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**FINAL MINUTES**

Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, March 8, 2018

ISD Office Boardroom

9:40am-12:00pm

***Call to Order***

Call to order 9:44 a.m. 30 people signed in; 17 of 24 schools were represented. Proper meeting notice was given. **Quorum Present.**

***Guest Speaker – Lorna Gilmour, Equity & Family Engagement Specialist***

Lorna’s role is to promote family partnership in the Issaquah School District with their commitment to equity and family partnership. Equity and Family Engagement hosts “What Every Parent wants to know about the Issaquah School District” events throughout the year, and helps families and schools form a partnership through communication and involvement. Lorna works with school staff on cultural competency, and is hoping to partner with Local Unit PTAs. She would love to come and speak at Local Unit meetings, and do a needs assessment.

**President’s Report***–Leslie Kahler*

* Open Council positions were announced; Membership, Advocacy, co-Reflections chair.
* Leslie thanked VIS and Dawn Peschek for all their work in promoting the three renewal levies.
* Thank you cards were passed around for Doug Jones, IEA President, since his term is ending, and Our Savior Lutheran Church for providing space for some of our meetings this year.
* Washington State PTA Convention will be held May 18th to 20th at the Hilton in Vancouver, WA. Registration will go live later this month.
* We will discuss the March for Kindness taking place on March 14th in more detail when Ron Thiele arrives.

**VIS** – *Dawn Peschek*

Dawn thanked everyone for their support of the renewal levies and their help in getting information out to voters. She also thanked all Local Units who make a financial contribution to VIS. Dawn highlighted the importance of every vote and advised that the EP&O Levy passed by 51.27%; the Transportation Levy passed by 57.31% and the Capital Projects Levy passed by 54.15%.

**Consent Agenda –** *Leslie Kahler*

Consent Agenda was presented.

**MOTION: Erin Eaton motioned to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded; motion carries.**

**Secretary** – *Erin Thacker*

The February meeting minutes were included in the Consent Agenda and will be filed as presented.

**Treasurer’s Report** – *Erin Eaton*

The February 2018 Treasurer’s Report was included in the Consent Agenda and will be filed as presented. Beginning balance was $28,660.20 and the ending balance was $33,235.87.

**Notecards/Questions** – *Leslie Kahler*

1. Does your PTA use a credit card reader, and if so, what are the pros and cons?

Many Local Units are using the card reader from PayPal. You can get the reader for free, but you do pay a service fee. Those using this reader find it works really well.

1. What schools are planning to support the March for Kindness on March 14th?

Leslie asked that all question pertaining to the March for Kindness be held until Ron Thiele is present to provide feedback on the ISD position of the walkout.

**Council Awards** - *Cindy Kelm, Heidi Fuhs, Korista Smith-Barney*

Council Awards were presented to:

Laurelle Graves for Golden Acorn

Becky Gordon, Ina Ghangurde and Dawn Peschek for Honorary Lifetime Membership

Invitations for the Golden Acorn Reception are in the file folder for each Local Unit. The Reception will be held on Tuesday, April 3rd, from 6:30 to 7:30 at Issaquah Middle School.

**Nominating Committee –** *Laila Collins, Wendy Shah, Valerie Yanni, Laurelle Graves*

The Nominating Committee is actively looking to fill the positions of co-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice President of High Schools. They have some good candidates, but if anyone is interested, please notify a member of the nominating committee.

**Best Practices –** *Korista Smith-Barney*

Nominating Committees should be completing their search for next year’s board. The proposed slate of officers must be publicly posted for 15 days prior to the membership meeting election of your 2018-2019 board.

All nominees must be PTA members for at least 15 days preceding their election, and if you are not able to fill a position with a qualified candidate, post it as OPEN on your slate.

Survey membership to identify priorities for the coming year. This will help you plan your budget for next year, and give you time to discuss/implement changes suggested by your membership.

Treasurer should recruit a budget committee to draft next year’s budget. Have the committee approved by the board, unless you have a pre-designated committee (for example, some PTAs use their Executive Board).

Make plans to attend the WSPTA Convention. This year’s Convention is May 18th to 20th at the Hilton in Vancouver, WA. Registration opens on March 28th online at wastatepta.org. All elected officers are required to attend at least one WSPTA approved training annually, and Convention is a great opportunity for board members to attend classes relevant to their positions, and be done with training.

If your PTA was incorporated in March, your annual Corporation Renewal is due on March 31st. The annual corporation report is due regardless of your PTA’s annual income and is separate from the Charitable Organization Registration/ Renewal.

**Membership** – *Erin Eaton*

Issaquah PTSA Council currently has 14,974 members, which is 376 members short their goal of 15,350.

**Advocacy** – *Leslie Kahler*

Updates on WSPTA priorities and bills are posted weekly on the WSPTA Blog (www.wastatepta.org/blog). Please sign up for Voter Voice (www.votervoice.net/WAPTA/register) and reply to an action alert, or call or mail postcards to your legislators to advocate on PTA priorities.

