



Issaquah High PTSA 2.6.45
General Membership Meeting
Via Zoom

April 24, 2020
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 9:30am. Proper notice of the meeting was given and a quorum was present. In attendance: Wendy Maruchek, Alisa George, Tracy Drake, Eloisa Tang, Sara Carmichael, Sheila Barlow, Heidi Fuhs, Kim Wilkinson, Wendy Cummins, Victoria Evans, Valerie Yanni, Lida Buckner, Toni Hunter, Raquel Koz, Blyth Claeys, Marni Kilzi, Cathy Habib, Lucy Betsen, Joanne Wrightson, Jen Crewe, Rebecca Fay, Kristen Allen-Bentsen, Amber Zielinski, Kalyani Sattirajua, Josi Beck, Lisa Dow, and Ramona Pungan.

President's Report (*Wendy Maruchek*)

Wendy M. reported the following information:

- Wendy M. thanked the individuals and groups who volunteered at or contributed to the following events:
 - Our speaker this month: Principal Andrea McCormick.
 - *Mock SAT/ACT Test*: Chair Tracie Kinsley, and test helpers Toni Hunter, Victoria Evans, and Wendy Cummins
 - *Staff Breakfast (Feb. 26)*: Chairs Lida Buckner & Sandra Puliezi, and volunteers/contributors: Nathalie Isensee, Wendy Cummins, Carmela Gellos, Jaime Crothers, Carol Stuckey, Sylvia Chin, Kim Wilkinson, Barb Dolliver, Elaine Eckert, Toni Hunter, Vidya Persaud, Dallas Serungard, Sara Carmichael, Sue Richards, Kathy DeCaprio, Melissa Watts, Victoria Evans, Terri Sanders, Meng Qian, Sylvia Chin, Yoon Kim, Laurie Staats, Wendy Maruchek, Lisa Small, and Tracie Jones
- Wendy M. congratulated IHS's State *Reflections*® Award Winners:
 - Outstanding Interpretation: Benjamin Eskenazi, Photography (9-12), advancing to National competition
 - Award of Merit: Adya Mohapatra, Literature (9-12)
- Next year's *Reflections*® theme is "I Matter Because."
- Community Service Award app is up and running; seniors who have 100+ verifiable volunteer hours should submit them by May 1, 2020, to receive an honor cord from the PTSA to wear with their caps and gowns
- Wendy M. reported that our PTSA has satisfied the Standards of Affiliation for the year, and that our application for a Standards of Excellence Gold Award has been timely submitted.
- Volunteer Opportunities: Co-chair – Acorn/Advocate Awards, Co-chair – Outstanding Educator Award, Co-Chair - Senior Scholarships Committee (need non-Senior parent), PE 5K Snack Coordinator (Jan., June), 2020 Fall Safety Backpack Coordinator, 2020 Fall Picture Day, 2021 Senior Events Co-Chairs, 2021 Senior All Night Grad Party Co-Chairs
- Next Membership meeting will be on May 29, 2020 @ 9:30am
- Check issaquahhighptsa.org for the most current information about upcoming events

Secretary's Report (*Alisa George*)

The February 14, 2020, minutes were reviewed, and filed as submitted.

Treasurer's Report *(Tracy Drake)*

Tracy presented the March 2020 Financial Report. Highlights: Majority of income from Pass the Hat, corporate matching, and All Night Grad Party. Expenses for PTSA Awards, student snacks, and All Night Grad Party. As the year winds down, please remember to turn in expense receipts for reimbursement to Tracy. We had no claims against our insurance. Bank statements have been reviewed by a non-signer.

