



General Membership Meeting Minutes

Issaquah High PTSA 2.6.45

IHS Main Office Conference
Room

April 8, 2016

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am. A quorum was present and proper notice was given. An attendance sheet is filed.

Officer Diego Zanella and Neil Lasher

Officer Diego reported that there have been several fights recently, which is a new issue at IHS. The consequence for the students was a three day suspension from school. The school does not want to go the criminal route with the students in this situation. In the event of weapons being used, that would warrant involvement with the police; weapons were not used in these instances.

Neil discussed the outcome of the Safety Meeting which included Ami Maron, the PTSA Safety Liaison. Ami brought concerns raised by the PTSA membership at the last GMM meeting. These were addressed at the Safety Meeting, and remedies were sought. Two issues involved the safe crossing of students; at the entrance of the school, in front of the parent drop-off lane, and on 2nd Avenue at the crosswalk, at the light by the school's entrance. The school is taking aggressive steps to address these concerns with the addition of flashing lights, a no-parking area before the crosswalk in front of the school, and more visibly painted crosswalks.

Officer Diego reported that LSD has been used by some IHS students. This was a small group of students: "a handful". This was the first time that LSD has been found in the history of IHS. These students purchased the LSD online from China. He shared pictures of the LSD which looked like brightly colored tabs, or stamps. He warned parents to be on the lookout for suspicious packages delivered to the house. He also warned that LSD use/possession is a felony. He emphasized that this issue came to their attention by the collaboration of a concerned parent and the security team at IHS. He reiterated that parent involvement is key to the safety of our students.

President's Report – Bertina Loeffler Sedlack and Becky Gordon

Thank yous - Bertina Loeffler Sedlack thanked Jody Mull and Allison Merriweather for their early morning work on the Staff Meeting Snacks; Linda Liske for providing snacks to RNs; Anne Watanabe and Becky Gordon for helping with Honk and Wave with VIS; Jody Mull, for her work with VIS; Jody Mull, Ginger Wilfong and Valerie Yanni for putting together and posting the Nomm Comm slate; Kristen Allen-Bentsen for organizing the Issaquah HS table for the ISF Luncheon; Sara Carmichael for working with Emily Palmgren on Community Service Committee; Sandi Lum for her awards work; Randi Wright for all she's done leading the Senior Scholarship Committee; Diane Burdette, Jeanne Simon and Tricia Jerue, the College Test Prep team for their hard work all year; Sandi Lum for her work with Testing Snacks; and Cyn Baumert who is an excellent mentor.

IH PTSA Survey - Becky Gordon, Co-president – The survey is short, and focuses on a few topics about for feedback from the membership. Members asked to please complete this survey which they can find in their inbox or access on the website. An update was provided on the Gibson Ek School, which now has full enrollment and its final roster completed. They will have a PTSA. On June 1st, there will be a bell times meeting at IHS and details will be forthcoming. The bond ballots are in the mail and Becky asked the membership to vote early.

Secretary Report – Liz Herbst presented the March GMM draft minutes and no changes or corrections were suggested. Minutes will be filed as presented.

Treasurer's Report – Diane Burdette -The financial reports are attached to the minutes. Some of the incoming money included Staff Appreciation and Pass the Hat donations. Pass the Hat income for the year to date is ~ \$32,000. The Shakespeare refund came in and was forwarded to the grant given for the Shakespeare Field Trip. Margaret Chalfant reviewed the March financial statements and they all checked out.

Advocacy – Randi Wright - Randi is organizing a town hall meeting with Chad Magendanz and Mark Mullet. The event is targeted for mid-May. Randi encouraged all members with a passion for issues for the WA State PTA to submit these before the deadline in May. There is an initial deadline on May 1st and second deadline for the final submission on June 1st. The legislative committee will review the issues and make recommendations to the board of directors at its August meeting. For more information: <http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/index.html>

Outstanding Educator Awards – Sandi Lum reported that there have been ~25 submissions for the Outstanding Educator Award. Becky Gordon was interviewed by iVision about the Outstanding Educator Award which was shown on the morning program.

Outstanding Advocate Award – Anne Watanabe, Awards Co-Chair, presented Dea Barnet with the Outstanding Advocate Award. She praised Dea's dedication to promoting the bell time change, and expressed pride that Dea is "one of us", a community member, taking a position on an important issue. She thanked her, and said that Dea's advocacy work shows her concern for kids throughout the district.

