



General Membership Meeting Minutes

Issaquah High PTSA 2.6.45

IHS Main Office Conference
Room

February 12, 2016

Welcome and Call to Order – Bertina Loeffler Sedlack and Becky Gordon

The meeting was called to order at 9:28 am. A quorum was present and proper notice was given. An attendance sheet is filed with these minutes.

Thank you-

Thank you to Danelle Gonzalez, Victoria Evans and Ginger Wilfong for a fun and well run 5K on Jan 15th; Diane Burdette, Lucy Zou, Sally Feldman and Sarah Carmichael for their time in completing the Mid-Year Financial Review on Jan 26th; Stacy Feinsilber, Stacy Heller and Sandi Lum on a very successful Student Recognition Breakfast on Jan 27th; Jeanne Simons and Tricia Jerue for recruiting a full class for the ACT Test Prep course which is running from Jan 31st – April 8th; Diane Burdette for spearheading the Mock ACT (Jan 9th), Mock-new SAT (Jan 30th) at IHS and Emily Palmgren, Anne Watanabe and Onti Rosen for their work on the Volunteer Fair/Community Service Program which won across-the-board praise.

A special congratulations to Julie Siefkes for being awarded the very prestigious SAMMI Awards Foundation/SAMMI Award Honoree. Julie will be honored at the awards banquet on March 12th at the Sammamish Boys and Girls Club. This award is given to a person who displays, through years of service, a longstanding commitment to volunteerism and community involvement, inspiring others to give back, and completing the Circle of Service. Well deserved!

Officer Diego Zanella and Neil Lasher – Campus Security Update

This month was fairly quiet; no major issues. Car prowls continue to be an issue. Officer Zanella and had advice for students. These are “crimes of opportunity”. Please remind students to remove from the car all valuables. Most important is hiding them from sight. This includes: money, electronics and backpacks. Please be mindful that students are responsible for anything that is in their car. If the car is shared with an adult, and the adult leaves alcohol in the car and it’s seen by Neil Lasher, he can legally get into the car to inspect without a search warrant.

Erin Connolly – ASB update

Feedback on the Volunteer Fair was very positive; the kids loved it!

During finals, there were giveaways to keep spirits up. ASB elections are this week. Class council elections are coming up; there is an information meeting on February 25th. Special Olympics has its last home game event on February 23rd. ASB is planning to recognize the athletes with a ceremony similar to other sports' Senior Night. ASB is working to increase the diversity of their student population to include kids who may not typically join ASB. Strategies to do this include asking for teacher and student recommendations and getting the word out on iVision. "Annie" will be playing at IHS from March 23rd to 26th. ASB will be holding another blood drive on April 1st. The community will be invited to participate. TOLO is April 2nd. ASB working to increase participation by having the student body vote on two optional themes. Price of tickets will be \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door with student ID. There was a member question regarding available options for freshman to become involved in ASB. Erin encouraged freshman to get involved in student council which meets once a week. They are also exploring a 7th period option.

Becky – District News/Council Report

District News

- So far this year, enough new students added to ISD to fill an elementary school
- Projecting a double jump in enrollment for next year. Expects the full day kindergarten option to be very popular.
- Staff shortages: 30 – 40 EA positions open and some certificated positions haven't been filled successfully. Next year hoping to fill 200 positions district-wide
- School board approved 60 "golden tickets for interviewing teams to offer applicants to assure them a position somewhere in the district
- March 1st the decision regarding late start will be made – Thought exchange closes on Sunday

Council News

- WA State PTA Reflections recognition will be held April 30thh at Bellevue HS – not at convention – this will determine which artists are moving up to the National PTA
- It is possible the Men's Essay contest winners will be announced as well
- The Influence the Choice Video contest is up and running – submissions are due April 23rd

Secretary – Liz Herbst

The minutes from January GMM were presented and accepted without changes. They will be filed with these minutes.

Treasurer – Diane Burdette

Diane discussed the financial reports that are filed annually as a requirement. These include:

Federal – IRS

Form 990-EZ

- *Annual Information Return for Tax-Exempt Organizations*
- *IH PTSA is 501 (c) (3) Organization*
- *Due November 15th*
- *For organizations with less than \$200,000 in gross receipts*

State of Washington – Secretary of State

Charitable Solicitations Renewal Form

- *Due May 31st*
- *\$40 renewal fee*
- *If fundraiser from public, must register with Charities Program*
- *Basic financial information*
- *Purpose/mission of the organization*

Nonprofit Corporation Annual Report

- *Due April 30th*
- *\$10.00 fee*
- *Names and addresses of the Executive Board*
- *Purpose*

Diane reported that the Mid-Year Financial Review was performed utilizing WPTA checklist and an independent committee. One issue was raised regarding the management of cash received. This is an extremely small amount of the budget - a few hundred dollars at most. Almost all is money received from teachers for membership. The solution of eliminating the option of cash as way to join PTSA was discussed and rejected out of a concern that it would decrease teacher membership.

Membership – Kate Badiozamani

There are 1251 members. Considering ideas for a targeted Spring Campaign. PTSA member suggested targeting parents of outgoing seniors at Senior Events for membership next year.

Advocacy – Randi Wright

Reported on Focus Day in Olympia. In an effort to support the McCleary bill to fully fund education, PTSA members were given the option to complete letters of support to their representatives.

Nominating Committee – Jody Mull

The committee will consider individuals for all IH PTSA positions. They will present the slate and the membership will vote at the April meeting. She asked that members submit recommendations to the committee in the next few weeks; including parents of incoming 9th graders.

