



General Membership Meeting Minutes

Issaquah High PTSA 2.6.45

IHS Main Office Conference
Room

January 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 with these minutes.

President's Report – Bertina Loeffler Sedlack and Becky Gordon

Thank yous –

The student directory was mailed on Monday, January 4th. Thank you to the team: Susan Sullivan and Robin Nelson, co-chairs; Valerie Yanni and Tami Curtis, VPs of Communication and Anne Watanabe, for making it happen.

Parent Ed – Kristen Allen Bentsen

Upcoming event: Tuesday, March 8th at IHS. Laura Kastner, PhD. will be speaking on the issue of anxiety. "Yours, Mine and Ours, Finding a Way Out of the Cycle". Kristen said that she is a fantastic, dynamic speaker. Dr. Kastner has written several books. Focus of the event is primarily parents, but kids are welcome, and may benefit from the presentation.

Secretary's Report – Liz Herbst

Call for a review of the minutes from December 2015 GMM meeting. The minutes will be filed as amended.

Treasurer's Report – Diane Burdette

The December financials were presented by Diane. Big month of expenses. Highlights include: payment for the senior party and Shakespeare grant. There was a big single donor gift to the Angel program of \$1000. A copy of the financial report is filed with these minutes. Margaret Chalfant reviewed the bank statements and everything checked out.

Membership – Kate Badiozamani

Membership is up to 1245. The community member option is up and running on the website and IH PTSA has its first community member.

Advocacy – Randi Wright

Upcoming event is 2016 Legislative Focus Day on Wednesday, February 3rd, 8:00-3:00 pm at the Washington State Capitol, Olympia. This is an opportunity for parents and students of Washington State to give a voice to their support or concerns to legislators. Individuals can make appointments with their representatives in advance. Participants will also have the chance to network with other parents, students, educators or advocates who have similar issues or concerns related to education. There is a rally on the Capitol steps at noon.

For more information or to register:

http://www.wastatepta.org/meetings/focus_day/index.html

Awards Committee – Sandi Lum

PTA Awards- Nominations for Golden Acorn, Outstanding Advocate and Outstanding Educator are now being accepted. Forms are available in the main office, or on the IH PTSA website: <http://issaquahhighptsa.org/Article/View/It-s-Time-for-Nominations-for-Golden-Acorn-Outstanding-Educator-or-Advocate>. Previous winners of these awards may also be found on the website. Forms may be returned to the office, c/o Sandi Lum, Awards Chair or online to Sandi Lum: sandi4ihs@gmail.com

Deadlines for awards nominations are: February 12th for Outstanding Advocate and Golden Acorn awards and April 8th for Outstanding Educator award.

Special Services Liaison – Sandi Lum

Upcoming Event – Special Olympics Basketball, January 14th, 7:30pm at IHS Gym against Ingram HS.

Chris Burton- General Counsel to the District

Mr. Burton presented facts related to the bond. Bond has been proposed to fund renovation/expansion of ISD, to keep pace with the growth in Issaquah. ISD is unable to use the general fund to finance building, so they must look to community. The 2016 bond would provide money to: buy property for expansion, build four new schools, modernize six elementary schools and rebuild one middle school. There will be no impact on current property taxes, but without passage of the bond, taxes will drop off. Other districts with a student population equal to that of ISD, have four high schools. Therefore, ISD will continue to fall behind. Issaquah has thirteen years of clean audits and a twenty year record of paying their bonds off on time. Because of their excellent financial history, the district has the highest Moody rating and it will cost less to build (lower interest rate) than neighboring districts. With

the proposed changes, ISD will become more energy efficient over time, as older schools cost more to run. Acquisition of land is one of the biggest issues driving the timing of the bond.

VIS Liaison – Valerie Yanni (presenting information for Jody Mull)

Reasons to support the 2016 bond:

Enrollment Growth

Rapid and continued growth in the District has resulted in an increase of enrollment by 2,000 students in the past four years. Our schools are fast becoming crowded and we conservatively project enrollment growth to increase by 1,500 to 2,000 students over the next five years.

Full Day Kindergarten and Smaller Class Sizes

State requirements and our own desire to provide free full day kindergarten for all students and reduce class sizes also result in the need for more classrooms.

Land Availability

Property to build schools is becoming scarce and waiting will result in fewer viable options for school sites. In addition, recent interpretations of the Growth Management Act reduce our options for locating schools.

How much is the bond and how will it affect my taxes?

The school bond on the April 26, 2016 ballot is \$533.5M. Residents can expect to see no increase in tax rate as a result of the passage of this bond measure.

What about the 2012 Bond?

Thanks to our voters, we are completing the build out of the projects in the 2012 Bond. We have expanded and remodeled Apollo Elementary, Issaquah Valley Elementary, and Maywood Middle School. Additionally, Liberty High School was rebuilt and remodeled. We are currently rebuilding Issaquah Middle School, Sunny Hills Elementary, and building the new Gibson Ek choice high school for a fall of 2016 opening. We will begin the rebuild of Clark Elementary in the summer of 2016 for a fall of 2017 opening.

