

Issaquah High PTSA, Unit 2.6.45
February 13, 2009
Issaquah High School Career Center, Rm. C-5
Proper notice was given to all members – quorum present

Program: Basic Education Task Force and Legislative Update – Leigh Stokes

General Membership Meeting

Call to Order and Welcome: Co-President Deed Chase called meeting to order at 10:09 am.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Lori VanDeMark presented the December 12, 2008 minutes for review. Accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report: Deed reported, for Treasurer Susan Hegedus, that the self-explanatory Dec. and Jan. Financial Reports had been e-mailed to the Board.

• **Financial Review:** Anne Moore announced that the committee, including herself, Jan West, and Karen Starceвич, found that Susan does a fabulous job maintaining meticulous records. This report is for the first 6mos. of the school year and revealed no anomalies. Anne gave the Review to Secretary Lori VanDeMark to file.

Acknowledgements:

• Sharon Kay and Barbara Rappoport were acknowledged for the second “Pass the Hat” mailing. Barbara thanked volunteers who helped with the mailing, which has so far raised \$1,125. In addition, \$244.62 has been received from the Albertson's program and \$50 from Microsoft matching. The Safeway program “eScrip” will be explored by Deed and Jody to see if PTSA would be able to sign up in place of the School's inactive account, and whether credit cards or only Safeway card information is needed to participate.

Nominating Committee: Anne Moore moved that Blythe Meigs and Lise Place serve as the Nominating Committee. **Seconded, motion carried.** Blythe explained that the slate must be ready by April and asked members for nominations. Openings are for the offices of President, VP Freshman Campus, VP Fundraising, VP Volunteers, Secretary, and Treasurer. Jody Mull explained duties of VP Freshman Campus. It was suggested a notice go out to the middle schools to find interested persons for this office.

Council Report: Deed reported that Superintendent Rasmussen has been asked to give an honest account of the state of our District, which will be forthcoming.

• Future budget cuts in our District may result in the loss of many teachers with low seniority.
• Parents are asked to support HB 1410 And SB 5444, which aim to provide a new framework to fix our broken educational funding system. The Teachers' Union has concerns based on fear of potential job losses and unfunded mandates. Anne Moore explained that once the new framework is in place, more funds could be raised as the changes are implemented over time. **Anne Moore moved to endorse HB1410 and SB5444. Seconded.** Discussion followed: the bills would form a new definition of basic education and is a work in progress to develop fine details and would be modified with input from the Teachers' Union. Teacher pay criteria would be based more on evaluations and peer review, rather than solely on credits and seniority. Many teachers would not be required to take advantage of the new system right away, as it wouldn't become mandatory until 2022. The bills would not affect immediate cuts either way. **Motion carried.**
• Jody added that the education bills were endorsed at Council.
• A committee is being formed to support the Levy and possibly a Bond in Feb. 2010.
• “Volunteers for Issaquah Schools” supports Bond and Levy passage. They will ask for a \$1,000 donation from each school PTA. This will be discussed when forming the new budget in spring.
• Deed has met with Ron Thiele regarding the Middle School Experience final report, which offers valuable information for schools to use.

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 am

Board of Directors Meeting

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 10:37 am.

Site Council: Karin Allen announced that parents are invited to attend the Optimal High School Experience focus group meeting on February 26. She noted that Site Council has been meeting every 2-3 months, focusing also on the

rebuild. Future attention will also be on reintegrating 9th graders in 2010. Representatives will be needed for the 2010 Levy Development Committee.

Rebuild Update with Steve Crawford:

- Steve displayed the huge roll of drawings and specification book that is merely a partial bid set for the rebuild, thus explaining why bidding will be a lengthy, complicated process. The bid due date has been extended to accommodate the nine contractors currently showing interest to give them adequate time to prepare accurate, competitive bids. A mandatory pre-bid meeting has been held at the site. After bid opening on March 3, a recommendation will go to the School Board on March 11.
- Substantial completion of Phase I (classrooms, half of the commons, gyms, and food service) is set for July 2010. Phase II will complete the commons and build the performing arts center, with completion in fall 2011.
- Steve noted that working with the City of Issaquah has been very positive. A delay in issuance of permits is unlikely.
- He explained the inspection processes noting that Contractors will carry insurance and be bonded.
- Fencing for staging is due to go up the 3rd to last week in March. A wall will be erected down the main corridor to form a safety barrier from the construction area.
- Ms. Phelps added that while some student parking spaces will move, all who now have a spot will still have one.
- Track and baseball practice will be accessed by walking along 2nd Avenue.
- She added that this will be an incredibly fabulous building.
- Steve announced that the demolition would likely take place in April.
- After meeting with the architects, the science department is now very pleased to know that class needs will be met.
- The ramp to the portables is finished and now in use.

