

Issaquah High PTSA, Unit 2.6.45
March 13, 2009
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 Jody Mull called meeting to order at 9:40 am.

Celebration of our Award Winning Volunteers: Nancy Campi, on behalf of the Awards Committee also including Lacey Leigh, Camie Callahan, and Marianne Kersten, presented the following awards:

Outstanding Advocate to a surprised Marianne Kersten
Golden Acorn to Blythe Meigs, Sue Jacobson, and Deed Chase

Secretary's Report: Secretary Lori VanDeMark presented Feb. 13, 2009 minutes for review. Accepted as written.

• In light of the upcoming Tolo dance, Deed passed facts relating to teen parties around the room. This information would have been presented at the recently snow-cancelled Parent Ed course.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Susan Hegedus reported that there was minimal account activity this month.

• Kim Dreiblatt, Dianne Bugge, Anne Moore, and Marcia Davis will help Susan form next year's budget.
• The recent Membership mailing, at a cost of \$600, raised \$1500 in Pass the Hat funds. The budgeted amount has now been met. SAT prep revenue is also projected to be on target, although a shortage in interest income is expected.

Acknowledgements: Deed thanked the following volunteers:

• Nancy Campi, Lacey Leigh, Camie Callahan, and Marianne Kersten for Awards Committee
• Blythe Meigs and Lise Place for continuing work on Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee: Blythe reported that nominations are still needed for office of President. Deed and Jody summed up the duties of President largely as: meeting with the Principal, attending Council meetings, and facilitating IH PTSA meetings.

Council Report: Jody and Deed:

• Parents are encouraged to take the Calendar Survey currently offered online. The Calendar is negotiated between the Teachers' Union and the Administration.
• The contractor chosen for the rebuild is "Cornerstone".
• Optimal High School Experience meetings are continuing.
• A proposal has been made to increase the State PTA membership fee.
• Superintendent Rasmussen has visited all schools to discuss impending layoffs. Staff will be notified April 20 of the level of seniority required to guarantee a position for the following school year. By State law, Reduction in Force (RIF) notices must be issued to certificated staff members who may not have a contract the following year by May 15. Principals will then spend time in the summer rehiring based on seniority, subject, and endorsements. Teachers are aware of their seniority number and those who receive a RIF notice will be posted on the District web site. Deed encouraged parents to lend emotional support to teachers.
• There is a shortage of Sal Haas funds, used for scholarships and based on free and reduced lunch qualification. Our PTA might consider contributing more to this type of fund in the future.
• Deborah Parsons is co-chair of Volunteers for Issaquah Schools, which promotes Levy passage. PTAs will be encouraged to donate \$1,000 to the effort, as it is important to pass next year's levy with the first try. Levies can bring in 20% of the District's budget. Running a revote is very expensive. A VIS parent rep for IHS will need to be chosen by August and would need to attend monthly IHPTSA meetings until February.
• 17,000 entrees to Reflections made it to the State level; 52 from ISD. 2 entrees from Skyline and 1 from Discovery will proceed to Nationals.
• Jody will forward to the Board a Power Point presentation explaining the trouble ISD middle schools are having involving "Adequate Yearly Progress". All District middle schools, as well as most in the surrounding area, are in "improvement status". Difficulties may result in funding, and with the requirement that students be allowed to transfer.
• Echo Glen is in need of volunteer help. Jody passed information around and will include details in the e-news.

Next Year's Budget: Jody explained that due to expected budget challenges, PTAs will need to be certain to communicate with their principals to determine how best they can help. This should be considered when formulating next year's budget.

• Discussion followed regarding Student Recognition, which in the past involved presenting students who had earned a certain GPA or had made significant improvement with a "trinket". Do to privacy policies, it is now difficult to

determine which students qualify. It was suggested that these funds might be more useful elsewhere. Student Recognition Chair Daniella Coulter will meet with Deed and Ms. Phelps to determine whether the information may be obtained and whether a certificate might be more appropriate.

- More parent volunteers may be relied on to provide hospitality, thereby preserving funds.
- It was suggested that it may be a priority to maintain the intent of Special Funding Requests that has allowed teachers to innovate. It was stated that it is desirable to spend most of the budget in the year of which it was raised for. Susan announced that the projected carryover for next year is approx. \$4,600 in excess of the required \$5,900 reserve. The budget might not be finalized until fall, when recommendations are received from Paula. It was noted that if targeted needs are advertised, parents might be willing to donate more to the cause.

SAT Prep: Blythe reported that the snow-cancelled SAT math class will be rescheduled.

