



Issaquah High PTSA 2.6.45 General Membership Meeting

April 23, 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 9:30am. Proper notice of the meeting was given and a quorum was present. In attendance: Kim Wilkinson, Alisa George, Tara Moe, Nicole Garcia, Laura Schmidt, Satnam Purewal, Wendy Cummins, Heidi Fuhs, Kristen Allen-Bentsen, Carla Geraci, Tracy Drake, Karissa Mobilia, Carolyn Kennedy, Chinju Lee, Cynthia Lydum, Kaiyu Yan, Kristin Bendt, Lisa Small, Shamitha Sridharan, Amy Korb, Natasha De Los Reyes, Raquel Koz, Heather Bratton, and Eloisa Tang.

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

Kim Wilkinson reported the following information:

- Thanks to our March and April volunteers:
 - *ParentWiser, "Your Turn: How To Be an Adult"* presented by Julie Lythcott-Haims – Chair Heidi Fuhs
 - *Senior Scholarships* – Chair Lisa Dow
 - *IHS New Family Ambassadors* – co-Chairs Cathy Habib and Lisa Hill
 - *IHS Outside Lunch Set-Up Volunteers* – Darcy Perea, Marcie Lewis, Sandy Schmidt, Cynthia Lydum, Erin Saviello, Jo Mockford, Kim Wilkinson, Birgit Aarrestad, and Keely Saviello
 - *College and Career Planning, Interviewing Webinar* - Chair Tracie Kinsley and Microsoft recruiters
 - *Senior Events Issaquah Celebration* – co-Chairs Betzy Jones and Cynthia Lydum and volunteer Tracie Jones
 - *Nominating Committee* – Karissa Mobilia, Blyth Claeys, and Tracy Drake
- Thanks to our speaker this month: IHS Principal Andrea McCormick
- Check issaquahhighptsa.org for the most current information about upcoming events

Secretary's Report *(Alisa George)*

The March 12, 2021, minutes were reviewed and filed as presented

Treasurer's Report *(Tara Moe)*

Activity Highlights

Tara presented the March 2021 Financial Report; light activity in March; income included \$120 Membership, \$195 Corporate Matching, \$1,200 Senior Yard Signs, \$175 Practice Tests, and \$130 Angel donations; expenditures finally cleared out the carryover Angel donations from last year; a non-signer, Bhavna Patel, reviewed the February and March bank statements

Business

Election of 2021-2022 Officers

Secretary Alisa George read the relevant portions of Section 6 of the WSPTA Uniform Bylaws regarding the election of officers. Karissa Mobilia read the names of the proposed officers placed into nomination by the Nominating Committee:

For the office of Co-President: Kim Wilkinson
For the office of Co-President: Birgit Aarrestad

For the office of Secretary: Tracy Drake

For the office of Treasurer: Tara Moe
For the office of Assistant Treasurer: Kaiyu Yan

For the office of Co-Vice President, Programs: Sathyapriya Kannan
For the office of Co-Vice President, Programs: Lisa Small

For the office of Co-Vice President, Events: Kristen Allen-Bentsen
For the office of Co-Vice President, Events: Natasha De Los Reyes

For the office of Co-Vice President, Communications: Tracie Jones
For the office of Co-Vice President, Communications: Emily Arteche

For the office of Vice President, Hospitality: Laura Schmidt
For the office of Vice President, Hospitality: Kendra Gallagher

For the office of Vice President, Outreach: Karissa Mobilia
For the office of Vice President, Outreach: Chanju Lee

MOTION 1 Wendy Cummins moved to accept the candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee and to refer to the proposed candidates as "The Slate of Nominees." Motion was seconded. Voice vote. Motion passes.

Only one candidate is nominated for each office, and there were no nominations from the floor, so the Slate of Nominees is elected. Karissa will email a signed copy of the Nominating Report to the co-Presidents.

The designated check signers will be Kim Wilkinson, Birgit Aarrestad, Tara Moe, and Kristen Allen-Bentsen.

Speaker

The speaker, IHS Principal Andrea McCormick, was introduced.

Principal McCormick reported that:

- Graduation: she has a graduation meeting this afternoon but preliminary comments are that IHS is looking at expanding the portion of T-Mobile Park that it has rented to accommodate social distancing requirements for more attendees; IHS is trying to get to place where more guests are allowed, but worst case will be three guests per graduate (family group of 4); the event also will be live streamed so that people who cannot attend in person can watch; there will not be a graduation rehearsal, but the students will get instructions by video
- Senior events
 - Senior recognition event will be virtual
 - Cap and gown pick up is scheduled for May 19
 - Senior Sunrise will be an in-person event, but the time may be pushed back to later in the morning; the point is to get the seniors together for breakfast and to watch the senior slide show; the event will be on a Wednesday and the location(s) at the school will depend on what COVID-19 reopening Phase we are in; the teacher tunnel will follow the senior sunrise; may be able to do the tunnel as a walk-through because the teachers and many students will be vaccinated

- Hybrid return has been smooth from an administrative perspective; because students will be sitting in same lunch seats for the whole year IHS was flexible about seating for the first couple of days; attendance is slightly lower than expected; some families have said they are waiting until their student is vaccinated so the number of students on campus is expected to grow
- Staff Layoffs –School Board meetings are recorded so you can listen to the discussion about this at the April 13 School Board meeting; due to decline in enrollment and higher expenses, ISD has to make some budget cuts for next year and the School Board has approved a plan to cut about 300 staff; there are 28 IHS teacher positions on the RIF list; ISD hasn't gone through this process in many years, but basically the RIFs will happen by seniority; to the extent that RIFs create openings, higher-seniority teachers will have the chance to move to fill openings at other schools; some teachers may be recalled if they have endorsements in hard-to-fill areas
- Outreach to families who have chosen to stay 100 percent remote - Alaina Sivadasan, ISD Executive Director of Equity, currently is surveying families that have chosen to stay remote, ISD hopes understanding the reasons for the choice will help in directing future outreach to these families and students

PTSA Individual Awards

(Carla Geraci) Each year our PTSA has the opportunity to recognize outstanding volunteers with the Golden Acorn and Outstanding Advocate Awards. The committee this year was comprised of Chair Carla Geraci and members Wendy Cummins and Shamitha Sridharan.

