



General Membership Meeting Minutes

Issaquah High PTSA 2.6.45

Issaquah High School Main Conference Room

October 9th, 2015

Welcome and Call to Order-*Bertina Loeffler Sedlack and Becky Gordon*

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 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*

Highlights/Thank yous-

Bertina thanked VPs and Committee chairs who have worked especially hard to bring their programs to the point of launching this month: Onti Rosen and Anne Watanabe for their leadership with Angel, Family Ambassadors, Grants and College Test Prep; Julie Siefkes and Barb Howe for Angel Closet; Leslie Guajardo for Family Ambassadors; Sally Feldman for Grants; Tricia Jerue and Jeanne Simon for College Test Prep, and Diane Burdette for Mock Tests.

Bertina thanked Diane Burdette has been a part of these committees, and for taking the time to teach her about PTSA finances and funding. She has gone above and beyond, thank you very much. Jody Mull and Allison Meryweather win early riser award for Staff breakfast! Thank you all.

Three committee chairs PTSA is seeking to fill:

- Staff Appreciation week – Person(s) who take the position will receive support from Liz Herbst (last year's chair) and Stacy Heller/Sandi Lum (VPs of Hospitality). Will reach out to those signed up to help with SA Week via email
- Testing Snacks – pretty straight forward; provide nutritious snacks that our students appreciate and look forward to during HSPE standardized testing in the spring
- Golden Acorn/ Individual Awards chair is now vacant, because Marni is moving

Council update – Becky Gordon

- Update on the school district's grading policy and continuing conversation. The district is starting a pilot program and consulting with Thomas Gusky. Looking for parent input.

- Some teachers at the secondary level will be part of the pilot, and some of their students will get two grade cards. Those student's parents will be solicited for feedback on which grading system they like better. Huge change in thinking...would be in very small minority in the country. Two years in development. This is next step.
- School start times – the Bellevue School Board has approved a later start time for next school year. School will begin at 8:30 (1 hour change) Article in the newspaper. Bellevue uses public transportation, not school buses

Upcoming Events

- Senate Early Learning and K-12 Ed Committee in Renton on October 19th at 5:00 pm
- Introduction to the American School System - Oct 29th, 6:30pm IVE Multi-Purpose Room
- Influence the Choice – Nov 9th to address e-cigarettes and vaping
- Breakfast during the break is a program for students who receive reduced and free lunch may receive this during lunch breaks at Clark, IVE, Apollo, Maple Hills, Sunset and Briarwood elementary schools. Each student will get a box of non-perishable food.

Secretary's Report-Liz Herbst

Minutes from the September GM meeting were prepared and presented. The minutes will be filed as amended.

Treasurer's Report/Budget-Diane Burdette

The September Financial Report is filed with these minutes. Margaret Chalfant completed bank reconciliations for September, and everything checked out.

- Expenses – including:
 - Last year grants
 - Student Assistance Fund (kids in need)
 - Membership fees
 - Start-of-the-year event fees (New to IHS Night, Picture Day Lunch)
 - Teacher Classroom Fund
 - After School Library –half of school year fee paid out
 - Partnerships such as ISF, VIS, The Beat, ISD Summer School and Echo Glen Program Support paid
 - Communications fees

E-script is going away as a source of revenue

Business

Becky – Nominating Committee

We will wait until the November meeting to elect the nominating committee. Need to double check with the new Washington State PTA bylaws to make sure we conduct the election properly.

Diane Burdette – Financial Review Committee

Sally Feldman added to the committee - meets twice a year

Committees/ Updates

Randi Wright – Advocacy

- Legislative Assembly 14 delegates from IHS can attend, IH PTSA will pay for registration. Randi can take 7 in her van.
- Olympia – Sat, October 24th, 8am – 5pm
- If you register before Oct 20, you get lunch free.