- As too few students registered for the Mock-PSAT, Kaplan supplied materials for tests to be taken at home. The tests will be scored and students will receive a phone consultation.
- The late spring SAT class was cancelled due to low interest.

Meeting adjourned at 10:41 am

Board of Directors Meeting

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 10:41 am.

Principal's Report: In Ms. Phelps' absence, Assistant Principal Julia Bamba announced that the construction bid was awarded to Cornerstone Construction at \$61 million, before tax. The original projection was for \$85 million. The portion of campus to be demolished will be prepared for the contractors to take possession by this Monday.

- The ramp between IHS and Clark was completed for under \$10,000.
- Lunches will move into Rm E-8 starting next week. Food will be prepared at Clark and transported.
- Security cameras have already been installed.
- The weeklong evening pre-Tolo activities were well-attended. Hundreds are expected to attend the dance Saturday night as the last event in the Commons. The theme is "International".
- The week's daily ASB Tolo activities were changed after being deemed inappropriate and potentially offensive.
- When asked whether there have been signs of economic distress among students, Julia replied that there has been an increased need for scholarships. Advisors try to be aware and help students obtain needed resources.
- There was not enough interest in the 0 and 7 period hours schedule proposed last year to implement it.
- The Counseling Office will supply mailing labels for Baccalaureate invitations.

Staff Report: Counselor Christy Denison explained how the Counseling Office handled the recent death of a student by first informing students close to the boy, offering space and support to those who were affected, and then informing the rest of the student body. A parent with a student who knew the boy remarked that the School really couldn't have handled it any better than they did. It was suggested that IHS follow up again with the middle school, as the boy's brother attends IMS and there might be difficulties there also.

- Most schedules are complete for next year. The students did a very good job registering online. It was noted that it would be helpful if there were a computer confirmation after registering.
- Jody noted that, as many feel IHS is a special school that we are proud of, it would be nice to share good things with the public. Deed expressed PTA's support of the staff in this stressful time of impending RIF and budget cuts.

VP Reports:

Membership: Membership currently stands at \$1,152.

Committee Reports:

Legislation: Marianne Kersten announced that tomorrow, legislators return to their Districts and hold area Town Hall Meetings. The 41st meets tomorrow 9:30-11am at Hazelwood Elem and 1:30 – 3pm at Enatai Elem; 48th meets 10am – 12pm at Chinook MS; 5th District has no meeting planned (she suggested parents request a meeting.) Parents are encouraged to attend and ask legislators to implement findings of the Basic Education Task Force.

- The Education Bills, HB1410 and SB5444, and have been turned into "shell" bills by the legislators, allowing amendments, such as inequity in levy lids and issues regarding quality teaching measures, to be added back in. The Federal Stimulus Package requires that certain guidelines be in place in order to access funds. The Task Force recommendations would address this. The major opposition to the bill is the WEA, who disagree with the portion concerning teacher training.
- A data system is proposed that would allow students' records to follow them during a move.

ISF: Calling For Kids raised \$70,000. Robin Callahan will stay on another year as ISF Executive Director. The Luncheon will move to the spring and the funds drive will move to fall. The Executive Committee of PTA Council and ISF met at Nancy Campi's house for a productive collaborative meeting.

Parent Ed: Sue Jacobson will again reschedule the seminar, "What Teens are Really Doing Today" to a date in April.

Senior Events: *Grad Night* - Camie Callahan reported that the count is 5 students short of the 230 required attendees. 6 students have requested a refund. Mr. Herd will determine who qualifies for the 7 scholarships available.

Baccalaureate - The graphic arts class produced the auditions poster. Marcia Davis is looking into the grocery store donation process and into programs at Front Street Market and Safeway. She will meet with Deed and Ms. Phelps with details found.

Quarterly Student Honors: Jody announced that chair Jill Lester had the event set and ready to go on the snow-delayed morning, then reorganized for the rescheduled successful event.

Staff Appreciation: Sally Brunette will contact those volunteers who signed up at the beginning of the year. Please contact Sally if you're not on the list and would like to help. She will be meeting with Ms. Phelps to formulate an appropriate plan of events that week, May 4-8.

Awards: Nancy Campi asked for nominations for Outstanding Educator Award(s), to be given at the May Staff meeting. She added that PCFC presents their own OE Awards.

Dates:

- The next IH PTSA e-news deadline is March 23.
- Washington State PTA Convention is May 1,2,3 in SeaTac. The early bird deadline approaches. New officers are encouraged to attend.
- Council Training for Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers is May 21

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 am

Prepared by
Lori VanDeMark
Secretary, IH PTSA 2.6.45