



Issaquah High PTSA 2.6.45  
General Membership Meeting  
IHS Conference room

November 15, 2019  
9:30 am

**Our PTSA Mission**

To expand educational opportunities and enhance the learning and social environment at IHS through programs, volunteers, advocacy, and financial support.

**Call to Order** Wendy Maruchek called the meeting to order at 9:35am and led introductions. Proper notice of the meeting was given and a quorum was present. A sign-in sheet is attached to the original minutes.

**President's Report** (*Wendy Maruchek*)

Wendy Maruchek reported the following information:

- Wendy thanked the individuals and groups who volunteered at or contributed to the following events:
  - Our speakers this month: ISD Superintendent Ron Thiele, Volunteers for Issaquah Schools representative Anne Moore, and Campus Security Officer Neil Lasher. IHS Principal Andrea McCormick will not speak today because she is attending the state swimming and diving championships with the Lady Eagles
  - TY to last month's speakers Ron Thiele and Andrea McCormick
  - *Staff Breakfasts (Oct. 16 and 30)*: Chairs Lida Buckner & Sandra Puliezi, and volunteers/contributors Sheila Barlow, Laurie Bateman, Sara Carmichael, Sylvia Chin, Jaime Crothers, Karen Crowe, Wendy Cummins, Kathy DeCaprio, Barb Dolliver, Elaine Eckert, Victoria Evans, Nicole Garcia, Carmela Gellos, Danielle Graham, Toni Hunter, Nathalie Isensee, Christina Johnson, Tracie Jones, Yoon Kim, Daphne Lenhardt, Cynthia Lydum, Wendy Maruchek, Trisha Prout, Sue Richards, Joslyn Rucker, Terri Sanders, Sandy Schmidt, Dallas Serumgard, Stephanie Shipley, Laurie Staats, Carol Stuckey, Sandy Wengreen, and Kim Wilkinson
  - *College Planning Night (Oct. 16)*: speaker Charolett Henderson
  - *Ask the Academic Advisor (Oct. 22)*: Chair Puja Chauhan, and counselors Christian McKone, Jennifer Schwarz, and Alan Waite
  - *New Family Ambassadors* Chairs Amber Zielinski & Rebecca Fay
  - *Reflections*: Chairs Leah Gibson, Kristen Allen-Bentsen, and Heather Bratton
  - *Grant Committee*: Chairs Shalini Bansal and Sally Porter, and committee members Emily Arteché, Jane Barry, Wendy Cummins, Amy Dukes, Victoria Evans and Kendra Hoffman
- Wendy congratulated our Reflections finalists, who are advancing to District:
  - *Film*: Andrew Schmidt (GR11), Vibha Shivarajan (GR9)
  - *Music Composition*: Julianna Carragher (GR9), Olivia Wang (GR12)
  - *Photography*: Benjamin Eskenazi (GR12), Olivia Wang (GR12)
  - *Literature*: Anna Kieseletter (GR11), Adya Mohapatra (GR11), Julia Park (GR12), Olivia Wang (GR12)
  - *Visual Arts*: Dhvani Rathore (GR10), Brandon Yeo (GR9)

- Wendy announced that the WSPTA Game Development Competition is open for entries. Intent to Submit forms are due January 15, 2020, and final project submissions are due March 1, 2020.
- Volunteer Opportunities: Chair – Mock SAT/ACT Tests, Co-chair - Golden Acorn Awards, College & Career Center Hospitality Support, Senior Scholarships Committee (need 2), PE 5K Snack Coordinator (Jan, June), Nominating Committee for 2019-2020
- Next Membership meeting will be on January 20, 2020 @ 9:30am
- Check [issaquahhighptsa.org](http://issaquahhighptsa.org) for the most current information about upcoming events

## **Business**

### **Secretary's Report** *(Alisa George)*

The October 7, 2019, minutes were reviewed, approved with no changes, and filed.

### **Treasurer's Report** *(Tracy Drake)*

Tracy Drake presented the October 2019 Financial report.

