

Issaquah High School PTSA, Unit 2.6.45

## General Membership Meeting

December 1, 2006, 9:30 AM

Held at the IHS Library

### Call to Order – Marianne Kersten

The meeting was delayed by a fire alarm.

Marianne called the meeting to order at 9:50 am. 24 members were present and signed in.

Marianne provided homemade sugar cookies, decorated in purple and yellow, and Starbucks coffee.

### Program – School Director Jan Woldseth

Jan reviewed the process and the status of the superintendent search. She also talked about the process for filling the opening in the School Board, with Mark Warner stepping down. The 3 snow days will be made up—probably in June; the district has to work with the calendar negotiated with the unions. The board has been discussing opening a 5<sup>th</sup> middle school (if the land can be found) and starting the rebuild of IHS at 1600 students. IHS construction is scheduled to start in Spring, 2008.

The special ed. lawsuit is in closing arguments. We are hoping that will bring some funding relief. Issaquah SB is also considering joining in the Federal Way SB lawsuit on basic ed. funding.

The next school board meeting will be on December 13.

### President's Report – Marianne Kersten

#### Acknowledgements

- Reflections Committee – Lorry Primrose has about 30 entries, now being judged.
- Staff Refreshments – Margie Gerrity

#### PTA Council Report

Skyline will be hiring a new principal in January. Membership across the district is 83%; 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the state, after Mercer Island. The Parent Ed committee is running some transition seminars from K to 1<sup>st</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup> grade to MS; they are planning to add one for Middle to High school.

Some things the school district has not been able to do because of funding: AVID and 10<sup>th</sup> grade biology textbooks.

There is an online Zoomerang survey on math curriculum.

#### School Board Report – Demographics and Facilities

Discussed as part of Jan's presentation.

#### Principal's Meeting Report

About 4 years ago, the PTA granted money to the school for emergency prep. A review found that \$1600 from that grant have still not been spent. The Safety Committee and Marianne have been meeting with Paula to discuss how it should be spent. One area of concern is the security cameras located throughout the campus; they need to be upgraded and more put online. The cost would be about \$6,000 and the cameras would be able to be transferred to the new building. We have about \$1500 in our Emergency Prep restricted funds budget right now – from the \$5 collected from freshmen at registration.

The PSAT may replace the Stanford test as an alternative assessment in the district.

There are two Principal Coffees scheduled: Jan. 11 and Feb. 8.

### Secretary's Report – Deborah Parsons

#### November Meeting Minutes

Deborah Parsons presented the minutes from the November 3, 2006 General Membership meeting. Accepted as presented.

## Thank You Notes – Correspondence

Passed around:

- Washington State PTA “Handprints” magazine.

## **Treasurer’s Report – Diane McGee**

### November Financial Report

Cash on hand: \$46,843.

Report filed for audit.

The October bank statement was circulated for review and attached to the Minutes from November.

The bank statement for November was not yet available from the bank. It will be circulated next month for review.

## **New Business**

### Audit Committee

We will be doing a mid-year audit in January, to cover the period from July 1 through December 31. Susan Hegedus, Lise Place and JoEllen Smith have volunteered.

### Nominating committee

We have training scheduled for January 30. We need at least 3 volunteers.

### Community Service Project

The PTSA Council has a VP representative for the high schools: Teresa Bretl. Skyline has a community service tracking program for their students – kids get a card and log in their hours once a month. Kids with over 100 hour after 4 years get recognition at graduation. Marianne suggests we also track the volunteer hours for our kids – a good addition to college applications. Eastlake HS also does a community service fair where kids can find out about opportunities. We would need a volunteer to help set up a program here.

## **Unfinished Business**

None.

## **Principal’s Report – Paula Phelps**

The snow days will probably extend the end-of-semester and when the report cards come out. The entire union votes on the snow make-up days.

