

General Membership Meeting

Call to Order and Welcome: Co-President Jody Mull called meeting to order at 9:37 am.

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

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Susan Hegedus presented the financial report (see March Financial Report.)

- Senior Celebration money continues to trickle in.
- \$1,700 was received from last month's "Pass the Hat", meeting the budgeted amount.
- Tiger Mountain High School's PTSA has purchased a Drug Awareness DVD Program, which may be shared with IHS.
- The Budget Committee will meet in May and will also set goals for Membership and "Pass the Hat".

Legislation: Marianne Kersten announced that work to redefine basic education in our state has finally gained traction. The Senate passed the education bill, which will now go back to the House with changes. If the bill passes the House, it will then go to the Governor, who says she will sign it. Marianne will deliver supportive notes, written by members in attendance, to Speaker of the House, Frank Chopp. She thanked everyone who has written letters, sent e-mails, and made phone calls in support of the reform. Deed Chase thanked those who have shown their support by traveling to Olympia. Anne Moore noted that another car pool would be going to Olympia on Monday.

Acknowledgements: Deed noted that IH PTSA has been given the "Standards of Excellence" award. Jody thanked the Awards Committee of Nancy Campi and Lacey Leigh.

- Deed thanked the group for the honor of receiving the Golden Acorn, along with the other recipients.

Principal's Meeting: Deed and Jody have met with Principal Paula Phelps regarding the "Optimal High School Experience", the rebuild, and imminent staff changes due to Reduction in Force (RIF).

- Deed will pursue re-enrolling IHS in the Safeway eScrips program and will work on advertising this opportunity to parents.
- Follow-up from last meeting – the new ramp between IHS and Clark was completed at a cost of \$59,455.14.

Council Report: Jody and Deed:

- Training for President, Secretary, and Treasurer will take place on May 21 at Our Savior Lutheran Church. Training for ISF, Legislation, Membership, Awards, and Parent Ed will take place on June 4.
- The "Optimal High School Experience" committee will seek input from the community May 18, 6:30 pm, Admin. Bldg.
- Superintendent Rasmussen will hold a mtg. to discuss District budget and cutbacks on April 28 at the Admin. Bldg.
- Committee chairs are asked to update their notebooks in order to pass them on.
- State Convention: **Marianne Kersten moved to send Deed Chase, Jody Mull, and Deborah Parsons as the IH PTSA voting delegates at the State PTA Convention. Seconded, approved.** Council has given its opinion as to who the voting delegates should vote for. Deed will forward this information to our delegates. Membership fee increases will be discussed at the Convention.

New Business

Special Funding Request: Mr. Dineen requests \$323.47 for new histology slides to replace 10 yr old, scratched slides.

Susan Hegedus moved to approve \$323.47 for the purchase of histology slides for Advanced Biology and Anatomy and Physiology classes. Seconded, approved.

Issy Applause: Mr. Ko has suggested bringing back the practice of teachers writing "Issy Applause" cards to students. IH PTSA will need to add this to the budget to provide for printing and postage. The group approves of this practice, especially in light of the cancellation of the 3rd Quarterly Student Honors breakfast, which would have been held in May. Jill Lester noted that \$260 remains in the Qtrly. Student Honors budget this year.

Levy Development Committee: Deborah Parsons reported that several parents from IHS are involved.

- The Maintenance and Operation Levy was discussed at the first meeting, along with the Transportation Levy which aims to replace older buses with newer, more efficient ones. Critical repairs were discussed, though none apply to IHS due to the complete rebuild. Technology requests will be addressed at the next meeting in two weeks.

- The Levy vote will take place in February, requiring a simple majority. She added that, as the levies are a replacement tax, taxes are not expected to increase.

SAT testing: Jody spoke on behalf of Blythe Meigs, explaining that Kaplan Test Prep will give our PTSA a \$100 donation when students sign up for their services (also at a 10% discount) when they mention IHS. Our agreement with Kaplan is not exclusive. It was suggested this opportunity be advertised along with other corporate rebates, rather than with registration information.

Nominating Committee: Officers will be voted in at the May 8 meeting. The slate will be posted by April 23.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am

Board of Directors Meeting

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 10:25 am.

Registration: Deed will ask Gayle Fitzgerald if she might advise IH PTSA regarding online registration options. A meeting will be held to plan for this significant change.

