



Issaquah High PTSA 2.6.45 General Membership Meeting

January 15, 2021
9:30am

Via Zoom

DRAFT

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 Kim Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 9:32am. Proper notice of the meeting was given and a quorum was present. In attendance: Kim Wilkinson, Birgit Aarrestad, Alisa George, Bhavna Patel, Rachel Stoner, Wendy Maruchek, Nicole Garcia, Wendy Cummins, Sathya Kannan, Kristen Allen-Bentsen, Carla Geraci, Amy Korb, Chanju Lee, Cynthia Lydum, Cristine Varzali, Hollie Walcott, Josi Beck, Kim Pike, Kristin Bendt, Kristin Brennock, Maria Graham, Marisa Garcia Struck, Raquel Koz, Shamitha Sridharan, Tori McBride, Tracy Drake, Valerie Yanni, Emily Arteche, Karla Knickerbocker, Kari Mattson, Tianqing Liu, Erika Cottrell, Keri Keifer, and Tori McBride.

President's Report (*Kim Wilkinson, Birgit Aarrestad*)

Kim Wilkinson reported the following information:

- Thanks to our November and December volunteers:
 - *New Family Ambassadors Virtual College & Career Center Night* – co-Chairs Cathy Habib and Lisa Hill and IHS College and Career Specialist Karen Stevens
 - *Angel Program Holiday Box Distribution* – co-Chairs Julie Gamble and Karissa Mobilia
 - *Virtual ACT/SAT Practice Tests* – Chair Tracie Kinsley and Rebecca Davidson/Huntington Learning Center
- Social media "Spotlight" series featuring teachers, staff, students, and recent alumni is helping people get to know the IHS community. Thanks to many referrals, we've got a great list of students to spotlight in the coming months. We're now looking for alumni to spotlight. Please email suggestions to the co-Presidents
- Washington State PTA is offering two competitions - Game Development and Essay Contest; entries are due on March 1, 2021; more information is available at www.wastatepta.org
- No grants were requested in the first cycle. Requests for cycle #2 are due today
- Thanks to our speakers this month: IHS Principal Andrea McCormick and Issaquah High Athletic Director Luke Ande
- Check issaquahhighptsa.org for the most current information about upcoming events

In Memoriam

Valerie Yanni noted with sadness the passing of former IHPTSA Board member and frequent volunteer Jamie Beck from cancer in December 2020. Jamie was an active volunteer for many years. Her friends and family have set up a memorial fund through the American Cancer Society (link on our website).

Secretary's Report (*Alisa George*)

The November 13, 2020, minutes were reviewed and filed as submitted.

Treasurer's Report (*Bhavna Patel*)

Bhavna presented the November and December 2020 Financial Report. Bank statements have been reviewed by a non-signer (Bhavna Patel). Membership dues direct debit was changed from checking to savings account.

Activity highlights:

- Income
 - \$390 in Memberships (have nearly met membership goal)
 - \$360 in Pass The Hat, getting us close to goal of \$20K
 - \$270 in Angel Program donations
 - \$875 in Practice Test income
- Expenses
 - \$6,128 in Membership fees
 - \$4,330 in Angel donations carryover used for Holiday Gift Boxes

Committee Reports

Outreach

Parent Education (Kim Wilkinson for Heidi Fuhs)

Two upcoming presentations that are relevant to high school parents:

- “Managing Stress, Anxiety and Parenting” by Dr. Lisa Damour (Jan. 20 @ 4:00pm)
- Showing of “Upstanders” documentary (cyber bullying) followed by a discussion led by Swedish Mental Health counselors (Feb. 10 at 7:00pm)

Register at www.parentwiser.org

Membership (Nicole Garcia)

760 members, 38 staff. Goal is 800 members.

Programs (Wendy Cummins and Sathya Kannan)

SAT/ACT Practice Tests

November practice tests went well; Chair Tracie Kinsley is doing a great job; next round of tests will be Feb. 27 (ACT) and Mar. 6 (SAT); the scoreback session is scheduled for Mar. 10, but Huntington will be able to get scores back for students earlier if they want to know before the actual SAT test (Mar. 13)

College and Career Planning

We had a successful virtual College Week in the Fall; Chair is planning April and May events now, more information to come at the next meeting

Reflections

12 winners chosen out of 17 submissions; congratulations to our advancing artists: Julianna Carragher, Emily Fitzgerald, Daniel Heechan Lim, Adya Mohapatra, Andrea Schmidt, Aashika Vishwanath, Amanda Winterbauer, Brandon Yeo, and Tina Zou; co-Chair Heather Bratton put together a video showcasing the entries that can be viewed on our website; District judging has been completed but results have not been announced yet—artists will be notified if they are advancing to state competition by Feb. 1 (48 entries will move on to State)

Community Service

The Community Service award recognizes students who volunteer 100+ hours during high school (any time after 8th grade promotion). Hours can be logged on our website at any time. Seniors will receive an acknowledgment from Chair Nicole Garcia when they reach 100 hours.

Grants

Due date for requests is today; we'll vote on any requests at the next membership meeting

Senior Scholarships

Applications will be due in mid-April; we are starting to advertise this program now and are looking for people to serve on the Senior Scholarship Committee

Hospitality (Rachel Stoner)

It's difficult to reach all the staff right now because not all of them are in the building; Principal McCormick has suggested a basket of non-perishables for Staff Appreciation Week; we are planning for that now

Speaker

The first speaker, IHS Athletic Director Luke Ande was introduced.

