

Issaquah High PTSA, Unit 2.6.45
September 14, 2007
Issaquah High School Library
Proper notice was given to all members – quorum present

General Membership Meeting

Call to Order and Welcome: President Marianne Kersten called meeting to order at 9:37 AM, introducing Casey Kenyon and associate from Friends of Youth (FoY). Casey announced that two parenting classes will be offered by FoY, addressing kids aged 2-12 and teens. Detailed flyers were available. FoY work with our school district to counsel, for no fee, students that are referred by teachers.

- This year's meetings will consist of a general membership meeting followed by a board of directors meeting.
- Introductions were made around the room

Secretary's Report: Secretary Lori VanDeMark presented the May 15 and June 8 minutes for review. Both were accepted as written.

- Proposed changes to the Standing Rules were explained. Discussion followed regarding the addition of a supporting member category for alumni, grandparents, and other interested community members to item #6. Deborah Parsons moved to add the category of supporting membership for a fee of \$8 to non-parents, excluding a directory. Seconded, passed. Deborah Parsons moved to accept the Standing Rules as amended. Seconded, passed. Susan Hegedus explained the process of legally changing the PTSA's name and will undertake this agreed-upon task. Susan Hegedus moved to change the legal name of our PTSA to "Issaquah High PTSA". Seconded, passed.
- Correspondence was passed around the room.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Susan Hegedus presented financial reports for July and August (see reports). It was noted that last year, the PTSA spent down a large sum that had been held over and was able to purchase and support many large and worthwhile items and programs for the school.

- Our PTSA manages Tiger Mountain PTSA's finances.
- Neil Lasher will speak to PTSA in the future about the status and schedule of replacing Emergency Preparedness supplies, most of which are now relatively new.
- Caryn Cissna asked about availability of funds to help students in need. Marianne and Nancy Campi explained that our PTSA contributes to a scholarship fund that is kept private and is well managed by Cathy Foote of IHS.
- Check signers this year are: Susan Hegedus, Beth Las, and Marianne Kersten.
- Susan noted that reimbursement forms are available on the IH PTSA web site and asks that they be used for all reimbursements. Submittals should be made within 2 weeks. If a program is year-long, it is best to submit for reimbursements as you go, for example in the fall and again in spring.
- Deposit forms are also found on the web site. Money must be counted and the form signed by two members. Upon deposit, Susan will obtain an extra receipt to give to the committee chair.
- As no changes were suggested to the previously approved annual budget, it was accepted without motion. The budget can be reviewed on the web site.

Audit Report: Susan Hegedus reported that the audit was completed in July with favorable results. Marianne passed the report around the room for review. The audit is filed as complete and reviewed.

President's Report:

- Acknowledgements - Marianne thanked Hester Winn for her work with Registration; Anne Moore and Deborah Parsons for Membership; Jill Lester and Sue Burke for Staff Luncheon; Susan Hegedus for work as Treasurer; and Jane Lee and Camie Callahan for Volunteer Coordination.
- The Parliamentary procedure of Robert's Rules of Order was reviewed.
- Our unit has 4 votes at council – Marianne Kersten, Lori VanDeMark, Susan Hegedus, Jody Mull; alternate – Lise Place.
- Council report - The theme "Time for Learning" and goals were adopted. In addition, the following was discussed:
 - Middle School PE waivers
 - Freshman Focus
 - Delay of new biology texts to 2nd semester
 - Helping parents understand the new elementary math curriculum
 - Grade Book user names and passwords are the same as Family Access
 - The Director of Assessments will speak at Council next month
 - Navigation 101 is a program designed to help kids to help themselves

- Region 2 Report
 - “PTA and the Law” will be offered Oct. 16, 9 am - 12 pm at the District Admin. Bldg, and Oct. 18, 6 – 9 PM on Mercer Island. Those interested in attending are asked to contact Deborah Parsons.
 - The Fall Leadership Conference was attended by Marianne Kersten, Jane Lee, Deborah Parsons, and Lori VanDeMark.
- Principal Meeting
 - Registration mailing went smoother this year.
 - Input as to how can we improve the welcoming spirit and pep during registration was asked for.
 - A college planning session will be held at 6 pm next Tuesday prior to Curriculum Night.
 - The graduation date will depend on the Mariners schedule at Safeco Field.
 - Students receive the College Resource Handbook spring of junior year. The section regarding testing should be given at the start of junior year. The entire handbook is available on the School’s web site.
 - Attorney General Rob McKenna is tentatively scheduled to speak to students in February.
 - The process to obtain outside credit for PE has been simplified.
 - Marianne offered to convey parents’ questions to Principal Paula Phelps during their meetings.
- Retreat
 - The theme “Tradition and Progression” was chosen at the annual retreat in August.
 - Below are goals formulated from input from those present.
 - Anne Moore moved to approve the goals as presented and amended (with the addition of the word “referendum” added to “Simple Majority.”) Seconded, passed.

2007-2008 IH PTSA GOALS

- Achieve 100% membership and significantly increase staff membership.
- Work with the school to develop programs designed to address the gap in student achievement. Support, educate and communicate information related to academic goals as identified in the IHS Continuous Improvement Plan
 - Continue to focus on parent education and student education topics that are meaningful to the IHS community such as matriculation and academic success through sustained parental involvement.
 - Continue to improve communication links with the parent community by reaching out through multiple modes of communication such as email, website, mailings and school e-news. Focus on unique issues to IHS community such as absenteeism and WASL changes.
 - Welcome, support and communicate with our new superintendent.
 - Promote the importance of a healthy school learning environment within the community to reduce the range and effect of contagious seasonal illness amongst students and staff.
 - Participate actively in the decision making processes of the Issaquah School District and the State of Washington that affect IHS, through advocacy opportunities, our legislative program, and the PTSA Council. Advocate for passage of the Simple Majority Referendum for school levies and for expansion of college testing locations in our community.

