

Issaquah High School PTSA, Unit 2.6.45

General Membership Meeting

January 5, 2007, 9:30 AM

Held at the IHS Library

Call to Order – Marianne Kersten

Marianne called the meeting to order at 9:37 am. 24 members were present and signed in.

President's Report – Marianne Kersten

Acknowledgements

- Quarterly Student Honors – Joy McIlvane for the Quarterly Student Honors.

PTA Council Report

The math survey that the district did is done.

The special ed lawsuit decision is still pending.

Jan Woldseth has been appointed as the interim school board president. Two people have applied for the open SB position: Suzanne Weaver and Craig Mohn.

There was a big discussion about the snow make-up days. There is a lot of frustration over the process. Some prefer that the winter breaks be reduced instead of extending the school year too long and delaying graduation dates. This also may end up affecting graduation dates and senior parties.

January 22, parent ed seminar on "How Much is too Much". [Check the council website: www.issaquahpta.org/parented for more information on upcoming seminars.]

ISF Phonathon will be on May 22 and 23rd.

School Board Report – Demographics and Facilities

Marianne presented our letter to the School board on December 13, supporting the expansion of the high schools to 1800 students, and converting the freshman campus to a middle school, instead of building a 5th middle school.

Principal's Meeting Report

We will discuss the security cameras further under "new business." We have about \$1600 that was granted to the school for emergency prep supplies that hasn't been used yet. We will need to find out the full cost to hook up 19 cameras, and also add some other emergency supplies and training.

They discussed plans for more evening events to help kids succeed, or to help with the college application process.

Secretary's Report – Deborah Parsons

December Meeting Minutes

Deborah Parsons presented the minutes from the December 1, 2006 General Membership meeting.

Corrections: The Principal coffees are on Jan. 11 and Feb. 8; correct the spelling of Margie Gerrity's and Melanie Bonanno's names. Accepted as corrected.

Thank You Notes – Correspondence

Passed around:

- Thank you letters from ISF and Tiger Mountain.

Safe Deposit Box

We now have our legal notebook stored in a safe deposit box at the Bank of America.

Treasurer's Report – Diane McGee

December Financial Report

Cash on hand: \$45,433. We paid \$750 to the school to help needy kids buy school supplies.

Report filed for audit.

The November and December bank statements were circulated for review and attached to the Minutes.

New Business

Nominating committee

We have training scheduled for January 30. We need at least 3 volunteers. Pat Ratcliffe has volunteered. Camie Callahan and Margie Gerrity volunteered.

Marylou Pauly moves that we elect Pam Ratcliffe, Margie Gerrity and Camie Callahan to the 2007 Nominating Committee. Seconded. Unanimous. Motion carries.

Special Funding Requests

- \$200 request for the annual Pi contest. We have supported this in the past. The initial competition will be on Friday, March 9, and the final on March 14.
- \$1012.90 for additional instruction for the science portion of the WASL.

Jiff Searing moves to approve the grant of \$1012.90 for the science WASL prep class. Seconded. Unanimous. Motion carries.

This fits within our PTA goals. However, passing the science WASL is not required until the class of 2010. Developing these classes will help the science teachers adapt their classes to fit the format of WASL responses, as well.

We have \$4451 left in our grant budget this year. There will be additional unspent budget items, and excess fundraising that we can reallocate later this year.

We are likely to be approached by the band to help with raising money for the new uniforms.

Last year, the Pi competition was funded from the student recognition budget instead of the grants budget. We decided to do this again. This would not require a motion.

Security Cameras

Already discussed as part of the President's report.

Unfinished Business

None.

Principal's Report – Paula Phelps

Graduation will be on June 18, and won't be changed. One possible way to keep that in place, if it snows again, would be to require the seniors to do four hours of community service on their own time. Other options to make up class time: BRIDGES (beyond HS), or college visits on non-school days. The IEA (Issaquah Education Association) has the final say on the school calendar and how missed class time is made up.