For more information on the proposed bond, see the ISD website:

<http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/2016-school-bond-feasibility>

Bertina added that as a PTSA, we endorse and have spent money to support VIS. Ways to get involved: Attend the kick-off at the KCLS Library Service Center on Jan 19th at 7pm., Honk and Wave, help with mailings and/or check-in with Jody Mull or Valerie Yanni.

Events – Ginger Wilfong

The IHS 5K race will be held on January 15th. Danelle Gonzalez is chairing the event and she has adequate volunteers. Parents are welcome to join to observe and cheer the students in the 5K.

Programs – Anne Watanabe

College Test Prep – Diane Burdette/Jeanne Simon

- ACT prep on January 9th -32 students
- Combination ACT and SAT diagnostic test on March 12th; ideal for sophomores
- Weekend ACT prep on Sundays from Jan 31st – April 8th at Eastside Fire and Rescue
This is a big money saver for our students. Cost of the program is usually \$700, while our students pay \$360. We have 21 out of a max of 25 students signed up so far
- Can sign up for College Test Prep on the IH PTSA website
- Trying to book next session for Saturdays. This session on Sundays was due to availability
- The classes are a break-even program for PTSA, but a benefit to our students
- The mock tests make around \$600 for the PTSA

Bertina thanked Jeanne for all of her tireless work. She added that this is a labor of love for the PTA – a great, great service.

Angel update – Anne Watanabe

The Angel Program has become a huge organization. Last month's holiday packages were a big hit! Angel Closet is fully outfitted. There are dozens of volunteers who have been trained and Fashion Club kids come to sort clothing. Angel is exploring many avenues for support. Corporate donations are providing services and toiletries. Angel is working with ASB on a clothing drive. Continuing to forge mutually beneficial partnerships with local organizations such as the Issaquah Food Bank and Eastside Baby Corner.

Other Programs updates – Anne

Annual Student Volunteer Fair on February 10th during lunches in the Career Center

Reflections – District-wide reception at IHS on January 12th.

IHS Administration Updates – Andrea McCormick, principal

Andrea presented the administration team and discussed how it is structured. She introduced the three Vice Principals: Adam Desautels, Doug Wolf and Julie Fredricksen. Each VP has responsibility for students in an alphabet group according to their last name (A-G, H-O and P-Z). Areas of student intervention include: course waivers, issues with teachers, and disciplinary intervention. In addition, each VP has administrative oversight responsibility in different areas. Some examples of these are: Tech and state testing, student recognition, safety and sustainability. Each VP also has responsibility for two or more academic subjects and those corresponding teachers.

Andrea also discussed the roles of the five counselors. In addition to providing students with college recommendation letters, they are available to help resolve social issues and help

identify any additional student needs. This includes support provided by 504 plans, and therefore, they work closely with the Special Education department. They also are responsible for reviewing graduation requirement checks. Students are encouraged to meet with a counselor before or after school, at lunch or on a break. The counselor will meet with parents and students, or students alone. They occasionally meet with parents alone. The counselors work closely with Vice Principals on overlapping issues.

Student Recognition Assembly – Wednesday, January 27th at 8:00am. Program developed by the Building Leadership Team. Awards given to students nominated due to strength in the IHS-identified character pillars (ex: leadership, intellectual curiosity, and integrity) as well as specific academic areas. PTSA to provide breakfast.

Guest Speaker – Dea Barnett

Dr. Barnett is a Child/Adolescent Psychiatrist, who supports later start times for high school students. This movement is decades old, based on the science of the importance of sleep in this population. In 2014 the American Academy of Pediatrics made the recommendation that secondary school start later. Physicians recommend that students get between 8 ½ and 9 ½ hours of sleep each night. The Healthy Youth Survey suggests that 80% of students between 10th and 12th grade get fewer than 8 hours of sleep per night. She is concerned about students who need multiple alarms to wake up in the morning and are rely on caffeine at a young age. Adolescent's physiology is unique, which necessitates longer sleep cycles. They release melatonin later and longer than any other population (11pm-8am) and therefore require sleep during this time to function properly. There are serious risks associated with inadequate sleep. These include an increase in car accidents and sports injuries, and a decrease in cognition, memory, learning and mood. Late start on Wednesdays does not offer much benefit, and may be harmful. One late day during the week keeps kids from establishing a routine, which puts them at risk for having long term insomnia. Dr. Barnett agrees that there are issues related to a later start, including traffic and after school activities and sports. It is a logistical challenge, but many schools throughout the country have made the shift and it is working. It is proven, that kids will sleep more if given the opportunity.

If there are questions or concerns to direct to our speaker, contact Dea Barnett:

deabarnett@gmail.com.

For more information in support of later start times, go to the National Sleep Organization website, or <http://www.startschoolslater.net/>

Lunch for the Break – Becky Gordon

They need to fill 313 boxes for the February break. The donation date is February 10th. Ideas? Please contact Becky.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 am