Business

Vote to Amend Budget

In light of the cancellation of the traditional senior events, Tracy moved to reallocate the line items for Senior Farewell (\$3,500) and Senior Breakfast (\$1,000) and combine them into a new line item, "Other Senior Events," to give us flexibility to support alternative ways of recognizing and celebrating our seniors. Kristen Allen-Bentsen seconded the motion. Voice vote, motion passes

All Night Grad Party

(Lida Buckner) After Principal Andrea McCormick announced the cancellation of traditional senior events and graduation yesterday, Lida spoke with Sondra St. John, the owner of Grad Nights, regarding the All Night Grad Party on June 12. Grad Nights offered alternative dates for the party in July, August, or during a Fall 2020 school break, but Lida indicated that IHPTSA was not interested in rescheduling past July. If the social distancing orders remain in effect in July, the party will be cancelled and Grad Nights will owe IHPTSA a reimbursement of the money we've paid them to date (approximately \$30K). Sondra indicated that refunding our money will be very difficult because Grad Nights has spent it on venue deposits, overhead, etc., and won't be able to get most of its deposits back, but said that it will do its best to make refunds where owed. We've sold about 240 tickets (about \$42K in ticket sale income). If the party is cancelled, Lida plans to explain the situation to the people who have purchased tickets, including the effect on the PTSA of having to refund their money, and ask them to forego the refund if their financial position allows. Parents will be able to apply for refunds if they want their money back. Lida is hopeful that many parents will choose to donate so our reserve fund is not depleted, but we will provide refunds to those parents who request them.

PTSA Individual Awards

(Marni Kilzi) Each year our PTSA has the opportunity to recognize outstanding volunteers with the Golden Acorn and Outstanding Advocate Awards. The committee this year was comprised of Chair Marni Kilzi and members Sheila Barlow, Eloisa Tang, and Satnam Purewal.

- The Golden Acorn Award is a state PTA award presented to a volunteer in recognition of his/her dedication and service to children and youth. This year, the Golden Acorn Award goes to Wendy Maruchek, Victoria Evans, and Wendy Cummins.
- The Outstanding Advocate Award is a state PTA award presented to a volunteer in recognition of his/her advocacy and commitment in helping to create strong policies relating to the health, welfare, safety and education of children and youth. This year, the Outstanding Advocate Award goes to Jennifer Crewe, Joanne Wrightson, and Valerie Yanni.

Marni thanked her Awards committee members for their service.

Speaker

The speaker, IHS Principal Andrea McCormick, was introduced.

Andrea explained that with respect to decisions about what is happening at IHS, almost every decision is a state or district decision, taking into account the health guidelines. Many decisions, including the setting the grading policy, are being dictated by the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public instruction ("OSPI"). OSPI determines what schools decisions will be made statewide, and which will be local-control decisions. OSPI's decisions become laws, and

it has the ability to override local teacher union contracts. Furthermore, the ISD has mandated that its high schools make certain decisions jointly. So the scope of decisions Andrea can make on her own concerning IHS is very limited.

Andrea reported that most conversations she is having with parents relate to the grading policy during remote learning. Some parents felt that the ISD was one of the last to issue guidance, but OSPI vacillated on whether grading policy was going to be a statewide decision or a local-control decision, and the District decided to wait for guidance instead of making decisions that might eventually be overruled by OSPI policy (as happened to the Northshore School District). OSPI finally decided that there would be no pass-fail grading statewide. The only locally-determined decision is what grades will be available. The ISD set the grading policy for the high schools, which is the schools will give letter grades "A" through "D," but no "F"s. Grades can't go down from what they were at the date of school closures (except they can become an "Incomplete" if a student doesn't engage at all in remote learning). By contrast, Seattle Schools has said they will give all "A"s, but this decision has been widely criticized and is not the way the ISD has decided to go. A few small decisions are IHS specific—e.g., opportunity for senior photo in cap and gown that will be offered to all families. Andrea is waiting for guidance about what school will look like next year, but she has zero predictions at this point.

Regarding senior events, if the proposed July prom doesn't fly, some have suggested a "reunion" prom in December and IHS is considering that. Senior recognition ceremony (May 7) historically has been an academic recognition event (e.g., students who have earned their AA degrees, AP scholars, academic department honors). IHS will be adding military honors this year. Assistant Principal Mark Jergens-Zmuda is in charge of this event. The Graduation program will take an electronic form this year.