Legislation Report: 29 issues have been raised as PTA legislative priorities. Deborah Parsons asks for input via a Zoomerang survey (accessed through e-news or the web site) to choose the top 10 . Please vote.

- Our local unit can send 3 members to Legislative Assembly, Oct. 5 and 6 at SeaTac. Anne Moore moved that Deborah Parsons and Marianne Kersten represent IH PTSA at Legislative Assembly. Seconded, passed.
- The Simple Majority referendum has been a top goal of Washington State PTA for several years. Passage would allow levies to pass with a 50%, vote as opposed to 60%, as the law now exists. Deborah will ask for phone volunteers to “get out the vote”. Our PTSA has endorsed and contributed funds to this campaign.

New Business: None

Unfinished Business: None

Meeting adjourned 10:49 AM

Board of Directors Meeting

Call to Order: President Marianne Kersten called meeting to order at 10:49 AM

Principal’s Report: Principal Paula Phelps thanked PTSA for parental help and conveyed her appreciation for the great partnership with PTSA.

- The opening to the school year was positive, with sophomores adjusting very well.
- It is a priority to keep one lunch as this creates a fun atmosphere that students and staff alike enjoy.
- School population is 30 to 40 students beyond projection. This allowed for additional teacher funding, which added 2 periods each of social studies and English.

- Full time equivalent students number at 1294, with head count of over 1300. Next year it is assured that IHS will be 4A, Skyline also. This will be locked in for 2 years.
- IHS was named #1 high school in athletics in Washington State according to Sports Illustrated Magazine.
- Ms. Phelps is delighted to have the assistance of Randy Wood, new dean of students.
- Mark Kegley is the new resource officer. Previous resource officer Karin Bakken is pregnant.
- Cell phone policy: a phone is taken away and not returned until the following day if it goes off.
- Parents are asked to please support the dress code.
- Academic Integrity Policy forms were sent home for students and parents to review and sign in hopes of reinforcing honesty, integrity and respect. Cheating has been rampant. This new policy includes differing levels of consequences depending on the offense.
- This year's CIP goal relates to mathematics, initially focusing on realizing how math is used in all subject areas and integrating naturally into all classes.
- During the two-year rebuilding process, work will continue to move ahead with academic rigor, yet not lose the good, old things that make IHS a people place; one that is caring and welcoming.
- Parking will be a challenge for two years during rebuild.
- Graduation will be June 13 or 16.
- Parents are invited to monthly coffees with Paula. The next one is Oct. 11 at 9 AM

Staff Report: Counselor Susan Graham reported the births of baby boys by staff members Karin Walen and Kathy Ritzer.

- Schedule changes are nearly complete. Making changes in August has worked very well.
- Work continues to communicate WASL requirements to parents.
- "Did you know" Lael Hughes' daughter Chrissy, a Liberty HS student, is likely to make the Olympic ice skating team?
- The PSAT test will take place Oct. 20, which is also Homecoming Dance day.
- The counseling department will meet with seniors (college prep process), juniors (regarding PSAT), and sophomores (counseling for what lies ahead in the year).

VP Reports:

- **Membership:** Deborah Parsons announced that we currently have 1,246 members. She passed membership forms around the room. 52 staff have joined so far.
- **Fundraising:** Susan Hegeudus reported "Pass the Hat" earnings have reached \$25,634, which is over projection.
- **Volunteers:** Camie Callahan explained that she will distribute lists of volunteers to committee chairs and asks chairs to contact their volunteers to confirm. Nancy Campi asked for the "as needed" volunteer list, as she will require volunteers for her committee, Drug and Alcohol Awareness.
- **SAT Readiness:** Danielle Tilden announced that the SAT readiness class is filled. There is a waiting list, giving priority to juniors. Another section may be added, depending on need.
 - Dates for mock-SAT and ACT will be on the web site next week.
- **PCFC:** Jody Mull reported that the Back to School Luncheon went very well, as did registration.
 - The new Freshman Focus brings students together as a group and includes assemblies.
 - Curriculum night is Oct. 9.
 - A Reflections Chair is needed for PCFC.
- **Reflections:** Jill Lester reported that the theme this year is "I can make a difference by..."
- **ISF:** Those interested in attending the ISF Luncheon, Oct. 18, are asked to contact Marianne Kersten or Colleen Volk.
- **Drug and Alcohol Awareness:** Nancy Campi asked for volunteers to serve as "eyes and ears" during the Mock Crash, Oct. 11 at 9:30 AM.
- **Parent Education:** Carol Leake announced that there will be a seminar, "How to Help Your Student Succeed in High School and Beyond", Oct. 2, 7 PM in the commons.

Other:

- **Printing:** Marianne added that those committees requiring a lot of printing should see her for discount cards at Office Depot.

Guest Speaker: Marianne introduced new Issaquah School District Superintendent, Dr. Steve Rasmussen.

Meeting adjourned 11:36 AM

Prepared by Lori VanDeMark
Secretary, IH PTSA 2.6.45