Luke reported that:

- The Youth & Amateur Sports Grants money received last year for Special Olympics programs has been used to purchase track uniforms, bowl rentals, bowling uniforms, and basketballs
- ISD is using Final Forms as its athletics platform; coaches will use this platform for communication and forms, it uses ISD student email addresses, so that's where to look for communications
- Hiring freeze has been lifted for head wrestling coach, and assistant coaches for football and soccer, so these positions are open now
- Contract with Adidas for sports uniforms allows students to purchase gear at a discount, this is a good savings for athletes
- 2012 Bond set aside money for IHS stadium renovations and that is moving forward; improvements will include press box expansion, more visitor seating, and ADA-compliant access
- A handful of sports are currently holding outdoor conditioning in pods with safety protocols, including football, boys' basketball, baseball, volleyball, swim and cheer; dance will start on Jan. 28
- Physicals for students are now required every two years (freshman still have to have one after June 1, but that will be good for two years)
- WIAA said sports can start on Feb. 1 but its guidance doesn't really mesh with the governor's restrictions for our area; KingCo has set a Mar. 1 start date, but still will depend on local metrics at that time; planning for that date is underway so we are ready to go when the metrics are met
- Luke is working with KingCo to decide what resuming sports means in our area; KingCo has proposed three shortened seasons (many districts will have only two seasons); will still need to get in the required number of practices before competitions could start; watch eNews for updates

Committee Reports (continued)

Events *(Kristen Allen-Bentsen)*

Senior Events

Co-Chairs Betzy Jones and Cynthia Lydum met with their committee last night; committee is planning for a continuum of celebrations based on our Covid metrics, still seeking a Chair for the Senior Farewell (virtual); we will not be having a Senior party this year but will look at other opportunities for celebrations

Speaker

The second speaker, IHS Principal Andrea McCormick, was introduced.

Principal McCormick reported that:

- In-person clubs are starting up this month; advisors can request that pods meet outdoors, but interest has been lower (maybe Zoom is preferable to in-person in the rain?); there may be more interest after finals are over; many students missed the Virtual Club Fair in the Fall so Jordan Frost is putting together a comprehensive email for students about what clubs are operating and how to access the meetings
- As stated in the recent ISD eNews, any student who is not passing at semester will be issued a "No Credit" on their transcript; this will have no impact to student GPAs; a student may choose to or need to recover the credit from a course marked NC if it is required for graduation; students can retake classes to improve C- or below grades; generally limited to four classes, but unlimited for classes taken during Covid (Spring semester 2020 and both 2020-2021 semesters)
- Teachers have been working on Tier 2 outreach (students who are not succeeding in class — identified by grades); this year has seen a higher distribution of "F" grades in every grading report, lots of professional development for teachers on how to address these students
- Teachers also have adjusted scope and sequence to make courses less rigorous this year; this began before the school year started, but they continue to make more concessions to support students; all departments have discussed the grade brackets, and may choose to drop one low assessment grade, may also give a "do no harm" final (can only raise a student's grade)

- ISD is doing college outreach work to determine how colleges will treat grades earned during Covid-19; most say they will ignore Covid-19 grades due to inconsistencies among districts' grading policies during Covid-19
- PSAT is happening at IHS on Jan. 26; 200 juniors have signed up, all 3 HS want to offer the SAT/ACT on campus in May, but slots are limited due to limited availability of proctors; school's ability to do this also depends on our Covid-19 metrics and how many people will be allowed in the building at one time; decision likely will be made in March or April; parent volunteers may be needed to help to pull this off
- IHS is interested in having some sort of in-person graduation event, but it will depend on our Covid-19 metrics; worst case (still in Phase 1) would be a photo op on a decorated stage for one student at a time and their immediate family; IHS would film students and upload for virtual ceremony; ISD is not releasing its T-Mobile Park date, but it's unlikely that we will be able to have that many people together in June; also looking at doing something smaller in IHS stadium, maybe "micro graduations" in groups because we likely won't be able to get 600 students and their families together on campus at one time; IHS will hold its year-end assembly and senior recognition assembly virtually
- Prom venue is reserved but realistically IHS won't be having a prom this year, will likely be cancelled
- School Board set some dates for K-1 students to return to in-person learning at its meeting last night but that's a long way from reopening high schools; IHS does expect to grow small group experiences on campus (e.g., for Seniors) but needs to get clubs up and running first; interventions for struggling students also may be prioritized for in-person experiences
- Some staff and volunteers are getting vaccinated which is a positive for being able to have in-person events; IHS is one of four ISD school sites to be approved as a clinic to vaccinate ISD staff, but it's unclear how many vaccines we will receive and when; more information to come in the next few weeks

Committee Reports (continued)

Communications (*Wendy Maruchek*)

Social Media

We have increased our followers on all social media channels:

Facebook 672

Insta 494

Twitter 80

Zoom Best Practices

During our Nov. College and Career center event, we were Zoom-bombed by two people who logged on and made racist and sexist comments; we want to avoid these sorts of disruptions in the future, so we are working to develop policies that balance making our Zoom events accessible with keeping them safe

Business

Vote for Nominating Committee

Election of officers for the 2021-2022 school year will be held in the spring at a general membership meeting. We will elect a committee of three to five people to identify nominees for the board of director positions. Each member of the Nominating Committee must have been a PTSA member for at least 30 days prior to serving on the committee. Names put forth to serve on the Nominating Committee are Blyth Claeys, Karissa Mobilia, and Tracy Drake. Amy Korb moved to approve the committee nominations. Motion seconded. Voice vote, motion passes.

Adjourned 11:09 AM

Next Meeting: Friday, February 12, 2021 at 9:30am

Respectfully submitted,

Alisa E. George, Secretary

IH PTSA 2.6.45

GM Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2021

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