Membership – Kate Badiozamani

- Up to 1198 members total
- There is a new tri-fold Membership flyer for display in the pamphlet dispenser by the display board outside the main office

VP Programs – Anne Watanabe/Onti Rosen

College Test Prep - Anne

- Tricia Jerue arranging classes at the moment; looking for someone to take over for her for the next batch of classes in the spring. New program, ACT class May tests
- Diane is running ACT practice test – Mock tests. Good prep for real test d/t similar environment to the actual test – Sat morning, in a high school, same time period as test.
- Kaplan is running it, focusing mainly on ACT, but also offering combination tests (part ACT and part new SAT). Results indicate which test may be best for student.
- Call for help (in need of a chair) with the spring prep tests - Call to anyone who is interested, but may be great to have freshman parents get involved – it is great experience, help to understand this testing process better.

New Family Ambassadors – Leslie Guarjardo

- Welcome Coffee Tues, October 13th Drop-in between 9 – 11 am
- Julie Fredricksen, assistant principal, is very involved in making new students welcome
- 175 new students: 150 new families- 20 requested an ambassador
- New families are being contacted - We have 24 ambassadors set up
- Email or phone contact, ambassador decides
- These are new to the district kids
- Testimony – new parent has heard from her new Ambassador
- Call for last year's directories to hand out to new families as part of the New Ambassador's program

Grants – Sally Feldman

- There is PTA money available to provide things for larger school community. Anyone can apply for a grant.
- 3 times a year grants are accepted – Fall (10/16), Winter (1/22), Spring (4/15)
 - Update of last year's grants
 - Grand piano- department is giddy about it, dedication on Nov 14th at 7pm
 - Nuclear detector arrived and Chemistry teacher is very excited, and working with students
 - Ms. Fortier is thrilled with her new equipment
 - Student art collection - framed and ready to hand second floor above PAC center
 - Calculators for Chemistry classes are appreciated and being utilized

- Bertina thanked Sally for the feedback on last year's grants

Reflections

- Submissions due by October 30th. Teachers are being encouraged to reach out to kids to boost participation

Angel Closet – Barb Howe

- Available to students who receive free and reduced lunch
- Going very well with 65 volunteers to work in the closet and 70 angel donors who will respond to emails for specific needs
- 180 students last year; 200 expected this year
- Example of needs being met: Did not have X-Large jeans, and a donor went to American Eagle and bought 6 pair for a student
- May obtain tax receipts for donations – Lisa Hollingsworth has them
- Open Thursdays after school, and hopefully Wednesdays before school

Parent Ed – Kristen Allen Bentsen

- First meeting will be Officer Diego Zanella on Tuesday, Oct 27th at 7pm at IHS
- Things we need to be aware of, parent responsibility related to issues in the school
- Great community builder; encourage 8th grade parents and freshman, too
- Ami Maron and Healthy student Youth survey
 - Let's focus on positive news, most kids are not using drugs or drinking
- Please remember these are PARENT events
- Send Kristen an email with ideas – stress, body image?

Community Service – Anne

- Call to anyone who would like to help to be at lunches to reach out to students about Community Service

Senior Events –

- Graduation Night event is moving along - sign up online and pay through PTA site 150 kids; can include up to 350 kids
- Baccalaureate date is an issue because of day/date of graduation and unable to have it in the usual location – working on it.

Sandy – Special Services Liaison

- Special Olympics Bowling Tournament – November, 7th at Kenmore Lanes
- Popular Special Olympics Basketball begins after Thanksgiving

Jody Mull – VIS Liaison

- Volunteers for Issaquah Schools – can't use taxpayer dollars to promote the bond, and therefore we use signs, advertising, and honk and wave, among other promotions to help to get the bond passed. Big package coming up. Date of the auction is April.
- Let Jodi know if you want to help. PTA donations are very important. \$100,000.00 needed to fund the campaign.