VP Reports:

Volunteers: Lisa Gaan reported that she has enough volunteers for the schedule mailing, adding that volunteer AP testing proctors will be needed in the future.

Committee Reports:

Legislation: Marianne announced that two seats will be open for the School Board, with the filing deadline June 1. Connie Fletcher will not run for re-election after serving 16 years. Chad Magendanz will be running for his seat. Anne Moore noted how much these two members worked toward education reform in Olympia and suggests thanking them for their dedication.

ISF: The annual luncheon will go to spring with the "Calling for Kids" membership drive in the fall.

VIS: This group works to pass the critically important levies.

PTAs: Funds may be needed in areas where the District budget falls short.

Parent Ed: Sue Jacobson announced that the course "What are Teens Really Doing Today" is rescheduled for April 22, 7 pm at IHS, Rm. E-8. Jody will contact *The Issaquah Press* to provide reporting coverage.

Site Council: Karin Allen suggested adding a line item in the budget and a committee chair for "Issy Applause" to ensure continuity. Site Council will focus on the HS rebuild and how best to reintegrate 9th graders to campus. The last SC meeting of the school year will be in May.

Senior Events: Camie Callahan reported that Baccalaureate auditions and Senior Night bus sign-ups will be next week. Currently six buses are planned. If another 20 students sign up, another bus will be added. Waivers must be signed and fees paid prior to signing up for a spot on a bus. Donations are being sought for Senior Breakfast. It was noted that PTSA might have supplies that can be used, such as purple and gold tablecloths. Marcia Davis is pursuing donations for Baccalaureate refreshments and may locate resources for future events.

Staff Appreciation: Deed spoke for Sally Brunette explaining that those who wish to contribute, and are not yet signed up, should contact Sally. The event will take place May 4-8. There will also be an end of year luncheon for staff.

Scholarships: Deed announced for Danielle Tilden that the deadline to apply for the six \$500 IH PTSA scholarships is tomorrow. Few entrees have been received. Judging is blind and by people unknown to the students.

Food Bank: Deed announced that the Issaquah Food Bank now takes online donations and added that their need is currently great. For more information, see <http://issaquahfoodbank.org/donations.html>.

Principal's Report: Principal Paula Phelps announced that the RIF line will go out April 22, based on seniority. Teachers might not be rehired until August, and according to credentials by seniority. High school principals will hire together, hoping to keep teachers at their own schools. Scheduling will be difficult. Ms. Phelps will send a letter home, along with the class choices students made, explaining why it is now much more difficult to make any schedule changes.

- Students will be allowed to watch next Thursday as the gym is demolished.
- There will be an "Optimal High School Experience" community forum on May 18.
- Cultural Night is changing to be more of a cultural week held during the day and planned with the help of foreign language teachers.
- Parking - Ms. Phelps will send an e-mail explaining the best way to avoid parking lot confusion. Now that a concrete block area has been removed, it is possible to drive further in and loop out.

Staff Report: Christy Deniston reported that Mr. Parson's wife had a baby.

- The Sports Medicine competition will take place today.
- Addressing a request by the PTSA, Ms. Deniston discussed signs of depression and stress in students and tips to help them as follows:

Recognizing Depression - loss of interest in previously enjoyed activities, behaving less socially than is usual, exhibiting sadness, despair, guilt, hopelessness, irritability, anger, changes in appetite, weight, and sleep habits, slowed speech and body movements, and increased fidgeting. It was noted that these can all be normal for teens, but how long does it last? She added that chronic pain can lead to depression.

Suggestions - encourage students to talk and ask for help. There are multiple resources in school, family, medical, community, and online. Remind them who their “village” of support is. If seriously concerned, seek professional help. She also suggests giving kids autonomy, but know what they are doing and who their friends are and keep to a regular routine. Senior year is a milestone with many big decisions ahead. Encourage kids to talk about their stress. Parents should also talk to other parents for support.

Resource - she suggested the book “When to Worry” by Lisa Boesky as a good practical guide.

Ms. Phelps added that she cannot encourage parents enough to know where their kids are and what they are doing, adding that it’s OK to be nosy – it’s about their safety.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29am

Program: Royce Nourigat, Project Manager for IHS rebuild.

Prepared by
Lori VanDeMark
Secretary, IH PTSA 2.6.45