Tracy Drake reported on the following items:

- Income highlights: Membership, \$650 (82% of budget YTD); Pass the Hat, \$975 (91% of budget YTD); Corporate matching, \$1,400 (81% of budget YTD); ACT/SAT Test Prep, \$1,000, All Night Grad Party, \$2,200
- Expenses: Membership, \$8,500 (dues payment); Student Academic Fund (scholarships), \$3,000; Teacher Classroom Fund, \$1,200; All Night Grad Party, \$8,500 (\$13,800 income YTD)
- The bank statements have been reviewed by Eloisa Tang (a non-signer).
- Insurance coverage has been reviewed and policy has been renewed. There were no claims made.
- Taxes have been filed.
- Mid-year financial review will take place in January.

### **Speaker - Levy**

The first speakers, ISD Superintendent Ron Thiele, and Anne Moore, on behalf of Volunteers for Issaquah Schools, were introduced.

Ron Thiele reminded the audience that the last levy was passed right after the Legislature's implementation of *McCleary* changed how schools were funded. There was a lot of uncertainty at that time. The last EP&O levy was structured to fund only two years because the ISD wanted to confirm how much additional money it was going to receive. Its \$350M budget received a 10% increase. Last year, 12.5% of the ISD's budget from the local levy, down from 22 percent before *McCleary*. Levy funds were used to fund more mental health and guidance counselors, more nursing hours, the 7-period high school day, lowering class sizes, increasing safety, hiring a Director of School Safety, expanding early learning, the first dual-language programs (Clark and IVE), more preschool, etc. ISD has done all of the things that were promised during the last levy campaign, and now is asking voters to renew that levy. There's really nothing new in the current levy proposal—it's just continuing and refining the present initiatives. It will also cover inflationary costs because a lot of the *McCleary* money went to improving teacher salaries and benefits and the ISD wants to continue this work. The Levy Development Committee met last Spring, and worked backwards from the amount of money needed. The current proposal is \$7M under what full levy authority would be because the District wants to be sensitive to the 70% of voters who do not have kids in Issaquah schools. Retiring bond debt allows the new levy amount to be offset, such that the overall tax rate goes down to its lowest level in 25 years. This meets the goal of maintaining a stable rate and strikes a nice balance. The proposed levy also is a two-year measure to get us back on the four-year levy cycle starting in 2022 (the four-year cycle is easier on volunteers and voters). If the levy fails, the Board would have to rerun it in April and simultaneously prepare for loss of \$50M, which would require cuts of 300-400 staff. You can check the ISD website for more information.

Anne Moore, spoke in support of the levy on behalf of Volunteers for Issaquah Schools ("VIS"). The campaign to get out the levy "yes" vote starts with getting the word out through PTSAs. The PTSA can first endorse, then send out postcards to the school community encouraging voters to vote "yes." Individuals can also endorse. Endorsements are listed on

the VIS website; car window clings will be out in January; yard signs will go up three weeks before the election, and honk-and-waves will be scheduled. VIS expects that this will be a single-issue ballot. Levies pass with a simple majority vote. The last levy passed by 52%, so it's very important to get out the vote on February 11th. High school seniors can be registered to vote when they turn 18. The "yes" campaign also works with the teachers' union; they also will send out post cards. Donations to VIS will help support the campaign.

## **Business**

**Levy Endorsement:** Victoria Evans moved to endorse the proposed levy, Sarah Carmichael seconded. Voice vote, motion passes.

Additional comments from Ron Thiele regarding the recent recommendation by the planning policy commission of the Issaquah City Council to deny the ISD's requested zoning change for the Providence Point property: it's critical to get two schools on that site, the ISD is doing exactly what Growth Management Act wants it to do (compact schools, more vertical design, etc.). If construction is not started by August 2020, it will be hard to open the high school on time. Some of the opposition is to the stadium and to construction generally. The ISD is partly to blame for the opposition because it did not communicate with the residents of Providence Point during its three-year litigation with the Sammamish Historical Society on the advice of its lawyers. The stadium lights are LED directional lights now so that should be a big improvement, and a revised site plan will be released soon showing the stadium away from the neighboring housing. The ISD is trying to be a good neighbor.