Kristen Allen Bentsen – ISF Liaison

- Organization (non-profit) on behalf of the funding to every student in the school district. Great place to put your time and money. Serves struggling students and excelling students alike. ISF supports – The Arts, Music, Theater, Robotics...see website for complete list
- See ISF website for list of all of the programs and events that are supported with community time and money
- Voice mentoring – 1:1 support. Students have: “someone on their team”
- ISF fundraising – 1.6 M raised
- Only 20% of families give to ISF
- Phone-a-thon Nov 10th and Nov 17th
- Go online and sign up and donate anytime
- Huge vetting process for grants – many routes to funding, depending on the grant.

Guest Speaker: VOICE Mentor Program – Susan Gierke (ISF sponsored program)

- Co-director of Voice Mentor Program 350 students last year
- In all 24 schools – district wide
- Community volunteers working 1:1 referred by teachers and counselors. Some HS students earning community service hours by mentoring students. Clark 9 am on Wed. Sunset and Grand Ridge 2:40-3:40
- WE NEED MORE MENTORS- we have a waitlist of students in need
- Stacy Clawson – On Time Grad Specialist at IHS; makes referrals
- 25 students at IHS last year, and this year 17-18 so far this year
- Can work an hour each week during the school day with a student in need
- Five Seasonal Mentors for College Corps – every Tuesday during lunches Editors to work with Senior students looking at essays - WALK IN - 10:38-12:15pm
- Sign up in Career Center with Charlotte Henderson for College Corp
- Susan will provide any and all training needed to volunteers
- Voice@issaquah.wednet.edu to sign up
- Will add flyers to our display case

IHS Administration Updates

Principal - Andrea McCormick

- Parent resource guide in the works. Students finding right school vs the best school. Articles that are hot topics will be included.
- Focusing on pro-active education – looking at ways to best manage schedule changes – attempts to prevent the need for changes; although some are inevitable.
- Educate parents on the importance of social-emotional balance for students when considering course selection as well as how schedule changes are difficult on “our end”.
- Considering: An educational video, also possibility of holding a registration night for students in all grades, as opposed to just 9th graders.
- Remind.com to possibly go schoolwide through email; shows up as a text
- Improving sportsmanship – becoming a bigger issue recently. Seems to be a few students who are trying to see what they can get away with when opponents can hear them. Targeting girls’ figures and color.

- Principal McCormick has received phone calls from administrators of other schools to inform her of the behavior of a small group of students who are responsible for this type of poor sportsmanship.
- Notifying parents that the administration is cracking down on this, and setting boundaries with students. Strictly enforcing the line.
- Administration is working with students to find fun outlets and cheers that aren't hurting others.
- Racism issues handled better within curriculum than in large groups. Social Studies class for 9th graders handling 2 weeks of diversity. Continue to embed diversity issues in curriculum.
- Next Wednesday morning during PSAT's, there will be a Stress Management talk for sophomores and juniors and motivational speaker: Kevin Lau. He will talk about playing NCAA basketball with one arm.
- Grading system – pilot – parent and student feedback. Utilizing grading system similar to one that is used in Canada

ASB – Erin Connolly

- September recap - Thank you to Ginger and all PTSA parents to help with the Color Run and Homecoming – we couldn't do it without you!
- \$3,300.00 donated to Seattle Children's Hospital for our charity "Strong Against Cancer"

Color Run

- With 400 runners and lots of color throwers, this event involved 25% of IHS student body.

Homecoming Dance

- Attended by 1300 student tickets, up by 300 from 1000 two years ago.
- At 8:00, the line was around the building!! Great problem to have.
- Turned a profit for the first time!

October/November/December events

- This month will focus on supporting IHS sports with events like "Cram the Stands"
- To encourage participation - considering giving students punch cards – 5 gets you a prize tee shirt
- Blood drive
- Veterans thank you
- Winterfest – Will occur in December, the week before winter break
 - These will be after school events, not evening so kids can participate without impacting their homework and so they won't have to come back to the school later.
- Clubs fair later in the month – This year it will be a two-part event on a Wednesday, just before school starts and during the two lunch periods.

.Adjourn- 11:46 am