Online learning took a while to get started because of tech access and special ed issues. There was a shortage of WiFi hot spots to support remote learning. Andrea said that staff are working hard to try to make remote learning a good experience for students, but it's very difficult for them to gauge student comprehension and adjust their teaching remotely. The staff doesn't expect anything for Staff Appreciation Week, but if you think a staff member is doing a good job, please reach out and compliment them. The ability of the ISD to conduct remote learning indicates that snow days could be handled remotely in the future, but this would have to be addressed in the teacher union contract, and tech would need to be in place BEFORE the snow happens.

Nominating Committee

(Kim Wilkinson) The Nominating Committee took a month break after schools closed to give people a chance to adapt, but now it's back to focusing on next year. Most of the elected Board positions have been filled, but the Committee is still looking for a co-VP of Programs to work with Wendy Cummins. The slate will be posted on May 1, 2020. The NomCom now is looking to fill committee chair positions. A list of open positions is linked on our website's Home page.

Business

Vote to Amend Standing Rules

Wendy M. proposes adding a new section to our Standing Rules to allow electronic voting in the event that we cannot readily hold an in-person meeting. She made a motion to add a new Paragraph 31 to the Standing Rules, which, after debate and amendment, read as follows:

A new Paragraph 31 shall be added to our Standing Rules, as follows:

31. In the event of a formidable challenge that prevents an in-person meeting, voting by mail or by electronic transmission may take place for regular PTSA business as well as for electing officers or members of a nominating committee. If voting for officers or members of a nominating committee takes place by mail or electronic transmission, the ballot with the name of each candidate is to be contained in the notice of the meeting and any vote cast must be received within the timeframe identified in the notice of the meeting. However, if only one candidate is nominated for an office, then

the election may be by voice vote at the meeting, in accordance with the Uniform Bylaws of the Washington State PTA.

The current Paragraphs 31 and 32 of the Standing Rules will be renumbered as 32, and 33, respectively.

Kristen Allen-Bentsen seconded. Voice vote, motion passes. A copy of the amended Standing Rules is attached to these minutes.

Committee Reports

Events (*Sara Carmichael and Heidi Fuhs*)

Senior Events: (Lida Buckner) Alternative Senior Events committee is holding its first meeting today. 300 grad signs have been sold. The revised signs include the senior's name and picture. The deadline to purchase and upload photo is May 1. The Committee also is promoting Decision Day (May 1).

Issaquah School Foundation (*Sara Carmichael*)

The Nourish Every Mind events will be online daily at Noon the week of Monday, May 18, through Friday, May 22, 2020. Each day throughout the week, the Foundation will feature a 15-minute segment of NEM programming. You can access the programming on Facebook LIVE or the Foundation's event page (mcause.us/Nourish2020). The Foundation is still dependent on the donations that would come from this event, so please contribute if you are able. Link will be posted on our website.

Hospitality (*Kim Wilkinson*)

Kim reported that Staff Appreciation committee decided that it's not a good time to ask staff to come to the school to pick anything up, so the Committee is putting together a thank-you video with all the teachers' photos and messages from students that will be distributed to the staff.

Parent Ed (*Heidi Fuhs*)

Heidi reported that "Parenting Through the Pandemic" live webinar with Q&A was held yesterday. The maximum capacity was 500 attendees, 550 people registered, and about 400 dialed in. The program was recorded and will be posted on the ParentWiser website in a few days. The next event will be a "Navigating Remote Learning" live webinar with Q&A at 4:00 PM on April 29, 2020. Presenter will be the curriculum and instruction consultant organization Challenge Success. Capacity for this event will be 1,000. You must register to get the dial-in link.

Programs (*Victoria Evans and Wendy Cummins*)

Victoria announced that seniors who want to receive a Community Service honor cord from the PTSA must enter their volunteer hours online by May 1.

Adjourned 10:58 AM

Next Meeting: May 29, 2020 at 9:30am via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Alisa E. George, Secretary