**Committee Reports**

**Art in Schools** – *Laurelle Graves*

ISF artistic support lessons are now live, and can be accessed at <http://isfdn.org/art-docent-lessons>.

There is a face drawing training class on Friday, Mach 23rd from 12:00 to 2:30 pm in the ArtEast Classroom, and a printmaking lesson on Wednesday, March 28th from 6:30 to 9:00 pm in the ArtEast Classroom. Those interested in attending can sign up using Sign-up Genius.

**FACE –** *Ina Ghangurde*

No Report.

**Influence the Choice** – *Katie Moeller*

The 6th annual *Influence the Choice Video Contest* is now live for all middle and high school students. This is a peer to peer contest where participants make a video that is two minutes or less on what keeps them substance free.

Influence the Choice is partnering with ParentWiser for *Hidden in Plain Sight*. This event will be held on Monday, March 12th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Issaquah High School, and on Monday, April 16th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Central Washington University Campus in Sammamish. These are adult only events, and registration is on the ParentWiser website ([www.parentwiser.org](http://www.parentwiser.org)).

The 5th Annual *State of Mind Conference* will be held on Saturday, 24th from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at Gibson Ek High School. This conference focuses on mental health and substance abuse challenges facing youth in our community. Workshops will be available for both teens and adults.

Please like Influence the Choice on Facebook and check out their website [www.influencethechoice.org](http://www.influencethechoice.org).

**Issaquah Schools Foundation (ISF)** – *Valerie Yanni*

The next *Dining for Kids* event will be held on Wednesday, April 4th at Tutta Bella all day.

**Outreach** *– Kim Weiss*

Kim thanked everyone for their donations for the February Lunch for the Break. 384 boxes were distributed, and they were able to fill the donation gap with monetary donations from the December break. There is a new shopping list for the April break. The new list is posted on the Council website, and is in each Local Unit’s folder. Donor drop off for the April break will be Wednesday, April 4th, and family pick up will be on Thursday, April 5th.

The Friends of Youth Luncheon will be held on Friday, March 9th from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Hyatt Regency in Bellevue.

The Treehouse Champions for Foster Kids Luncheon will be held on Thursday, March 15th from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Sheraton in Seattle.

Together Center’s Annual Breakfast will be held on Thursday, March 22nd from 7:00 am to 8:30 am at the Hyatt Regency in Bellevue.

The YWCA Inspire Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, May 15th at the Washington State Convention Center. Alfre Woodward will be the guest speaker.

**ParentWiser** – *Leslie Kahler for* *Heidi Fuhs*

Please register for upcoming events at [*http://ParentWiser.org*](http://parentwiser.org/). Upcoming events include State of Mind Conferences on March 24th and Hidden in Plain Sight on March 12th or April 16th.

**Reflections –** *Leah Gibson*

No report.

**STAR/Special Ed** *– Carrie Hipsher*

No report.

**Webmaster** – *Cindy Kelm*

No report.

**District Updates**

**Ron Thiele** *– Issaquah School District Superintendent*

**Levies**

Ron thanked VIS for all their work in promoting the three renewal levies. The General Membership was also

thanked for their support of the levies. Thanks to the passing of the levies, over 300 additional employees will

be added next year. The District is committed to expanding mental health and plans to add seven additional

mental health counselors next year. The District will be hiring 15 additional elementary school counselors and

eight additional secondary guidance counselors. PBSES Coaches will become a full-time position. The

District is looking to reduce Kindergarten – 3rd Grade class sizes as well as lower the class sizes in high

school. The District is moving forward with hiring dual language teachers, and hope to implement a dual

language program for the 2019/2020 school year. High school schedules will also be reviewed and changes

will hopefully be implemented for the 2019/2020 school year. The District also recognizes the need to improve

Special Education services, and will be expanding LRC1 program to four additional sites, and is committed to

having at least two LRC1 teachers in each site. The District’s goal is to get these positions filled. They had a

successful Career Fair and hired between 20 and 25 teachers that day.

**Property Acquisition**

The District is still in talks with the City of Issaquah regarding the Hilltop Property, and is still negotiating the

Volpe property. Ron wrote a letter to the Community regarding the Providence Point property. He wanted the

community to know that Issaquah School District is still very interested in securing this property for a fourth

high school and a future site for an elementary school.

**Safety**

The best source of information regarding possible threats at schools is the students. Students make use of the

quick tip line and the District take an aggressive position on potential threats. The Districts initial reaction is

an emergency expulsion while the situation is investigated. Generally the expulsion is lifted after the

investigation. The District has advised all administrators to err on the side of caution.

**March 14th March for Kindness**

Ron has sent a letter to all school administrators regarding the possible walk outs by students on March 14th.

Issaquah School District has a responsibility to make school happen that day, but they also recognize the

rights of students and adults to peacefully protest. The District has reached out to local police departments

over concerns of counter protests and/or student to student conflict. All District staff have been informed by

the IEA and ISD that it is a work day. Ron has advised school administrators to use their best judgment and

the primary focus is to keep students safe.

**New Business –**

None.

Meeting adjourned: 12:07 pm

Submitted by:

Erin Thacker

Secretary, Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6