

**MINUTES OF THE
WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PARENT ASSOCIATION**

August 27, 2019

Ruma Singh, President, called the Business Meeting of the WHS IBPA to order at 5:35 PM on August 27, 2019.

The Secretary being absent, the Treasurer acted as Secretary for the meeting. The Acting Secretary noted that proper notice of the Business Meeting had been provided, and that approximately 65 members were present during the meeting.

Mrs. Singh asked for comments or corrections to the minutes of the May 1, 2019 meeting. There being no comments or corrections, a motion was made by and second by Mrs. Rachel Sartin and Mrs. Rebecca Shepherd, respectively. The minutes was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Singh reviewed the evening's agenda and requested members adhere to meeting etiquette to ensure an effective meeting.

Mrs. Singh then introduced Dr. Acosta, Principal of Westwood High School. Dr. Acosta introduced himself and mentioned his teaching experience as an IB teacher and his continuing support of WHS IBDP and IBPA. He also introduced Ms. Childress, IB Coordinator, and Mrs. Castro, our new IB Counselor.

Dr. Acosta then proceeded to discuss a new learning environment that he has been working on with teachers and students: volume does not equal to rigor. He quoted an article published by the Economist Group to support his philosophy. The Economist article listed problem solving, team-working, communication, critical thinking, etc. are the top skills needed for the 21st century workforce. Dr. Acosta explained that he and the teachers have been trying to decrease the homework workload while increasing students' problem solving and critical thinking skills. The nationally acclaimed ranking results have shown that this effort has been recognized by the society. Not only WHS is still on top of the best high school list run by the US News (which is traditionally based on academic performance), but also got awarded by a few new ranks that measures more about students' ability and future success.

Dr. Acosta concluded that he is always open for questions and please reach out to him at <https://forms.gle/ZL7Ap6eiik9teVqs9> for further questions on the direction of WHS IBDP.

Mrs. Singh then turned the floor over to Ms. Childress who first explained the new admin changes including her new office location, the new IBDP counselor, and additional admin support from alpha office in case both Mrs. Castro and herself cannot be reached for any urgent requests. Ms. Childress also briefly mentioned the role and responsibilities of the IB Coordinator and IBDP Counselor.

Ms. Childress then provided updates on class of 2019. 76 out of 83 IBDP candidates received the IB diploma. The average points obtained by candidates who received the diploma was 35 (while 24 is the passing score) and the highest points was 43 (with 45 as

the highest possible score). The average grade by candidate was 5.48 (with 7.0 as the highest possible grade).

Ms. Childress then shared an IBDP senior survey we conducted in the first time. 77 out of the 83 IBDP seniors responded to the survey. The result is very encouraging. Ms. Childress mentioned some findings during the meeting including the top Texas college admission rate, elite colleges students admitted to, and intended majors from the students who responded.

Next, Ms. Childress provided more updates on the new IB math curriculum. She explained the new math pathways, the names of the new IB math courses, and addressed some of the concerns and questions parents raised during the meeting. She will continue to work with math department to implement this new curriculum and ensure all the students have a path that will fit their academic needs.

Chunyan Pei, the IBPA treasurer came to the stage next and presented the 2019-2020 school year budget. She mentioned that there was \$5,320 carried from last school year, and IBPA will continue to rely on donations, merchandise sales, fundraising to generate income this school year. The fund raised will be used to provide supplemental financial supports to the Pre-IB and IBDP learning community but it was difficult to forecast the exact amount due to the significant increase in the Pre-IB and IBDP enrollments. However, we will monitor our budget closely and hope to reach a \$4,035 balance at the end of the school year.

The 2019-2020 school year budget was unanimously approved by the floor.

Mrs. Singh encouraged parents to purchase more IB merchandise through the school year to support IBPA activities and then introduced the IBPA event calendar and remained members a few events coming in the new few weeks:

- Wednesday, September 4 Freshman Parent & Student Forum
- Wednesday, September 11 WHS Open House
- Wednesday, October 9 and Tuesday November 5 Middle School Parent & Student Outreach
- Friday, November 15 IB Community social event

Mrs. Singh introduced the elected officers of the new school year and mentioned a few new initiatives IBPA is working on including alumni & corporate engagement, faculty supports, and new fundraising ideas.

There was no new business and no further questions. Mrs. Singh adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.

These minutes being a fair and accurate recording of the events of the meeting on August 27, 2019, they are respectfully submitted as the official record.

/s/ Chunyan Pei

Chunyan Pei
Acting Secretary