



## Issaquah High PTSA 2.6.45 General Membership Meeting

March 12, 2021  
9:30am

Via Zoom

# DRAFT

### **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** Kim Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 9:34am. Proper notice of the meeting was given and a quorum was present. In attendance: Kim Wilkinson, Birgit Aarrestad, Alisa George, Tara Moe, Laura Schmidt, Wendy Maruchek, Satnam Purewal, Wendy Cummins, Kristen Allen-Bentsen, Carla Geraci, Karissa Mobilia, Cynthia Lydum, Betzy Jones, Heather Bratton, Hollie Walcott, Josie Beck, Kendra Gallagher, Carolyn Kennedy, Michelle Palm, Puja Chauhan Taunk, Raquel Coz, Shamitha Sridharan, Tracy Drake, Julie Gamble, Kalyanis, Natasha R., Chinju Lee, Karla Knickerbocker, Puja Chauhan Taunk, Janani Swaminathan, Amy Korb, and Sally Porter.

### **President's Report** (*Kim Wilkinson, Birgit Aarrestad*)

Kim Wilkinson reported the following information:

- Thanks to our February volunteers:
  - *ParentWiser, "Powerful Studying Techniques"* presented by Gretchen Wegner – Chair Heidi Fuhs
  - *Virtual ACT/SAT Practice Tests* – Chair Tracie Kinsley and Rebecca Davidson/Huntington Learning Center
  - *Angel Program Clothing Distribution Event* - co-Chairs Julie Gamble and Karissa Mobilia
  - *Senior Events Issaquah Celebration* – co-Chairs Betzy Jones and Cynthia Lydum and volunteer Tracie Jones
  - *Nominating Committee* – Karissa Mobilia, Blyth Claeys, and Tracy Drake
- Thanks to our speakers this month: IHS Principal Andrea McCormick and ASB/Student Activities Coordinator Jordan Frost
- Check [issaquahhighptsa.org](http://issaquahhighptsa.org) for the most current information about upcoming events

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

The February 12, 2021, minutes were reviewed and filed as corrected.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Membership** (*Kim Wilkinson for Nicole Garcia*)

826 members, including 43 staff. We have reached our goal of 800 members!

#### **Programs** (*Wendy Cummins*)

##### **SAT/ACT Practice Tests**

Just wrapped up a very successful test cycle

##### **College and Career Planning**

Chair Tracie Kinsley has set the Spring '21 Speaker Series:

- *Job Seekers: Build Your Resume & Interview Skills*, featuring panel discussion with Microsoft Recruiters (Apr. 1 at 7:00PM)

- *Entrepreneurs: Start & Grow a Business or Non-Profit*, featuring Kim Guarino Bulgar (Apr. 21 at 4:00PM)
- *College-Bound Juniors: Essay Writing Help - Feedback & Free Help from ARROW College Representatives* (May 5 at 2:00PM)

### **Reflections™**

Congratulations to Aashika Vishwanath, whose dance choreography entry, “I’m Who I Am and I’m Complete,” received an Outstanding Interpretation award for Grades 9-12 at the State competition and who therefore will be advancing to the National competition!

### **Community Service**

Hours for Seniors are due by May 1; about 50 seniors have met their hours goal and 15 are close; 100 Seniors have input some number of hours; Seniors will receive an acknowledgment from Chair Nicole Garcia when they reach 100 hours

### **Senior Scholarships**

This year the PTSA is excited to offer seven senior scholarships worth \$750 each; applications will be grouped into three paths: (i) four-year college; (ii) two-year college; and (iii) technical/vocational programs; the committee hopes to award at least one scholarship in each category, although this will depend on the strength of the applications received; applications will be due by April 12

### **Grants**

Applications for the final cycle of grants for this year are due by April 16.

### **Speaker**

The first speaker, IHS Principal Andrea McCormick, was introduced.

