



Issaquah High PTSA 2.6.45  
General Membership Meeting  
IHS Main Conference Room

January 13, 2017  
9:30 am

**Our PTSA Mission**

To expand educational opportunities and enhance the learning and social environment at IHS through programs, volunteers, advocacy, and financial support.

**Call to Order** Bertina Loeffler Sedlack called the meeting to order at 9:28 am and led introductions. Proper notice of the meeting was given and a quorum present. A sign-in sheet is attached to the original minutes.

**Speaker**

**Andrea McCormick, Principal**, addressed the meeting before heading out to monitor the 5K run. She addressed concerns raised over the homework policy for weekends and breaks. The teacher contract gives autonomy to teachers to choose whether to assign homework in those cases. Minimum requirements for posting grades is also a contractual issue. Andrea also talked about administrations emphasis on anxiety training. Mindfulness resources are available through Tori McBride. Andrea may apply for a PTSA grant for another source that provides mindfulness programs to schools. Lastly, Andrea noted that students can receive text notices from her through the REMIND app (instructions are on the IHS website).

**President's Report** *(Bertina Loeffler Sedlack and Diane Burdette)*

Diane recognized Bertina's birthday and provided cake for the meeting.

**Thank You** Bertina shared thanks to the following committee chairs and volunteers: Heidi Fuhs and Lida Buckner for organizing the Staff Breakfasts (Ginger Wilfong VP Hospitality), Victoria Evans and Danelle Gonzalez for support of the IHS 5K (Robin Hodder, Randi Wright VPs Events), Dea Barnett for her leadership surrounding Focus Day, Patti Miller and the Financial Review Committee for completing the Mid-Year Financial Review, Diane Burdette for spearheading surveys for staff and parent communities, and Leah Gibson for her role as Reflections co-chair for IMS, IHS, and Issaquah Council and for directing a successful district-wide Reflections Reception on January 10.

**Council Meeting Dec 15** Diane shared the process used to determine late starts, school cancellations, and alternate bus routes as presented by Ron Thiele at the December 15 Issaquah PTSA Council meeting (the process starts at 4:00am!).

**Secretary's Report** *(Sara Carmichael)*

The December 2016 minutes were reviewed, approved as amended, and filed.

**Treasurer's Report** *(Patti Miller)*

Patti Miller presented the December 2016 Financial report.

**Mid-Year Financial Review**

Megan Haas, Ginger Wilfong, Stacy Heller met on January 9 to conduct the Mid-Year Financial Review. The committee found the books to be in order and in compliance.

**Other Financial Business**

- The December 2016 bank statements were reviewed by Margaret Chalfant, an independent non-signer.
- No insurance claims were filed in December 2016.
- Nonprofit Corporation Annual Report has been filed.

## **Business**

**Mid-Year Goals Review** Bertina explained that the BOD conducted a mid-year review of the IH PTSA Goals, which were established at a summer BOD retreat. The board applied the SMART criteria (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound) and feel the IH PTSA programs and activities meet the goals and that the PTSA is well positioned to begin the second half of the year.

**Surveys** Diane wrote and conducted a survey of staff members in December. Next week she will publish a survey for the whole IHS parent community about what IH PTSA does and what other needs can it meet. Notice of and link to the survey will be emailed from IHS. The survey will be open until January 25.

## **Committee Reports**

**Advocacy** Dea Barnett announced that Focus Day has “sold out” on the Washington State PTA website, but people are encouraged to go even if they aren’t registered. There will be a rally on the Capitol steps and Governor Inslee and new Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal will address the gathering. Dea handed out postcards on which people can write messages to their legislators. Dea encouraged people to inundate their representatives and senators with comments about educational issues such as the levy cliff and funding schools per the McCleary decision.

Advocacy is not just legislative issues. Contact Dea with other concerns, such as homework or traffic.

**Membership** Bertina noted the main takeaway from the staff survey is that they don’t join because they just forget. Bertina and Diane placed reminders to join IH PTSA in staff mailboxes and got five new IH PTSA members! 54 staff have joined IH PTSA. The goal is for 60. Six more memberships would put the overall membership above 1,396, which will qualify IH PTSA for the Gold Membership Award indicating growth of 10% over 2015-2016.