Executive Board Elections (Nominating Committee – Jody Mull, Ginger Wilfong and Valerie Yanni)

WSPTA Uniform Bylaws Article 5, Section 6 was read by Secretary Liz Herbst. Jody Mull, chair of nominating committee, read aloud the report of the committee and announced that all candidates meet the requirements of the WSPTA Uniform Bylaws:

For office of **President**: Bertina Loeffler Sedlack and Diane Burdette

For office of **Secretary**: Sara Carmichael

For office of **Treasurer**: OPEN

For office of **Vice President of Events**: OPEN

For office of **Vice President of Hospitality**: Ginger Wilfong

For office of **Vice President of Communication**: Tami Curtis and Valerie Yanni

For office of **Vice President of Programs**: Anne Watanabe and Onti Rosen

The signed report was handed to President Becky Gordon, and the committee was thanked for its work. President Becky Gordon, re-read the proposed slate of officers and she went through the offices of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer in turn and asked for nominations from the floor for each. None were offered and the president declared the nominations closed.

Motion: Cyn Baumert moved that we accept the slate as presented by the nominating committee. Seconded. A voice vote was held, and the slate was elected unanimously.

VIS Liaison – Jody Mull – Honk and Wave scheduled for April 25th; please sign up to help. There is not much opposition to the bond, but 60% is needed to pass. Look for ballots, and send them in early.

Special Services Liaison -Sandi Lum – Special Olympics Track and Field has started. June 4-5 is State competition. There is a presentation: “Special Ed 101” targeting families who are new to special service or think their kids may need to be evaluated. Takes place at Clark Elementary School on April 26, at 7 pm.

Programs

Parent Ed – Kristen Allen Bentsen – “Screenagers” documentary is being screened at IHS on May 5th, 7:00-8:00 pm. Free to everyone in ISD. The movie shows the positive and negative effects of screen time on our teenagers. Students are encouraged to attend.

Angel Program – Barb Howe – Angel program put together “Baskets for the Break” for the upcoming Spring Break. The closet is running smoothly, but serving a handful of kids. Angel is looking for ways to reach more students, particularly kids ‘on the bubble’. Now anyone can fill out a form to register a student for Angel. They are considering opening the closet every other week, instead of weekly. They have received many prom dresses in smaller sizes. There still is a need for sizes 10-16. Angel is scouting for free prom services such as tux rentals and nail and hair services. Fashion club has been instrumental in weeding out the “not so cool” clothes and coordinating outfits.

Grants – Sally Feldman requested that folks get grants in before the deadline on April 15th. I-Vision video for grants was well done and well received.

Healthy Start – Ami Maron reported on the crosswalk modifications that are being made as a result of the PTSA membership-generated concerns that she brought to the Safety Meeting. Neil Lasher is submitting a grant request for a flashing sign planned for the crosswalk. New posters are going up,

highlighting the validity of the Healthy Youth Survey and showing statistics in a positive light, emphasizing that the majority of students are making healthy choices.

Senior Scholarships – Randi Wright has been passing out applications during lunches on Thursdays with Emily Palmgren who is collecting community service hours from Seniors. There are 4 scholarships for \$1000 each. One application has been submitted to date. The winners will be revealed at the May GMM and invited to be honored.

Principal's Report – Andrea McCormick reported an increase in requests from parents for information about issues including: drugs and alcohol, how to address complaints about teachers, and anxiety. The staff is putting together a Parent Ed night and will start producing videos similar to "Ted Talks" on various issues. Swedish Mental Health professional is working to increase prevention strategies in the school. One approach will be to develop a mindfulness curriculum. This will be piloted with the "Start Strong" program students, many of who have high stress levels. Smarter Balance testing is evolving. Those 10th graders that took the test and passed, have met their state grad requirements. Juniors will take the test after break. Very low opt-out population this year since administering the test during a regular school day. Admin is taking a new approach to making schedule changes with Google docs.

ASB Updates – Erin Connolly reported on past and future events. The Japanese Expo was a wild success. The musical "Annie" was likewise successful. During Tolo week, Trivia/Game Night reached a new population of students. The Tolo Dance was very well attended: about 570 students attended this year over high 400s last year! The blood drive received donations from 112 people; 37 who were new donors, which was super. Green Week starts after break with "Waste Free Wednesday", and those students who Carpool/Walk/Bike/Bus will receive a "Peaks" gift card for a free yogurt. Seniors are trying to raise money to help pay for prom with "Raise the Paddle" fundraiser; donor's names will appear on the screen at graduation. Also offering AP care packages for purchase.

Senior Events

Baccalaureate – Kari Alexander - Baccalaureate will take place on June 10th at IHS at 7:00pm. Kari described this event as "inspirational, but non-religious" **Senior Breakfast and Grad Rehearsal** will take place that morning as well. Auditioning for Baccalaureate is on April 20th, May 11th and May 13th in the morning and afternoon, in room 1413.

Hospitality – Stacy Heller reported that the last Student Recognition Breakfast/Ceremony will take place on June 1st at IHS. Testing snacks reached 370. There is one more round to go. Staff Appreciation is being chaired by Christy Otley and volunteer signups will be going out. There will be no donation signups from the membership for the May staff meeting because of the SA events and volunteer requests next month.

Meeting adjourned at 11:37

Minutes prepared by Liz Herbst, IH PTSA Secretary