Principal McCormick reported that:

- The School Board has set March 29 as the target date for the return to some level of in-person learning; this will be some type of in-person and live streaming hybrid; under the proposed model, students don’t have to commit to one option or the other; return has not been bargained with the IEA yet; once that is done, we’ll know the actual return date; IHS is planning for this now and trying to equip the school facilities with safety features (marking stair wells, preparing tents for outdoor lunch seating, etc.)
- Bargaining also will include the number of days per week that students will attend; IHS Administration can’t plan class offerings until it knows this information; IHS will have a week advance notice before starting; bargaining would have to be completed by March 22 to meet the 7-day notice requirement
- IHS wants to have an orientation for freshmen before they just show up on campus
- Tier 2 students return next week – this includes struggling students who are at risk of not graduating
- IHS Administration met with seven students who were involved in the posting of student testimonials on social media regarding mental health struggles and stress during Covid; their suggestions for solutions will be presented to teachers at the March 17 staff meeting
- IMS opened this week as a vaccination site for teachers; every staff has had the opportunity to get vaccinated
- Yesterday Governor Inslee announced that King County will be moving into Phase III on March 22, which will allow more activities to resume; permitted indoor gatherings of up to 400 people means that IHS graduation ceremonies can include more students and parents per ceremony
- Spring semester grading - expect more pass/no credit grading and using state waivers for students who have struggled in courses required for graduation

### **Speaker**

The second speaker, ASB/Student Activities Coordinator Jordan Frost, was introduced.

Mr. Frost reported that:

- Clubs are meeting now, some outside at school (DECA, ASB, and Gardening Club; Robotics is planning to meet outside but haven’t started yet); other clubs have stayed virtual but participation has been robust
- Starting this week some staff are offering “master classes” via Zoom; today a teacher will be giving a tour of her farm, including llamas and honey bees
- ASB elections are next week for new officers and Executive Board

- SEL Wednesdays: we working on one presentation around consent in personal relationships; this is a much requested topic
- IHS may need help with the proposed freshman orientation; dates are March 24 (M-T cohort) and March 31 (Th-F cohort); students will meet with administrators and counselors; Mr. Frost welcomes feedback from parents regarding what other information their kids should get at the orientation; IHS also is considering hosting an orientation for parents if there's interest
- One issue for sports and clubs this year is implementing the new state rules regarding ASB fees; HB 1660 was passed last year, and it requires IHS to waive fees for ASB cards and extra-curricular activities (e.g., sports uniform fees, band and choir trips, admission to sporting events and musical performances, etc.) for low-income students; no additional funding was provided to schools for implementation; IHS is trying to figure out how to implement this; as an example, the Bellevue District has placed a two-year hold on club trips to give the programs time to fundraise; Mr. Frost has asked the District for a list of fees that must be waived so IHS and ASB can start planning for the impact of this law

### **Treasurer's Report** (*Tara Moe*)

#### **Activity Highlights**

Tara presented the February 2021 Financial Report; February income included \$249 Corporate Matching, \$1,580 Senior Yard Signs, \$1,125 Practice Tests, and \$460 Angel donations

### **Committee Reports (continued)**

#### **Hospitality** (*Rachel Stoner*)

Committee is moving ahead as planned, but will remain flexible to see what happens if/when teachers return to school; we are planning a combination of things for Staff Appreciation Week, including a gift bag that will include a coffee mug personalized with a word cloud commemorating 2020-2021; Rachel has already asked the teachers to send her five words to describe 2020-2021; for staff who are in person we are planning a meal, but we have to work with the school to see if volunteers will be allowed to drop off food donations at school;

#### **Business**

#### **Votes to Amend Hospitality Budget**

Hospitality co-Chair Rachel Stoner noted that when we set the Hospitality Budget for this year, we did not know exactly which events would be in-person and which would be virtual; now that we know the events that will not take place in person, the Committee would like to consolidate the unused funds for those events in the Staff Appreciation Week and Other Hospitality Expenses line items so that they can be used for those purposes

**MOTION 1** Rachel Stoner moved to reallocate \$250 from Senior Exit Interviews into Other Hospitality Expenses, reducing the Senior Exit Interviews line item by \$250 and increasing Other Hospitality Expenses from \$250 to \$500. Motion was seconded. Voice vote. Motion passes.

**MOTION 2** Rachel Stoner moved to reallocate the following line items: (i) \$1,883.99 from Staff Lunches (ii) \$100 from Staff Meeting Snacks, (iii) \$150 from GM Meeting Snacks, (iv) \$125 from Senior Awards Breakfast, (v) \$500 from Student Recognition Breakfast, and (vi) \$250 from Senior Exit Interviews, into Staff Appreciation Week, zeroing out the Staff Lunches, Staff Meeting Snacks, GM Meeting Snacks, Senior Awards Breakfast, Student Recognition Breakfast, and Senior Exit Interviews line items and increasing the Staff Appreciation Week line item from \$1,500 to \$4,508.99. Motion was seconded. Voice vote. Motion passes.

