



# General Membership Meeting Minutes

Issaquah High PTSA 2.6.45

IHS Main Office Conference  
Room

March 11, 2016

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 am. A quorum was present and proper notice was given. An attendance sheet is filed with these minutes.

## **Guest Speaker – Jake Kuper, ISD Chief of Finance and Operations**

Mr. Kuper presented facts about the upcoming ISD Bond Measure. He provided an Info Graphic that is filed with these notes. To view the graphic, go to : <http://www.visvote.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Bond-and-Construction-Fact-Sheet-2016.pdf> He discussed the process by which a committee of forty-eight people in ISD evaluated/vetted issues relate to the bond. Highlights of the presentation included rationale and general facts related to the bond, including: 1. Continued enrollment growth which has included 4,000 new students in eight years, with no sign of a slowdown in enrollment. 2. Passing of the bond will not result in an increase in taxes for residents due to the ongoing housing development in ISD and subsequent increase in the tax base. 3. The bond will fund the building of 4 new schools as well as the renovation/modernization of schools throughout the district. Mr. Kuper emphasized ISD's history of responsible financing, resulting in Moody's highest bond rating of Aaa. This distinction is held by only 0.45 school districts nationwide. This helps to keep taxes lower. For more information about the bond, go to: <http://www.visvote.org>

Anne Moore encouraged IH PTSA membership to share the bond information with others in the school district and encourage them to vote. In order to pass the bond, a 60% super majority vote is required. Even though the bond has support, people must vote in order for it to pass. Anne also encouraged folks to join others in completing the endorsement form at: [visvote.org](http://visvote.org).

## **Golden Acorn Awards Presentation –Sandi Lum and Anne Watanabe**

This award honors individuals who have given exemplary volunteer service to children and youth in our school community. The Golden Acorn Awards 2015-2016 recipients include: Valerie Yanni, Diane

Burdette, Onti Rosen and Becky Gordon. All winners received a Golden Acorn Award pin, their name added to the IHS Golden Acorn recipient plaque that hangs outside the main office and a donation made to the WA State PTA Scholarship Fund in their name. They will also be honored at a District-wide reception. Sandi Lum and Anne Watanabe presented these awards and spoke on behalf of the unique and inspirational contributions of these individuals to our IHS community, and beyond. Congratulations, and thank you!

Dea Barnett is the recipient of the 2015-2016 Outstanding Advocate Award. This award honors individuals for their continued and dedicated advocacy for all children and a demonstrated commitment to helping create strong policies relating to the health, welfare, safety, and education of children and youth. Dea was not able to attend today's meeting, but we hope to honor her in person at an upcoming membership meeting.

### **Thank you's - Bertina Loeffler Sedlack**

Bertina thanked Sandi Lum, Cyn Baumert and Anne Watanabe for working hard to select our Golden Acorn and Outstanding Advocate award winners from those remarkable individuals who were nominated by our members. Bertina acknowledged the board members, as well as Emily Palmgren who attended and represented the IH PTSA at 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Registration Night. She thanked Cyn Baumert, Becky Gordon, Valerie Yanni, and all of the board members who worked to complete the applications for PTA Standards of Excellence and other awards. Bertina noted that IH PTSA has a tradition of earning the gold award, and said that this year our organization is poised to win a platinum award (offered for the first time this year). She recognized this as a testimony to the strength of our programs, volunteers and leadership. Thanks was given to Kristen Allen Bentsen, Jana White, Onti Rosen and Anne Watanabe along with Council for financing and organizing an excellent Parent Ed event that was free to our audience. She regarded the presentation by Dr. Laura Kastner as a huge service to the IHS community. Continued thanks was offered to Jodi Mull and Allison Merriweather for their support of the IHS staff by arranging the Staff Breakfast each month. Bertina offered a huge thanks to Julie Siefkes, Barb Howe and all of the Angel Closet volunteers who are responsible for all aspects of this endeavor from sorting incoming items to helping students shop.

### **PTSA/Council Report – Becky Gordon**

Becky highlighted those awards for which we submitted applications:

- Standards of Excellence Platinum
- Communications Strategies
- Website
- Seedling Membership Award

The student survey regarding after school library hours is set to go out– Andrea will send out to student body.

School District is currently undergoing two reviews:

1. OSPI Program Review – Office of Civil Rights, Title I, ELL, Highly Capable State review – there is one every four years to establish whether school districts are following the laws.
2. Financial Review – ISD has 13 years of clean audits

### **Secretary – Liz Herbst**

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

### **Treasurer – Diane Burdette**

Diane reviewed the financial report for February 2016. She relayed a request from two English teachers, Shannon Henderson and Jessica DeZure for the \$950.00 left over from the IH PTSA grant for the Shakespeare Workshop. The money would be used to further defer the cost for students for who are going on the field trip (last month's grant) to see Romeo and Juliet. The money was an excess of funds needed for the workshop because of additional money given by ISF for the workshop this year.