Skyline and PCFC were recently vandalized: projectors and computers were taken. There was also a lot of damage. Our stadium lights were vandalized – copper wire was stolen worth thousands of dollars. Paula emphasized that we need to get our security cameras upgraded.

Clarification of recent confusing news about the math WASL: the class of 2008 must still pass the WASL or some alternate assessment. There is still discussion about what will count as “alternative assessment”.

There is an AP course audit going on to verify that courses across the state are comparable and can count for college applications. All of our teachers attend “AP Institute”, so we will probably have no issues with IHS AP courses.

School board middle school construction discussion: Paula believes that all 3 high school principals, and the middle school principals all strongly believe the district should go with “Option C”: PCFC should be converted to a middle school and the high schools should be built to handle 1850 kids. The freshmen should be at the high schools – research shows that the extra transition is actually detrimental to kids. The million dollar operating cost could be better spent.

**Motion: Lise Place moves that the IHS PTSA write a letter to the Board of Directors expressing that the remodel of the Issaquah High School be built to include the 9<sup>th</sup> graders in the core capacity. Motion seconded.**

**Discussion: The original intent of the PCFC was for it to be temporary. Marianne will write the letter before the December 13 board meeting, and the IHS PTSA board will**

**help to review it first by e-mail. The letter needs to include the preferences of the Bond and Levy committee.**

**Motion carries.**

Everyone should also write letters – this will have more impact.

### **Staff Report – Susan Graham**

We lost an incredible math teacher (Ms. Espy) a couple of weeks ago. Susan spent the days in the classroom with her kids – helping the kids deal with the grief.

### **Site Council Report – Jiff Searing**

Jiff reported that the Site Council talked about Running Start. About 98 IHS kids attend Running Start full-time. Skyline has about 103 and Liberty has in the 40's. Melanie Bonanno is going to write a pro-con list for parents about attending Running Start. What really is the profile of the kids attending? What does Bellevue do in regards to their Running Start program? – they are a lot more restrictive.

The discussion of the fitness program is "in committee" discussing how to make it a self-sustaining program.

### **Legislation Report – Deborah Parsons**

#### Region 2 Roundtable

Was held on November 14 at Interlake HS. Over 50 people attended. Great attendance by the legislators. The ed. funding presentations are available on the Region 2 web page.

#### Op-Ed Piece by Linda Hanson in the P-I

Deborah distributed an article written by Linda Hanson (WS PTA President) and Catherine Ahl (League of Women Voters) expressing the urgency of keeping the ed. funding promise.

#### Focus Day

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

### **VP Reports**

#### Pacific Cascade Freshman Campus – Susan Hegedus

The PTA meeting was November 15, but there was a storm, so not great attendance. Kelly Munn made her ed. funding presentation.

Next meeting, Jan 17 at 7 pm. Dana Bailey will talk about academic integrity.

They had 16 Reflections entries.

#### Membership – Caryn Matusiefsky

We may need more members to make the 100% membership, due to conflicting FTE numbers (1245 or 1222?).

#### Volunteers – Susan Jacobson and Camie Callahan

Camie reported that volunteers are needed for the class registration in January.

#### Fundraising

Nothing to report.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Quarterly Student Honors – Joy McIlvaine

43 students have been nominated; the presentation is next Thursday. How can we get more kids nominated?

### Safety Committee – Beth Las

They have been reviewing our emergency supplies – checking shelf life of food, water and batteries. Student volunteers go through all of the classroom emergency backpacks and materials. The container outside is well-organized and secure, and should be checked through at least every 3 years.

### Reflections – Lorry Primrose

There were 30 entries from IHS. The reception will be on January 16.

### Others

Susan Hegedus is looking for committee descriptions for the website.

She is also changing the hosting, so there may be a day or two that the site is “down”.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at about noon. The next General Membership meeting will be held on January 5 at 9:30 am in the IHS Library. Steve Crawford will be here to discuss the IHS construction.

Prepared by Deborah Parsons  
Secretary, IHS PTSA 2.6.45