



General Membership
Meeting Minutes
Issaquah High PTSA 2.6.45
IHS Main Office Conference
Room
December 11, 2015

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am. A quorum was present and proper notice was given. An attendance sheet is filed with these minutes.

Guest Speaker – Neil Lasher, Security

Neil Lasher discussed his job responsibilities as they relate to security and provided an update about current issues at IHS.

Neil shares an office with Officer Zanella. Compared his job to Officer Diego Zanella's. Neil is a school employee, focused on enforcing school policy. As opposed to Officer Zanella, he can intervene with less evidence; not necessary for a law to be broken. Neil oversees student parking, ID cards and alarm calls in the middle of the night, among other things.

Visitor ID – Badge given to all visitors, badge is cancelled after 6-8 hours; reading "VOID"

Security update – Have been car prowls on Evans Road (gravel road). Please remind your students to remove all visible property such as GPS equipment, including all cords and attachments. Also remove wallets, purses, and money/change.

Building Theft – Rate is down. When school opened, there were 8 -9 thefts/week. Much lower now with the addition of HDMI cameras. They can hold 22 days' worth of recording.

Cyber issues persist.

President's Report – Bertina Loeffler Sedlack and Becky Gordon

Thank yous -

Leslie Guajardo and Ginger Wilfong, for Newcomers to the ISD Night in November, Tami Curtis and Valerie Yanni for posting images and power point on Facebook and the website, Leah Gibson and Tiffany

Aske, for the great job on the Reflections Reception on November 17th and Onti Rosen And Anne Watanabe for their support of this event. Thank you to Kate Badiozamani, Membership Chair, for Implementing Community Membership Option, recognition at Council for meeting last year's membership numbers - one of only a few schools in the district and only high school to do so! Thank you to Valerie Yanni for working with Kate to update the website. Recognition to early risers, Allison Meriwether and Jody Mull for this month's wonderful Staff Breakfast on Dec 9th.

Thank you for ongoing great work: Sally Feldman, Grants; Anne Watanabe, Onti Rosen, Barb Howe and Julie Siefkes, Angel Program; College Test Prep Coordinators Tricia Jerue and Jeanne Simons, for securing a winter ACT Prep Course, Diane Burdette, for driving the mock tests, Susan Sullivan and Robin Nelson for finalizing the Student Directory, and Korina Sullivan for providing great snacks for Senior Exit Interviews.

Bertina related the following upcoming events: ACT Practice Test at IHS on Jan. 9; District Reflections Reception at IHS on Jan. 12; New ACT Practice Test at IHS on Jan. 30.

Council Update – Becky Gordon

Gibson Ek – Applications for the 2016 – 2017 school year are now being accepted, through Jan. 31st. Students in 8th or 9th grade, who currently reside in ISD may apply.

Thought Exchange – 675 people participated to date, 800 signed on to assign stars.

Influence the Choice – Currently seeking someone to fill short-term contract to assist with the video contest. This is a 5-10 hour/week position, through April 2016. Interested parties contact Pat Castillo at pat@isdfn.org

Teen Café Exploratory Group – under BEST, possibility of opening a Teen Café in Issaquah is being explored.

Later Bell Times - The Issaquah School District has received numerous requests from parents and community members asking for a later start time for our high school students. In response, the Superintendent directed senior staff to study the issue from an operational and financial standpoint with the specific parameters.

For more information on the Bell Times Study from the District website:

<http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/departments/operations/bell-times-study>

The District plans to make a decision by mid-March. The change is operational in nature, and therefore, it will be a decision of the District, rather than the School Board.

The IH PTSA will have speakers on this issue, with the intention of providing information for our members. Due to the possibility of this issue becoming contentious, we are not inviting follow up discussion at the meeting, but encourage members to follow up with speakers directly, if interested. Thank you.

Secretary Report – Liz Herbst

There was a call for a review of the Minutes from November 2015. The Minutes will be filed as amended.

Treasurer Report – Diane Burdette

The November financials were presented by Diane. A copy is filed with these Minutes. Margaret Chalfant reviewed the bank statements and everything checked out.

Diane reviewed Margaret's role as being an extra set of eyes on the financials. The bank reconciliations go to Margaret to review. Bank statements and checks both need two signatures. Margaret is critical check – allows for transparency of financial aspect of IH PTSA.

Motion #1

Diane moved that Angel supplies budget allocate an additional \$ 525.00 for relocation expenses. Total Angel supplies budgeted for 2015-2016 only will be \$ 825.00. Seconded, discussion, voted upon, motion passed.