- The Golden Acorn Award is a state PTA award presented to a volunteer in recognition of his/her dedication and service to children and youth. This year, the Golden Acorn Award goes to Nicole Garcia.
- The Outstanding Advocate Award is a state PTA award presented to a volunteer in recognition of his/her advocacy and commitment in helping to create strong policies relating to the health, welfare, safety and education of children and youth. This year, the Outstanding Advocate Award goes to Wendy Maruchek.

Carla thanked her Awards committee members for their service.

Committee Reports

Membership (*Nicole Garcia*)

869 members, including 43 staff

Programs (*Wendy Cummins*)

College and Career Planning

Spring webinar series is underway; videos from past events are available on the IHPTSA website; final webinar is: *College-Bound Juniors: Essay Writing Help - Feedback & Free Help* from ARROW College Representatives (May 5 at 2:00PM)

Community Service

Hours for Seniors are due by May 1; other students are welcome to enter their hours, too

Grants

Deadline for third cycle of grants was extended to today at 3:00PM; committee will review the requests on May 7, and grants will be voted on at the May 18 membership meeting

Reflections™

Congratulations to Aashika Vishwanath, whose dance choreography entry, "I'm Who I Am and I'm Complete," received an Outstanding Interpretation award for Grades 9-12 at the State competition and whose entry advanced to the national competition; national winners will be announced in early May; theme for 2021-2022 is "I Will Change the World By . . ."

Senior Scholarships

Committee is currently reviewing the applications received; winners will be announced at the May 18 membership meeting

Outreach (Karissa M. for *Blyth Claeys*)**Angel Closet**

Working on final clothing distribution event for the year; need to confirm that Wednesday will still work now that students are back in the building

New Family Ambassadors

We are finally able to return to having monthly parent nights; this month's gathering was at Capri Cellars on Apr. 20; Co-Chairs are Cathy Habib and Lisa Hill

Parent Education (Heidi Fuhs)

Final presentation for the year, "How to be an Adult," by Julie Lythcott-Haims was highly successful and is available for online viewing at the Parentwiser website; parent survey is live on www.parentwiser.org; please share your ideas for topics for next year's presentations

Hospitality (Laura Schmidt)

Staff Appreciation Week will be May 3-7; this year's version will be scaled down; we will be providing lunch on only one day (Chipotle); committee will send out a SignUpGenius to request donations of drinks and desserts; staff will receive a gift bag that will include a coffee mug personalized with a word cloud commemorating 2020-2021; front entrance of school will be decorated

Events (Heidi Fuhs and Kristen Allen-Bentsen)**Senior Events**

Our Senior celebration "Picnic in the Park" will take place on June 6, from noon-5:00pm

PE 5K

This event will not be held this Spring

Business**Votes to Amend Senior Events Budget**

Co-V.P. of Events Kristen Allen-Bentsen noted that COVID-19 has impacted the way senior events will be handled this year. Certain traditional in-person events are being held online, and other events need to be supported differently. The 5K PE runs, the 8th grade information night, and the college night are not being held in person this year. The Senior Breakfast will be held in person, but the expenses likely will be higher because the PTSA will not be able to solicit food donations and will need to purchase prepackaged food. And instead of the all-night grad party funded by ticket sales, the PTSA will be hosting an outdoor picnic-type celebration at Veterans Memorial Field. In light of these circumstances, it is desirable to make certain changes to the Events budget.

MOTION 2 Kristen moved to reallocate the following line items: (1) \$200 from 5K runs (2), (2) \$100 from 8th Grade Events, and (3) \$400 from College Night, zeroing out those line items and increasing the Senior Breakfast line item by \$700. Motion was seconded. Voice vote. Motion passes.

MOTION 3 Kristen moved to reallocate \$3,500 from the Senior Farewell line item to the Other Senior Events line item, zeroing out the Senior Farewell line item, and to increase the Other Senior Events line item by an additional \$4,000, for a total increase to Other Senior Events of \$7,000. Motion was seconded. Voice vote. Motion passes.

Communications (Wendy Maruchek and Satnam Purewal)**Social Media**

We have increased our followers on our social media channels:

- Facebook 710 followers (695 last month); last month posts reached between 70-500 viewers; back to school posts, graduation, spotlights was the most popular; we also have 180 followers on our senior only page, and its reach is larger than its followers
- Instagram 543 followers (526 last month); last month posts reached up to 280 viewers; most popular posts were spotlights

- Twitter 84 followers (80 last month); posts reached up to 220 viewers; volunteer requests were the most popular

Other Opportunities/Committee Updates

Issaquah Schools Foundation

- “Nourish Every Mind” virtual fundraiser will take place on April 29 at 7:00pm; the online auction will be open until April 26
- Applications for rising Juniors to serve as Student Trustees will be posted later this month; any current 10th grader can apply to serve a two-year term during their junior and senior years; deadline for applications is May 31; interviews will take place after that deadline and new Student Trustees will be announced by the end of the school year

Committee Positions for 2021-2022

We will be starting to fill in the committee chairs over the next few weeks; if you have time to give, please consider volunteering for a committee head position

Adjourned 11:01AM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Alisa E. George, Secretary