dates for 2025 and 2026 commencement have been booked for June 1, 2025 and June 7, 2026, respectively, and both at 4 p.m. at Pine Knob.

### Travel Enrichment Experience Opportunities for 2024-25

The IA requested to continue bringing travel enrichment experience opportunities to tri-campus students, which are teacher-led, are to align with curriculum, and are planned with EF Educational Tours. Travel enrichment opportunities for the 2024-25 school year were presented, as follows:

- Mid-Winter Break
  - Peru
  - Puerto Rico
- Spring Break
  - The French Promenade
  - Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg and The Netherlands
- Memorial Day Weekend
  - New York City
- Summer
  - Greece

### Course Adoptions

Course selections for the graduating class of 2026 were presented, with the proposed new course adoptions as follows:

- East: DP Psychology., DP Global Politics, DP Computer Science
- Okma: DP Psychology, DP Global Politics, DP Computer Science
- West: DP Global Politics, DP Film

### Motion

*It was moved by Dr. Rich Machesky and supported by Mr. Keith McDonald that the travel enrichments for 2024-25 and course selections for the graduating class of 2026 be approved, as presented.*

Ayes: Dr. Embekka Roberson, Mr. Keith McDonald, Dr. Rich Machesky

Nays: N/A

Motion Carried 3/0

### Organization for Economic Cooperation Development Learning Circles

The International Baccalaureate (IB) invited IA to participate in the Organization for Economic Cooperation Development's (OECD) Schools Network Initiative. The OECD comprises 40 countries, 130 schools, and 118,000 students and aims to connect schools globally to share positive changes in education. In the learning circles, cognitive engagement and metacognitive challenges are the focus to enhance the student's learning experiences. Students have the responsibility for planning the problem-solving; such as identifying what knowledge and strategies are relevant to the problem, planning what strategies to use, and assessing and evaluating the efficacy.

Therapy Dog

The IA has welcomed Phoenix to the Okma Campus. Phoenix was purchased with raised funds from the PTIA, families and the Birmingham Public Schools Education Foundation. Phoenix will be hosted by a Bloomfield Hills Schools employee, and will comply with all Bloomfield Hills Schools policies, administrative regulations and procedures.

Sex Education Advisory Board Update

The Sex Ed Advisory Committee has met three times to review the curriculum. Two public hearings will be held prior to the June 12 IA Governance Council meeting where there will be a presentation of the curriculum accompanied by a request for approval.

**VI. Public Comment (non-agenda items)**

There were no requests for public comment on agenda items.

**VII. Other**

There was discussion about setting the 2024-25 meeting calendar at the June meeting.

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the closed session portion was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Embekka Roberson, Superintendent  
Bloomfield Hills Schools

ER/rc