**Awards** Marni Kilzi announced new online nomination forms for Golden Acorn and Outstanding Advocate. Nominations for the two awards will be accepted through February 10. Award recipients will be announced at the March 10 General Membership Meeting. Paper forms are also available in the office lobby.

**Nominating Committee** Anne Watanabe explained that the Nominating Committee is looking for people to fill the elected positions on the Executive Committee for the 2017-2018 school year. The deadline to self-declare or to recommend a person for a position is March 20. The executive board will be elected at the April 7 General Membership Meeting.

**Executive Spotlight:** Anne Watanabe outlined the role and skill set of VP Programs. Programs is the heart of what IH PTSA contributes to IHS. A VP Programs candidate should have strong communication skills and be comfortable managing people, programs, and budgets.

VP Events will be featured in the The Executive Spotlight in February.

## **Programs**

**Reflections** Anne reported that the district-wide Reflections Reception was held Tuesday January 10<sup>th</sup>. IHS has five Reflections pieces advancing to state.

**College Test Prep** Practice SAT and ACT tests will be administered on February 4. 50 students are signed up. Birgit Aarrestad and Michele Severt are the new co-chairs for the College Test Prep committee. Test Prep courses, taught by an outside organization are beginning February 14.

**Grants** The Grants committee, led by Margaret Chalfant, is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle. Grant requests are due by January 20. The committee will review the grant requests and present at the February 10 GMM.

Margaret provided updates on two grants approved in October. Kari Leon, LRC1 teacher, reported that the lunch program is going well with students consistently attending. She anticipates submitting a grant proposal to continue the program for second semester. Nick Schiermeyer is very excited about grateful for the Radio Station grant. They’ve been busy unpacking and setting up equipment.

**Parent Ed** Heidi Fuhs presented information about ParentWiser, the Issaquah PTSA Council parent education program. She helped start it as a way to bring equity to all schools across district. Heidi highlighted upcoming events:

- Feb 28, John O. Sullivan on Changing the Game highly competitive sports culture
- April 25, Jessica Lahey on The Gift of Failure. ParentWiser is encouraging the community to read the book, attend the presentation, and participate in a follow-up community discussion.

Upcoming events, contact information, and event registration is available on the ParentWiser.org website. Events are free to PTSA members. A nominal donation is asked of non-members.

To share IHS-specific parent education ideas, contact Dea Barnett.

**Angel** Onti Rosen reported that Angel Program is helping to provide dresses for the Winter Formal. The January focus is on jeans. Contact Julie Siefkes or Barb Howe for information about how to donate.

### **Hospitality**

Ginger Wilfong reported that Testing Snacks (January 27) and Senior Exit Interview hospitality (February 7-9) planning is underway. Volunteers are still needed to interview seniors. Anyone who does not have a senior is eligible to volunteer.

Ginger and Stacy coordinated holiday thank you gifts for Custodial staff.

### **Events**

No reports.

### **Communications**

**Issaquah Schools Foundation** Valerie Yanni described the Influence the Choice video contest sponsored by Issaquah Schools Foundation. Students produce videos for their peers with the goal of reducing drug use and abuse. The deadline to submit a video is March 10 (details at [influencethechoice.org](http://influencethechoice.org)). Valerie also mentioned the upcoming State of Mind Conferences, part of Issaquah Schools Foundation Healthy Youth Initiative (dates and locations at [healthyyouthinitiative.org](http://healthyyouthinitiative.org)) Lastly, Ohana on Gilman is hosting a Dining for Kids event on Wednesday February 1.

### **Speakers**

**Erin Connolly, ASB Advisor**, About 350 of 500 Winterfest Winter Wishes were granted. • ASB is working on ways to get more students to attend basketball games. Halftimes at the next few home games will feature recognitions for Fall and Winter Sports and Clubs and Fine Arts. • For MLK Jr. Day, the school will air a short video. An IHS student-focused event (Issaquah Pride) to celebrate cultures is being planned for after finals. • ASB will be handing out snacks during finals week. The senior class is selling Finals Bags. • Blood drive is scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> (Bloodworks NW is providing doughnuts). • Winter Formal is January 28<sup>th</sup>, 9-11pm. • Leadership Class is going to be open to incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders. • Plans are in the works to combine the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade BBQ with Welcome Night/Curriculum Night in March.

### **Adjourned 11:19**

**Next Meeting:** February 10, 2017 9:30 am IHS Main Conference Room