



**INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 4, 2019
6:00 PM**

**LOCATION: IA - EAST CAMPUS
1291 TORPEY DRIVE
TROY, MI 48083**

IA CONSORTIUM DISTRICTS

Avondale	Rochester
Berkley	Royal Oak
Birmingham	South Lyon
Bloomfield Hills	Troy
Clawson	Waterford
Huron Valley	West Bloomfield
Lake Orion	

CALL TO ORDER

Troy Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Machesky, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Committee members present were Bloomfield Hills Superintendent Dr. Robert Glass, Clawson Schools Superintendent Tim Wilson, Huron Valley Schools Director of Secondary Education Martin Lindberg, Royal Oak Superintendent Mary Beth Fitzpatrick, South Lyon East High School Principal Karen Fisher, and West Bloomfield Superintendent Gerald Hill. Representatives from Avondale, Berkley, Birmingham, Lake Orion, Rochester, and Waterford school districts were not in attendance. Also present were IA-East Associate Principal Ryan Brinks, IA-West Associate Principal Ryan Parrott, and Ms. Kerry Birmingham, Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives of the Troy School District. There were approximately 20 members of the audience.

Dr. Machesky announced that Superintendent Fitzpatrick had a prior commitment and would need to leave the meeting by 6:45 p.m. this evening. He indicated that the public communication portion of the meeting may need to be suspended but would continue following consideration of the resolution concerning the International Consortium

Agreement.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1) David Lyons, resident of West Bloomfield, 20-year physics teacher at the International Academy, thanked the Steering Committee for holding open meetings in the evening so that teachers are able to participate. He indicated that advance notice for future meetings be shared with staff members would be appreciated.

Dr. Machesky communicated that subsequent meetings would be posted on the website.

2) Steve Eschrich, resident of Bloomfield Hills, spoke about the International Academy and its relationship with its sister school overseas in Qingdao, China. He asked for support from the IA Joint Steering Committee to look into the Revised School Code on Conflict of Interest and the financial promises made with the involved parties. He provided a copy of the Revised School Code excerpt pertaining to Conflict of Interest.

3) Nancy Costello, representative of the MSU First Amendment Law Clinic, spoke about FOIA issues with the International Academy (IA) and Joint Steering Committee (JSC). She thanked the committee for holding open meetings and talked about the governance structure of the JSC for the IA suggesting that elected school board members sit on the committee as voting members and superintendents be ex-officios for meetings to avoid employment issues.

4) Emilia Askari, parent of IA graduates, spoke about the future structure of the IA Joint Steering Committee and suggested it would be ideal to have 1 – 2 alumni representatives on the committee. She referenced a letter from Ms. Gibson's attorney, which was published in the Detroit News and inquired if the IA had an attorney separate from Bloomfield Hills. She indicated that she submitted FOIA requests to school districts in the consortium and had shared documents with several boards at recent school board meetings.

Dr. Machesky indicated that all members of the Joint Steering Committee would receive the documents that

Ms. Askari handed out during Troy's last board meeting.

5) Stephanie Crider, resident of West Bloomfield, thanked the committee for opening their meeting to the public and shared that she has a student new to West Bloomfield and a student in Bloomfield Hills. She requested that the committee attempt to be more transparent and to invite students, parents and staff to meetings. She asked the committee to dig deep into the documents they have been provided with.

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT**

Dr. Machesky shared that the Joint Steering Committee was being asked to consider a resolution for the International Academy Consortium Agreement and asked for a motion.

It was moved by Mary Beth Fitzpatrick and supported by Dr. Gerald Hill that

WHEREAS, the International Academy has received questions and comments concerning the conduct its business in conformity with certain laws and constitutional provisions;

IT IS RESOLVED: The International Academy Joint Steering Committee (JSC) hereby appoints a subcommittee consisting of the three Superintendents of the constituent school districts in which International Academy campuses are located (Bloomfield Hills, Troy and Huron Valley), or their designees, and three Superintendents from other constituent school districts, or their designees;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED: This subgroup will study the International Academy Consortium Agreement with the assistance of legal counsel and recommended such amendments to the Consortium Agreement as may be necessary to address questions and comments concerning compliance with certain laws and constitutional provisions;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED: This subgroup will endeavor, if practicable, to present its recommendations at the next

meeting of the JSC, currently scheduled for June 3, 2019, and, upon approval by the JSC, submit an amended Consortium Agreement to its constituent school districts for review and approval by their Boards of Education.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Resolution Passed.

Dr. Glass and Dr. Machesky talked about discussing this further and bringing back a more complete draft after listening to suggestions and making any necessary adjustments.

Dr. Machesky announced that the next committee meeting would be held on June 3rd at the Royal Oak Schools Administration Building located at 800 Devillen Avenue and will be published on the website so that everyone is aware of the meeting.

It was moved by Dr. Glass and supported by Mr. Wilson that the meeting be adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard M. Machesky, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

RM/jh