#### **Outreach** (*Kim Wilkinson for Blyth Claeys*)

##### **Angel Program**

Committee held a second clothing and toiletries distribution event on February 24; spring distribution event is tentatively planned for April; Committee has been asked to supply caps/gowns and senior yard signs for 12 seniors so far; Power Packs are also available to pick up for students and families in need; If you know anyone in need, please have them communicate with Lisa Hollingsworth at IHS

### **Parent Education** (Heidi Fuhs)

Powerful study techniques talk was highly successful and is available for online viewing at the Parentwiser website; one more upcoming presentation this year that is relevant to high school students and parents:

- “Your Turn: How to Be an Adult” presented by writer and educator Julie Lythcott-Haims (Apr. 21 @7:00pm)  
Register at [www.parentwiser.org](http://www.parentwiser.org)

### **Family and Community Engagement**

Issaquah Schools Foundation provided money to purchase a set of books by diverse authors for the high schools’ libraries; thank you to the Foundation for funding this initiative

### **Healthy Student**

- Influence The Choice is a nonprofit organization that seeks to prevent substance abuse and promote health, including mental health among Issaquah students
- Influence the Choice has two upcoming events:
  - Virtual Fun Run (Apr. 5-30) – students and families can run or walk as far and as often as they like during those dates; there will be a celebration of successful event completion at the Issaquah Community Center on May 1; registration is open online at [www.influencethechoice.org](http://www.influencethechoice.org)
  - 9<sup>th</sup> annual Student Video Contest – students in grades 6-12 are invited to submit a two-minute video public service announcement by April 9; video topics and rules are available online at [www.influencethechoice.org](http://www.influencethechoice.org)

### **Events** (Heidi Fuhs and Kristen Allen-Bentsen)

#### **Senior Events** (Cynthia Lydum and Betzy Jones)

We’ve set Sunday, June 6, from noon-5:00pm as the date of our event with the City of Issaquah to celebrate our seniors; it’s still not clear what this will look like—our plan is to remain flexible and see what COVID restrictions look like at that time; the Co-Chairs will meet with Principal McCormick on Mar. 14 to talk about coordinating with Senior Sunrise and other senior events; next planning committee meeting will be on Mar. 17; last call for a tech-savvy individual to Chair the Senior Farewell presentation

### **Senior Yard Signs**

Goal was to sell 200 signs; we’ve sold 167 signs so far at \$20 each; signs will be delivered in early April

### **Communications** (Wendy Maruchek and Satnam Purewal)

#### **Social Media**

We have increased our followers on most social media channels:

- [Facebook](#) 695 followers (677 last month); last month posts reached between 70 – 1,000 viewers; Golden Acorn was the most popular
- [Instagram](#) 526 followers (505 last month); last month posts reached between 180 – 280 viewers; most popular posts were Spotlights
- [Twitter](#) 80 followers (79 last month); posts reached up to 150 viewers; Spotlights were the most popular

### **Other Opportunities/Committee Updates**

#### **Nominating Committee**

Information about open Board positions for 2021-2022 is posted on PTSA website; most needed officers are Secretary and Treasurer; reach out to a member of the Committee (Blyth Claeys, Tracy Drake, and Karissa Mobilia) if interested

#### **Individual Awards Committee**

Nominations for Golden Acorn, Outstanding Advocate, and Outstanding Educator are open on our website; deadlines are March 21 for Golden Acorn and Outstanding Advocate, and April 12 for Outstanding Educator; winners will be recognized at our May membership meeting

#### **Issaquah Schools Foundation**

- “Nourish Every Mind” virtual fundraiser will take place on April 29 at 7:00pm; the online auction will be held April 16-26
- Applications for rising Juniors to serve as Student Trustees will be posted later this month; any current 10th grader can apply to serve a two-year term during their junior and senior years; deadline for applications is May 31; interviews will take place after that deadline and new Student Trustees will be announced by the end of the school year

**Adjourned 11:00AM**

**Next Meeting:** Friday, April 23, 2021 at 9:30am

Respectfully submitted,

Alisa E. George, Secretary