Golden Acorn/Individual Awards – Sandi Lum

PTSA is now taking nominations for Outstanding Educator, Outstanding Advocate and Golden Acorn awards. Forms are available in the main office on the table, or on the PTSA website. May be returned to the office c/o Awards Chair, or online to Sandi Lum. Please look online or in the display case for a list of past winners. Students may also nominate their teachers.

Membership – Kate Badiozamani

Membership to date – 1242. Valerie Yanni and Kate are working to streamline Membership aspect of the PTSA website and get community membership up and running.

Events – School Run – 5K – Ginger Wilfong

Danelle Gonzalez is arranging snacks for the 5K run on January 15th. Volunteers needed to help with the run.

Angel Program – Onti Rosen

Onti reviewed the purpose of the Angel program and the many ways they are reaching out to identify and help students in need. The main goal of the program is to provide items and support to struggling students to make their time in high school easier. Some examples included: items like IHS Spirit wear, funds to pay for a bus pass, or homecoming tickets, Senior pictures or a field trip. The program is looking for ways to identify kids "on the bubble" who may not qualify for free lunch, but are dealing with a family crisis and need help of some kind. These situations are often temporary. Oversight of program handled by IHS school Administrator, Lisa Hollingsworth to keep the confidentiality of students. Onti reviewed an illustration of where the resources for the program originate. These include: Student Academic Fund, Angel Program donations, Senior Celebration Fund, College Test Prep fund. Angel is providing their kids each with a Christmas gift with the generous donations of the community and the Booster club. Each student will receive: Spirit wear, movie tickets, socks and either a Subway or Jimmy Johns gift card.

Bertina thanked Anne, Onti, Julie and Barb for all their hard work on the Angel Program.

Speaker – Keri Dean

Keri Dean has been a Language Arts teacher at IHS for 17 years. She presented information from a survey to teachers and staff related to the discussion of late start at IHS. There were 106 who completed the survey; mainly teachers. The results revealed 82% of those surveyed were opposed to new start times. Concerns included: impact on teachers' schedules, questions about transportation, before and after activities, impact on sports teams, students with afterschool jobs, impact on teachers with children and childcare arrangements. A significant concern raised for teachers living outside of Issaquah (50%) who would struggle with much longer commutes with the later start time. Any questions about the survey can be sent to Keri Dean – DeanK@Issaquah.wednet.edu

Erin Connolly – ASB

Erin reviewed the activities planned and ongoing for the Winterfest. These include: Star Wars movie showing, karaoke after school, Acoustic Night and gingerbread house decorating. ASB is sponsoring a Toy Drive for Seattle Children's Hospital. For students, the ASB has a "Winter Wishes Tree" filled with requests. Some of the requests include: a group hug from the soccer team, pizza for a 3rd period class, and a Starbucks card. Parents' involvement is welcome! Senior Class Council is working on Finals Care Packages.

Andrea McCormick – Principal Update

Andrea presented her school report. Dr. Thomas Guskey gave "Understanding the Grade" presentation to the IHS teachers. Similar parent presentation is being held at Skyline on January 6th. There is a pilot program being trialed to make course change requests more collaborative through the use of Google form requests. Administration is developing a Parent Resource Guide that addresses FAQ. May send this out quarterly via E-news in an effort to steer parents to helpful resources. Andrea has no opinion about the bell schedule issues – emphasized that it will be a superintendent decision. She offered these facts: the change will shift when students have their activities, she answered the question of why the start of school can't be in between 7:30 and 9:00 - and the answer is because of the cost of transportation and the impact on elementary students. Andrea offered that teachers can share their opinions with students, but not during instructional time. An exception to this is if learning targets align with the topic and teachers follow the controversial issues policy that must explore both sides of the issue. She addressed the issue of homework over breaks. Departments won't assign new things, but "prior notice" projects and papers are acceptable. When asked by a parent how we should communicate our opinions about the bell time's issue, Andrea directed the member to the District website to send an email, the School Board meeting and the Thought Exchange that will be sent out in January.

Grants – Sally Feldman

The Grants Committee brought two motions to the floor for general membership approval.

Motion #2

Sally Feldman moved that we approve \$1525.00 for one author visit to IHS for the Language Arts Department. Discussion, voted upon (22 yes, 0 no), motion passed.

Motion #3

Sally Feldman moved that we approve up to \$775.00 (\$659 + tax + shipping) for a scenic backdrop for the Drama department. Discussion, voted upon (19 yes, 0 no), motion passed.

Special Services Liaison – Sandi Lum

Special Olympics Basketball – started practice at the beginning of December. January 14th is the first game. Team took Bronze at State last year. Kendall Lum’s artwork is featured on the School Directory and Graduation Announcements.

VIS Update

VIS Kickoff – King County Library Service Center – January 19th, 7pm. Vote is in April.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:40 am