### **Motion 1:**

**Diane Burdette moved that the PTSA membership apply \$950 Shakespeare Workshop overage to the Romeo and Juliet field trip. Seconded. Discussion. Ballot Vote. Yes- 12; No- 11. Motion passed.**

Margaret Chalfant reviewed the bank statements and everything checked out.

### **Membership – Bertina Loeffler Sedlack for Kate Badiozamani**

Bertina reported that there are 1258 members.

### **Nominating Committee – Jody Mull**

Jody reported that the committee is working hard to recruit and fill positions. She encouraged members to continue to offer names for nomination. The committee would appreciate names for Events VP, in particular. They will have the slate by March 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Outstanding Educator Award – Sandi Lum**

Sandi requested nominations for the Outstanding Educator Award. She described this award as being created to recognize individuals who have provided outstanding educational opportunities for youth that are above and beyond the normal scope of their job. Nominations will be accepted until April 8, 2016.

### **Communications**

### **Special Services Liaison – Sandi Lum**

Sandi reported that the basketball team went to State on March 4-5<sup>th</sup>, and earned the bronze medal. Track and Field starts on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **ISF Liaison – Kristen Allen Bentsen**

Kristen encouraged all members to attend the ISF event, "Nourish Every Mind" luncheon, on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Issaquah Community Center, from 12-1. She said that a financial donation is encouraged, but not mandatory.

### **Display Case – Tami Curtis**

Tami reported that the display case is being well utilized by Dora to showcase flyers. She solicited members to submit any items for display to the IHS Community.

### **Programs**

#### **College Test Prep – Diane Burdette**

Diane is signing students up for the last weekend ACT Prep Course of the year, beginning April 17<sup>th</sup> at Eastside Fire and Rescue. This course provides test prep at a fraction of the usual price. There is a combo ACT/SAT Mock test on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 8 am at IHS. Students may sign up on the PTSA website.

#### **Healthy Student – Ami Maron**

Amy solicited members to vocalize their safety concerns in and around IHS. Some of these included: student's crossing 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave in the morning, the ease with which outsiders can enter IHS, and the flow of school traffic and buses next year with the proposed changes related to the campus construction.

Amy discussed the Healthy Student program roll out, beginning with "teaser" posters. She encouraged members to engage their children in conversation if they are talking about the program ideas at home.

#### **Angel Program**

Angel Program leadership have been pulled away for personal reasons, but the program is running very well because of a great foundation. Prom clothes are currently being collected.

#### **Community Service**

Community Service Log forms are available online. Senior forms deadline is May 2<sup>nd</sup> and Emily Palmgren will be collecting forms at lunches. Seniors need 75 hours to earn an honor cord to wear at graduation. So far only 35 have submitted these forms, so please encourage your seniors to submit them soon.

#### **Senior Scholarship Committee – Randi Wright**

Randi reported the scholarship deadline is April 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. Applications may be found online, and submitted to: PTSA Box in IHS Office or online to: [randallyn@hotmail.com](mailto:randallyn@hotmail.com). Winners will be announced on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Reflections update – Onti Rosen**

Onti reported that an IHS student, Darynn Lung, submitted a photo, "Sonic Escape", and received the Award of Merit from the state. Winners were selected from more than 1,100 entries by PTSA throughout Washington. Onti said that Darynn will be honored at a ceremony in Bellevue on April 30<sup>th</sup>. One ISD winner from Grand Ridge will move on to Nationals. Ten pieces in all were recognized from ISD with the distinction of: Award of Excellence, Award of Merit or Outstanding Interpretation. Congratulations to all who were recognized!

### **Hospitality– Sandi Lum**

**Testing Snacks** – These are provided to students during state mandated testing. Sandi requests volunteers to assist; may be students interested in earning community service hours.

**Staff Appreciation Week**– This is during the first week of May and is chaired by Christy Otley.

Bertina recognized Stacy Heller for the wonderful cookies she provided for the awards presentation.

### **IHS Administration Updates – Andrea McCormick, principal**

Andrea discussed the decision by the superintendent to keep the same bell schedule for next year, but to continue to explore options for a later start time. She said that 7<sup>th</sup> period will continue next year as well. There is a movement toward offering more core electives (ex: Health and PE) as 7<sup>th</sup> period options over the “fun” type electives in the past. This is an effort to provide more opportunities to meet these core electives for students who find this challenging because of conflicts with band or language, for example. One PTSA member asked about allowing a 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> period schedule as an option for students. Andrea did not rule this option out as an exception for students who have unique medical, social or family issues that make the traditional schedule difficult. Andrea discussed the changes that have been made to Course Selection Day. One change would be to hold a Q&A session regarding Running Start to free up counselors. Andrea encouraged students to make appointments with counselors particularly if they have unusual issues or if a student is struggling. Administration has recently been made aware of the “at risk” population of students who transfer to the district after 7<sup>th</sup> grade. These students are more likely to do poorly in school and earn lower grades. She suggested some of the policies and strategies that the staff are working on to help this group to be more successful.

*Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am*

Minutes prepared by: Liz Herbst, Secretary