Principal's Report: Ms. Phelps reported that students and parents did a remarkable job with the online registration.

- She explained that, due to future changes in staffing due to the District's budgetary woes, it will be difficult to provide students with a permanent schedule for next year by this year's end. She added that no staff is being "fired" and explained the "Reduction in Force" (RIF) process that will be necessary. Staff will be lost in order of low seniority, although many will be hired back to fill class needs. The high school principals have agreed to try to keep teachers at their same schools during the rehiring process. A notice explaining the difficulties of the Teacher RIF/rehiring, and how this will impact the class schedules, will be sent out.
- When asked how students are able to take a needed/desired class when not offered, she suggested looking into BCC and other avenues such as the "Digital Learning Commons", which offers classes with grade and credit for a fee.
- It was noted that it is difficult for districts everywhere and that Issaquah is in much better shape in the courses and programs that it can offer than are most districts.
- As of now, it is unclear how many teaching positions will be lost. Adding to the difficulty, the budget may be delayed. Teachers will be notified by end Apr/ beginning May if they are on the RIF list.
- **Optimal High School Experience:** Focus groups from Liberty and Skyline have met. Issaquah's will meet Feb. 26. Teachers, students, and staff will meet in the groups, will interpret information, and ultimately come together to collaborate.
- June 8 will be senior breakfast and graduation rehearsal at Pickering Barn.
- A parent expressed concern for questionable activities she has witnessed in the parking lot after school such as bumper riding and students jumping through open car windows. Ms. Phelps will discuss this with Mr. Lasher.

VP Reports:

Membership: Anne Moore reported that IH PTSA membership was at 1,143 as of Jan., with six more recently joining. She noted that if someone didn't receive a directory, it is either because they forgot to join or there was a mistake with bulk mail. Any questions, contact Anne.

Committee Reports:

SAT Readiness: Blythe reported that the Mock Act was held recently, with the score-back event going quite well. Few have registered for the Mock PSAT, scheduled for Mar. 7, and therefore students may need to take the test at home. SAT Readiness classes begin the week of Feb. 23. A minimum of 12 participants are needed to hold the class.

ISF: Jody announced that the "Calling For Kids" was last Wed. night. \$70,000 of the \$180,000 goal was raised and will be used for GLAD Teacher Training. The next ISF Luncheon will be moved to spring next year with the "Calling For Kids" Campaign moving to Fall. Robin Callahan, ISF Executive Director, is staying on another year.

Parent Ed: Sue Jacobson has rescheduled the seminar "What Teens are Really Doing Today" to Mar. 9.

Senior Events: Grad Night - Camie Callahan reported that 196 students of the 230 minimum have signed up. A phone tree and posters have been used to advertise the event. \$2,278 has been raised through the Sally Foster Fundraiser. Bus sign ups will be Apr. 22. Baccalaureate - Invitations for the June 6, 2 pm event will be sent out the first week in May. Auditions are planned for Apr. 20 and 21.

Test Prep: Blythe asked the group about the possibility of entering into an arrangement with "Kaplan" where our PTSA endorses and then receives money when students sign up for their service, similar to a past situation held with

“Swerve” Driving School. No determination was made following discussion. Blythe will gather more information and present at the next meeting.

Awards: Nancy Campi passed out nomination forms for Golden Acorn, Outstanding Educator, and Outstanding Advocate, along with a list of past recipients. Nominations are due today, and recipients will be chosen by Mar. 1 by the committee that also includes Lacey Leigh, Camie Callahan, and Marianne Kersten. Nominations may be sent by e-mail to Nancy. She added that Lacey has been hard at work on the Standards of Excellence Award application.

Cultural Night: Jody mentioned that Asma Ahmed is now planning this year’s event.

PTSA Scholarship: Deed announced that Danielle Tilden will post scholarship information on the web site soon. IH PTSA awards six \$500 scholarships each year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am

Prepared by
Lori VanDeMark
Secretary, IH PTSA 2.6.45