AP study sessions will be scheduled during WASL weeks.

The district is moving toward Gradebook/Family Access instead of Basmati.

The Washington State student transcript can not incorporate anything more than a 4.0 GPA. There is no way to record weighted scores (AP, or IB, etc.) There is a new system under consideration by ISD to allow us to internally weight advanced courses so that a valedictorian (1st in class) would not possibly be a student who took all "easy" courses and got all A's and beat out a kid who took all AP and got one A-.

Feb 7 is High School planning night. Watch for a postcard in the mail. Kids will receive their information the week before. The planning night is just for parents.

Curriculum night next year is Tuesday, September 18. Parent Ed night is Tuesday, October 2.

The school board will likely be reconsidering their decision to build the 5th middle school. They will be revisiting that discussion on January 10th. It would be very valuable for people to show up and speak in favor of the option to convert the freshman campus and expand the high schools instead. If you can't come, please e-mail the school board.

Paula had asked for input on improving communication. A revised website will be unveiled by the end of January. Julia Bamba and Paula are working on revamping the site and getting rid of old information and making the organization logical.

The after-school labs we are funding have been fabulous and well-attended. The fitness classes help to make the school a center of activity.

Julia Bamba talked about making better use of the e-news. Beginning on Monday the e-news will come out weekly. She distributed a sample of the new format.

Staff Report – Susan Graham

Susan reports that we're holding steady. November/December was rough with losing a staff member, and a couple of staff members lost parents. Making up days lost to the weather has added to the stress. Flexibility has to be the word of the year.

Site Council Report – Jiff Searing

We need a 10th grade rep for Site Council.

Legislation Report – Deborah Parsons

Focus Day

February 15. Please plan to attend. There will be busses and carpools. Contact Deborah for more information.

Legislation articles

Deborah distributed some articles that have been put out by Kelly Munn and Anne Moore, the Council legislative chairs.

VP Reports

Pacific Cascade Freshman Campus – Susan Hegedus

The next PCFC meeting is January 17th at 7:00pm. Dana Bailey will speak on academic integrity: cheating; plagiarism; and the consequences.

PCFC is hosting a Council-sponsored parent ed event on January 22nd at 7:00pm. Marianne already reported on this earlier in the meeting.

The Tolo dance is tonight.

Membership – Caryn Matusiefsky

Caryn was not present. We are at 1246 members. We have about half of the staff as members. Letters will be written inviting the others to join.

Volunteers – Susan Jacobson and Camie Callahan

February 13, 14, 15 –volunteers are needed for helping kids with registration.

Fundraising

No report.

Committee Reports

Tiger Mountain – Marylou Pauly

Tiger does not have its own PTA. All of the high schools have donated \$200 to support activities. The principal will also come to the PTA Council to see about providing support for even bigger programs or parent education.

They need volunteers to review the senior projects.

Quarterly Student Honors – Joy McIlvaine

Reflections – Lorry Primrose

Lorry was not present. All of the entries are in and getting ready for presentation at the Council on January 16th.

Website – Susan Hegedus

Susan has moved to another host. Let her know if there are any problems.

Golden Acorn – Lise Place

The form is available on the website, or at the sign-in table. This is a great way to recognize volunteers, and it includes a donation to the State PTA scholarship fund.

The forms are due on February 16.

The Council reception will be on March 27.

Others

Marylou said that there are only 24 tickets left for the senior celebration.

Deborah Parsons and Danielle Tilden have created a Zoomerang survey about the college application process. Deborah will be mailing that link out to all members. There is only a 10-day window for responses.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15. The next General Membership meeting will be held on February 2 at 9:30 am in the IHS Library.

Program – Steve Crawford, ISD Director of Capital Projects

Steve had to go out of town, so the program was cancelled.

Prepared by Deborah Parsons
Secretary, IHS PTSA 2.6.45