



International Academy Governance Council Meeting
Hosted by Bloomfield Hills Schools
7123 Wing Lake Road | Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301
Wednesday, April 9, 2025
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 Schools at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9, 2025.

B. Roll Call

Members of the International Academy Governance Council in attendance and constituting a quorum were as follows:

- Birmingham: Dr. Embekka Roberson, Superintendent
- Bloomfield Hills: Mr. Rick West, Superintendent
- Huron Valley: Dr. Paul Salah, Superintendent
- Troy: John Pagel, Assistant Superintendent of Employee Services, sat in for Dr. Richard Machesky, Superintendent, as a non-voting member

Member Districts Absent:

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

The audience for the meeting was comprised of the following:

- Patrick Griffin, Principal, International Academy East
- Gaby Naus, Assistant Principal of International Academy East
- Joanne Juco, International Academy IB Coordinator
- Lynne Gibson, Head of School, Principal of International Academy Okma
- Anthony DeGrazia, Associate Principal of International Academy Okma.
- Ryan Parrott, Principal, International Academy West
- Lynne Krutty, International Academy East
- Roger Winn, International Academy East
- Brad Davies, International Academy Central
- Emily Beski, International Academy East
- Maria Lograsso, International Academy East
- Im Seong Hwang, International Academy East
- Jenna Russell, International Academy East
- Amanda Peters, International Academy East
- Amanda Ellul, International Academy East
- Whitney Bernstein, International Academy East
- Ian Jones, International Academy West
- Courtney Mescher, International Academy East

- Rebecca Catherincchia, Executive Administrator, Bloomfield Hills Schools
- Keith McDonald, Deputy Superintendent, Bloomfield Hills Schools
- Kandice Moynihan, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Bloomfield Hills Schools

C. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Approval of Agenda PS/ ER

It was moved by Dr. Salah and supported by Dr. Roberson that the IA Governance Council approved the April 9, 2025 meeting agenda as presented.

Ayes: Dr. Roberson, Mr. West, and Dr. Salah

Nays: N/A

Motion Carried 3 - 0

III. Approval of Minutes ER / PS

It was moved by Dr. Roberson and supported by Dr. Salah that the IA Governance Council approve the minutes as presented from the November 13, 2024 meeting.

Ayes: Dr. Roberson, Mr. West, and Dr. Salah

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

Lynne Gibson, shared an overview of enrollment history by campus, and noted that incoming projections by campus are as follows: East - 150; Okma - 165; and West - 90.

Ms. Gibson reported that a Joint Advisory Committee meeting was held on January 22 to provide feedback on curriculum.

Negotiations are ongoing for the IA contract.

Work continues on producing an AI guidance document, which is expected to be brought forth at the June Governance Council meeting. Staff and student feedback is being collected, and staff have participated in a collaborative session with Bloomfield Hills Schools.

The International Baccalaureate invited the International Academy to participate in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Schools Network Initiative as one of 130 schools representing 118,000 students in 40 countries. This Aims to connect organizations and schools globally to share positive changes in education education at the local, national and international levels. This aligns with the IB's Learning Hub initiative being launched. As part of this body of work, a meeting will be held 5 times per year over two years to share, explore and replicate best practices and share in a toolbox.

An update was provided regarding the state of International Baccalaureate in Michigan. Currently, the IBSOM represents 82 schools and approximately 24,600 students. IBSOM is

working on developing partnerships with Michigan Association of College Registrars, Admissions Officers and the Michigan Transfer Committee, as well as drafting bi-partisan bills to be introduced to the House and Senate through Senator Polehanki. Once Senator Polehanki's office receives feedback from these groups, a meeting will be scheduled with IBSOM to discuss. Initial and preliminary feedback from the IBSOM was touched on by Ms. Gibson.

VI. Budget Discussion

Kandice Moynihan, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services at Bloomfield Hills Schools, provided the Governance Council with revenues by source and expenditures by function which compared the recommended Amendment 1 revision against the original budget adopted in June 2024. The adopted budget was prepared based on assumptions, primarily around pupil enrollment and staffing and then budget adjustments are made once funding, pupil count and staffing needs are known.

The final 2023-24 and original 2024-25 budgets were prepared in mid-March 2024 with known information at the time and approved by the Bloomfield BOE at the March 21, 2024 meeting. The cooperative agreement currently requires us to provide budgets to the LEAS by March 31, also requiring approval by their boards of education by the end of June. Ms. Moynihan explained that this timing is problematic and prohibitive. Adjustments were subsequently identified for both years in the following months, but the language didn't allow for amendment. Ms. Moynihan shared that the district business officials do not have the amended 2024-25 or proposed 2025-26 budgets at this time. The business officials are aware the budgets are in development with plans to share with the Governance Council first, to which no business official has taken issue with this, but they do seek their 2025-26 tuition estimates for their own budgeting purposes.

The tuition rate to districts follows the State's target foundation allowance. The 2024-25 original budget assumed a per pupil increase and flat enrollment. Under the 2024-25 State Aid Budget, foundation allowance remained unchanged at \$9,608 per pupil. The State Aid Budget instead includes a new retirement revenue section that effectively reduces the retirement rate school districts incur for the 2024-25 year. School districts will still incur and budget the full cost of retirement for the current year, but will receive a rebate for one year equivalent to about 5.75% of retirement wages. The 2024-25 is amended to reflect a foundation revenue decrease of \$271,000. The impact of the 147a4 is approximately \$223,000 - \$123,000 from Bloomfield state aid revenue and \$100,000 as a credit to the IA from districts with staff assigned to the IA. The combined impact to the IA for 2024-25 year is a loss of \$48,000. Enrollment as of the October count day, used for billing purposes, is 581 students.

The 2025-26 budget assumes a \$392 per pupil increase, consistent with the Governor's budget proposal and applies the full 10% equity cushion. Projected enrollment is based on current spring cohorts and known ninth grade enrollments, considering only those ninth graders who have passed the entrance exam. Projected enrollment for the 2025-26 school year is 577 students.

It was reported that the 2024-25 budget includes recognizing \$67,000 of deferred book deposits to help offset the costs of textbooks purchased in the current year. There was a surplus in that account, using some funds in 2023-24 and again this year to help balance the budget. The amount available to offset textbook costs for 2025-26 is approximately \$20,000. Thus, the decrease in local revenue.

Ms. Moynihan explained the proposed budget for 2025-26 expenditure budget was built with precision, and considered the 2025-26 salaries for all staff as well as their respective retirement plan contribution percentage. Attrition savings for one known retirement were considered, and we are aware of a second pending retirement that would reduce salaries and benefits by an additional \$60,000. It should be noted that several districts, including Bloomfield, are in contract negotiations with their teacher unions, and we expect settled contracts will increase the proposed budget.

The Governance Council engaged in dialogue about the budget information provided, and appreciated the challenges of the fiscal agent's reporting requirements outlined in the consortium agreement. After some deliberation surrounding revenues and expenditures by object code, a request was made for the details in purchased services to be prepared and shared with the superintendents. Details for which are forthcoming.

VII. Public Comment (non-agenda items)

There were no requests for public comment on non-agenda items.

VIII. Other

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

- June 11, 2025, Hosted by Troy

IX. Closed Session

It was moved by Dr. Salah and supported by Dr. Roberson that the International Academy Governance Council convene a Closed Session per MCL 15.268 Section 8 (c), Collective Bargaining Strategy.

Ayes: Dr. Roberson, Mr. West, and Dr. Salah

Nays: N/A

Motion Carried 3 - 0

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the closed session meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rick West
Superintendent, Bloomfield Hills Schools