VIS update – Jody Mull

VIS (Volunteers for Issaquah Schools) is “in the thick of it”; big push to get Issaquah voters to vote in favor of the school bond in April. Jody thanked the PTSA for their large donation which is going a long way to promote the vote for the bond. PTA money will be used in part for sending out postcards. Teachers at IHS have signed postcards to be distributed. VIS is looking for volunteers to help. Those interested can contact Jody Mull, or go on VIS website to sign up to help: <http://www.visvote.org/>

Special Services – Sandi Lum

Basketball team came in 3rd place at SeaTac, and they are going to State on March 4-5th. Last home game on February 23rd. Please come out to support the team!

Programs

Parent Ed – Kristen Allen Bentsen

Next Parent Ed presentation is: *Anxiety: Yours, Mine and Ours* on Tuesday, March 8th in the IHS Theater at 7:00pm. Speaker is Laura Kastner, PhD. Dr. Kastner is a clinical psychologist and is on staff at UW. She has written several books. Focus of the event is primarily parents, but kids are welcome, and may benefit from the presentation.

ISF – Kristen Allen Bentsen

Nourish Every Mind Luncheon – April 28th; everyone welcome. Bertina is hosting a PTSA table. Kristen encouraged members to come and see the results of donated money; an improved student experience. Encourages a \$150.00 donation, but not required. She suggested there are many ways to make a difference with ISF that don't require a financial donation.

Healthy Student – Ami Maron

Ami endorsed Dr. Laura Kastner. Considering using her to talk with freshman during the PSAT day next year. Healthy Student would like to focus on stress management for one of the three talks.

Positive Community Norms – Influence the Choice

New focus on positive results of the Healthy Youth Survey. Goal is to improve student confidence in making good choices. Many students have the impression that participants don't take the survey seriously, but the survey has internal reliability measures to detect falsification, or random answer selection. Initial phase of program includes rolling out “Be True” posters. Program planners are using focus groups to guide development.

Senior Events – Colleen Volk

Senior Celebration – Goal was 300 + students. A total of 350 have signed up to date. Have received request for 14 scholarships; will be asking Angel for help.

Baccalaureate – Will use the football field with the addition of a donated sound system. In the case of inclement weather, will be moved inside. Save the date: June 10th, 7pm.

IH PTSA Awards Committee – Sandi Lum and Anne Watanabe

Outstanding Advocate and Golden Acorn awards deadline today, Feb 12th. Outstanding Educator award deadline is April 8th. Forms can be found online via the IH PTSA website or in the main office, and may be returned to the main office or to Sandi Lum: sandi4ihs@gmail.com

Angel Program – Anne Watanabe

Anne recognized and thanked the Angel program volunteers for their ongoing hard work. The volunteers put together 50 baskets of food for students in need (similar to “Lunch for the Break” program) for next week.

Community Service – Emily Palmgren

Volunteer Fair was a big success. There was a great student turn out, and the organizations were very happy with the response. After the fair, Emily had many requests from additional organizations who would like to be represented in the future. Deadline to submit volunteer hours is May 2nd. The seniors need 75 hours to receive an honor cord to wear at graduation.

IH PTSA Senior Scholarship – Randi Wright

Applications available in the Career/Counseling Center. Bertina thanked Randi Wright and Kristen Allen Bensten for developing a new prompt. Deadline is April 18th.

Guest Speaker – Kelly Henry, IHS Chemistry teacher

Ms. Henry received a grant for a radiation detector and presented one of the demonstrations she uses in class to educate her students about radiation in their environment. The goal of the demonstration is to help improve their understanding of what is safe and what isn't.

Grants – Anne Watanabe for Grants Committee

The Grants Committee brought three motions to the floor for general membership approval.

Motion #1

Anne Watanabe, on behalf of the Grants Committee, moved that the PTSA membership approve the grant request submitted by Shannon Henderson and Jessica DeZure for \$1,900 for a field trip to see Romeo and Juliet. Discussion. Ballot vote; yes-18, no-4. Motion passed.

Motion #2

Anne Watanabe, on behalf of the Grants Committee, moved that the PTSA membership approve the National Spanish Exam grant for a maximum of \$ 550, submitted by Ellen Hayes. Discussion. Voice vote, motion passed.

Motion #3

Anne Watanabe, on behalf of the Grants Committee, moved that the PTSA membership approve the grant request submitted by Charolett Henderson for \$900 for the Leadership Program. Discussion. Voice vote, motion passed.

IHS Administration Updates – Andrea McCormick, principal

Andrea discussed the 9th grade Registration Night on February 29th at 6pm in the Gym. She reviewed the new format, which proposes significant changes from previous years. One of the most significant differences is that both students and parents are invited. Course selection day is March 9th, for 9th, 10th and 11th grade students. Andrea reviewed the plan for the day which will include individualized packets with the student's graduation path highlighted, a registration video, and a focus on an informed, self-select worksheet. Students will read "Rethinking College Admissions" article to consider factors in selecting an individual post-HS plan. Administration is working to streamline counselor time to reduce student emails by addressing FAQ regarding the Running Start program. In future, speaker at graduation will be selected based on different criteria –a student with a minimum GPA of 3.5 who exhibits exceptional character. Will not be a valedictorian.

Hospitality – Stacy Heller/Sandi Lum

Stacy reported on highlights: Student Recognition Breakfast, Testing Snacks and Staff Meetings. All have been universally praised. Stacy thanked Bertina for her support. Staff Appreciation week planning is underway. Will be looking for volunteers in the near future.

Meeting adjourned at 11:49 am

Minutes prepared by: Liz Herbst, Secretary

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