

Issaquah High PTSA, Unit 2.6.45
November 14, 2008
Issaquah High School Career Center, Rm. C-5
Proper notice was given to all members – quorum present

General Membership Meeting

Call to Order and Welcome: Co-President Deed Chase called meeting to order at 9:37 am, announcing that the IH PTSA recently received an award (certificate and \$100) for the “Parents, Teens, & the Law” booklet at the “Breakfast of Champions” ceremony, hosted by the Greater Issaquah Community Network. Past member Linda Frye was thanked for being the driving force behind this project.

- Deed noted that all members should have by now received their directory.
- It was suggested that parents ask their students to show them the student-produced “It” magazine.
- The Issaquah Press recently ran an article about the IHS Spanish Club speaking Spanish in the community and helping Spanish speakers with English.
- IH PTSA has received the Bronze Award for Membership.
- The IH PTSA display case outside the office will be updated soon. Those wishing to have postings included are asked to give concise (1/2 page max.) information to Deed.
- Deed explained that a capital projects update was given by Dr. Rasmussen at Council. Questions have arisen regarding progress and timeline.

Secretary’s Report: Secretary Lori VanDeMark presented the Oct. 10, 2008 minutes for review. Accepted as written.

- Correspondence was passed around the room.

Acknowledgements: Co-President Jody Mull thanked the following:

- Gayle Fitzgerald for producing the directory (Nancy Campi will check into whether e-mail addresses can be acquired from the District to include in future directories)
- Anne Moore and Dianne Bugge for distributing directories

Nominating Committee: Deed asked for volunteers to serve on this most important of PTSA committees. Training will be Jan. 12. Lise Place volunteered. The slate of nominated officers will be due in March for a vote in April.

Legislation: Marianne Kersten reviewed local election results: Initiative 985, which would have taken money from the general fund and therefore education, failed by a large margin; all incumbents from the 5th district were reelected; 41st District Rep. Fred Jarrett will move to the State Senate.

- Legislative Roundtable will be Nov. 20 in Newcastle. Marianne encouraged more people to attend, thereby broadening the number of people contacting legislators.
- “Stand for Children” will host a conference tomorrow in Federal Way featuring Ross Hunter and Kelly Munn giving tips on how to speak with legislators.
- Feb. 26 is Focus Day in Olympia. This year’s event promises to be different – shorter, with a rally-type media event on the Capitol steps, as opposed to being held in the basement.
- The Education Task Force report will be completed in December and aims to change how education is funded and how teachers are paid.
- Jennifer Priddy, Assistant Superintendent, OSPI, has an online report outlining the serious financial trouble that State school districts are heading toward.
- Marianne noted that the Task Force findings will need to be supported in phased bills over time.
- Jody asked that parents become involved, contact legislators, and spread the word to others.
- Marianne added that, even in troubled economic times, new revenue needs to be found for education.
- Nancy Campi explained that many don’t realize that our strapped school district has been doing well despite budgetary challenges, largely due to enrollment growth. Because our numbers are leveling off, the District will not be able to continue at current levels.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Susan Hegedus presented the October Financial Report, noting that membership fees to State PTA, Fall SAT Readiness Teacher fees, and PCFC Teacher Grants have been paid.

- The bank balance is now \$54,354.16, of which \$4000 is restricted funds for Tiger Mountain HS and Emergency Prep.
- Susan passed the recently filed tax return around for review.
- The insurance has also been paid.

New Business: Deed explained that the IH PTSA has been asked to fund the yearly “Think First” drug and alcohol program presented to sophomores at a cost of \$525. Principal Paula Phelps feels that this is a worthwhile program. If

PTSA decides to support this, it will need to be added to the budget. Deed will obtain more details and present for a vote at the next meeting. The “Mock Crash” event for juniors and seniors occurs every other year.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am

Board of Directors Meeting

Call to order: Co-President Deed Chase called meeting to order at 10:15 am.

Site Council: Karin Allen reported that the first meeting was held, adding that Ms. Phelps prefers to hold purposeful SC meetings once per quarter, with reports sent monthly via e-mail. Suggested issues to focus on would be: the rebuild, how to optimize the high school experience, and reintegration of 9th graders to IHS. The next meeting is planned for January. It was noted that District guidelines state that site councils should meet 6 times per year. After discussion, it was suggested that, in order to be an effective resource for parents and advisory board to the principal, the site council should not move to quarterly meetings. It was agreed that the problem-solving component should be emphasized, rather than reports. Karin will take this proposal to Ms. Phelps.

VP Reports:

Membership: Anne Moore noted that membership fees have been paid and directories distributed. Our membership now stands at 1,123. 1,250 is needed for 100% membership. Staff membership is now at approximately 50%.

Fundraising: Barbara Rappoport announced that a second “Pass the Hat” mailing go out after the first of the year. Deed added that past members who have not yet joined this year will receive an invitation to join.

Volunteers: Lisa Gaan has received a request from the Career Center for treats for volunteer panel members during Senior Exit Interviews. In the past, volunteer bakers have been used. Deed noted that she has a large supply of paper plates, napkins, sugar, etc., available for this use.

Committee Reports:

PCFC: Lise Place announced that directories have been distributed. She will supply extras to Anne Moore for new members. The next PCFC PTSA meeting will be in Jan., featuring Principal Dana Bailey explaining whether or not 9th graders should take the WASL.

ISF: Jody spoke on behalf of Debbie Rossman announcing that \$323,000 was raised. The goal was \$325,000. Grant requests from teachers are due Feb. 4.

Parent Ed: Sue Jacobson reported that another free parent ed night, based on the award-winning booklet “Parents, Teens, and the Law” will be held in the IHS Commons in late January or early February.

Senior Events: Marilyn Haberlach noted that 176 students have signed up for Grad Night. \$4,444 has been raised through “Sally Foster”, where orders will still be taken (online only) through March. Transportation will be by private school buses. Graduation will be June 9. Baccalaureate will be June 6. The senior class is selling sweatshirts as a fundraiser for other unrelated senior events. The Senior Class Council decides what these events will be.

Principal’s Report: Principal Paula Phelps gave a construction update.

- A second design has been completed for a more affordable ramp that will be constructed quicker.
- General Contractors will complete the bidding process in January.
- Once the general contractor is chosen, water and gas, etc. will be rerouted, with demolition expected in March.
- Traffic mitigation has been largely solved. Turning lanes on Sunset and a light in front of the School will be added.
- Awnings have been added to portable doorways.
- A notice will be sent via e-news that the school does not plan, condone, or excuse “senior skip days”. Parents are asked to not excuse their child, as this shows lack of respect for teachers and fellow students.
- It was noted that it is alright to miss the 2-hour last day of the school year.
- Ms. Phelps thanked parents for their help in locating AP Testing sites.
- Athletic teams have done very well, with enthusiastic, spirited, well-behaved spectators. Volleyball, swimmers, and golfers are going to State, as did Cross Country. Students attending State events must buy admission tickets.
- High school principals are meeting regarding how to optimize the “High School Experience”. The plan is to develop statements to present to groups of 12 parents, 12 staff, and 12 students from each school to obtain feedback on improving high school, and to determine what any roadblocks might be and how to get past them. A broad range of participants is desired.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 am

Program – Counseling Department Update.

Prepared by Lori VanDeMark
Secretary, IH PTSA 2.6.45