## **Speaker**

The next speaker, Tina Weber, ISD VOICE Mentor Program Specialist, was introduced.

Tina stated that more mentors are needed, and the program especially needs more male mentors. 350 mentors are currently serving in all schools, but there is a waiting list of 200 kids. The process to become a VOICE Mentor is a two-hour training. You can pick your most convenient school site and the coordinator will help place you with a student. The commitment is 1 hour a day once a week. About 40 IHS students are mentors.

## **Business**

### **Award Nominations** (*Marni Kilzi*)

The PTSA is seeking nominations for Golden Acorn Award and Outstanding Advocate Award. Golden Acorn is for work done here at school. Outstanding Advocate is work done to benefit kids in the district and community. There is a link to the nomination form on the PTSA website under Programs. Work supporting the awards should have been performed from Jan 2019 to Dec 2019. Our goal is to get a lot of nominations. We also need committee members to review applications in two meetings: February, and in the Spring for Outstanding Educator. Marni would also like a co-Chair because she will be aging out after this year.

### **Grants** (*Shalini Bansal*)

Two grant requests were submitted. First is Beyond Common stand for an art clay extruder. Amount requested is \$790. This item will help 500+ students in Ceramics 1-2, AP3D Art & Design, every year. Second is 110 "Stop the Bleed" kits to be added to emergency backpacks deployed throughout the school. Amount requested was \$6,395.23 (\$52.98 per kit, plus tax). The Grant Committee's recommendation is to fund 20 kits (\$1,250) to be deployed strategically throughout the building. Neil Lasher, Campus Security Officer, explained that the kits contain supplies to stop traumatic artery bleeding, including gloves, a tourniquet, and wound-packing material. Shalini said that the Committee's recommendation to fund this request at a reduced level is based on the fact that funding the entire request would consume nearly all of this year's Grants budget, and also on the fact that only a limited number of staff and students have been trained to use the kits. Principal McCormick told Shalini that

about 13 staff members and some students (students who are taking/have taken a sports medicine class) are currently trained to use the kits. Principal McCormick further indicated that it is not possible to get all educators trained this year because the 10 contractual training days are already planned out, but that she is willing to add "Stop the Bleed" training to the school's PED days next August.

Grant committee recommends approval of the Beyond Common grant for \$790. Verbal vote taken, motion is approved. The Grant committee further recommends approval of grant in the amount of \$1,250 to purchase 20 "Stop the Bleed" kits. 16 votes and 16 yes. Grants are approved.

### **Speaker**

The next speaker, Neil Lasher, Campus Security Officer, was introduced.

Neil Lasher stated that IHS will host a training on Nov. 27 on how to use security camera information in real time for Issaquah law enforcement. Neil now has an Issaquah Police radio. Recent events include a mental health crisis intervention two weeks ago, and a bomb-disposal training. 27 new security cameras are coming to IHS, along with new monitors and computers to support the cameras. There are 1,500 cameras across the district. The Viking access-control call box at the main entry doors has stopped one suspicious individual so far. Next week Neil will attend a four-day training with Dave Montalvo on topics including school shootings, mental health crises, and autism. All 43 IHS radios are now all digital so it's now possible to make paths to segregate communications and to keep sensitive information private. Previously, everyone could hear what was said. Stop-paddle cameras have been installed on 30 buses. 53 violation notices have been sent, and 112 photos are waiting to be looked at. The cameras were paid for with grant money, but the grant company receives a percentage of the fines, as does the district. Fine money can only be used for safety and security. The fine is \$419 per violation.

### **Speaker**

The final speaker, Tammy Unruh, Assistant Principal (for Principal Andrea McCormick), was introduced.

Tammy Unruh stated that 2020 Graduation will be held at T-Mobile Park on Friday, June 12th. We will be in the early slot, but more details to come. Semester 2 schedule changes can be made now. The Semester 1 finals schedule is online now, tests will be given January 21-24. Andrea will give an update on course selection for next school year and on the seven-period day at the January PTSA membership meeting.

### **Adjourned 11:23am**

**Next Meeting:** January 20, 2020 9:30am IHS Conference Room

Respectfully submitted,

Alisa E. George, Secretary