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**FINAL MINUTES**

Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Our Savior Lutheran Church

9:40am-12:00pm

***Call to Order***

Call to order 9:42 a.m. 32 people signed in; 19 of 24 schools were represented. Proper meeting notice was given. **Quorum Present.**

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

* Leslie thanked everyone who came early to help set up tables. Heidi Fuhs was thanked for organizing the two *ANGST* viewings, as well as the discussion with Dr. Laura Kastner, and Ina Ghangurde was thanked for organizing and leading the Nominating Committee training. Certificates for all who attended this training are in the school folders.
* Katie Moeller from Influence the Choice was introduced. She will be coming to the meetings along with Andi Adee to represent Influence the Choice.
* Open Council positions were announced; Membership, Advocacy, co-Reflections chair.
* All Vice Presidents were introduced: Korista Smith-Barney for Elementary Schools South; Wendy Shah for Elementary Schools Central; Ina Ghangurde for Elementary Schools North; Laila Collins for all Middle Schools; and Ina Ghangurde for all High Schools. Local Units should contact their appropriate Vice President if they have any questions or concerns.

**Consent Agenda –** *Leslie Kahler*

Consent Agenda was presented.

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

**Secretary** – *Erin Thacker*

The January meeting minutes were included in the Consent Agenda. Council attendance will be emailed to all Local Unit Presidents after today’s meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report** – *Erin Eaton*

The January 2018 Treasurer’s Report was included in the Consent Agenda and will be filed as presented. Beginning balance was $16,933.07 and the ending balance was $28,660.20.

The mid-year financial review was held on January 19th and there were no significant issues. The following recommendations were made:

1. Standing Rules should be amended to include a procedure for password controls;
2. Treasurer’s Reports should be emailed each month even if there isn’t a meeting.

**Nominating Committee –** *Laila Collins*

The Nominating Committee is active looking to fill the positions of co-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice President of High Schools.

**VIS –** *Dawn Peschek*

This is the final week for voting, so please remind everyone to get out and vote. It is important to remind everyone that these are renewal levies and are not increasing taxes. Final *Honk and Wave* will take place on Monday, February 12th. Anyone interested can still sign up to participate using Sign-up Genius. A flyer went out this week to everyone who hasn’t returned their ballot, and teachers have sent out over 11,000 postcards to their students’ families.

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

1. What is your biggest challenge right now?

Many Local Units are having a difficult time finding volunteers. Work of mouth seems to work well. Some Local Units have hosted volunteer potlucks or parent socials which have helped.

It is also difficult to find parents who are willing to step up into a leadership role or fill a board position. If you have a Board Member at Large, they can help mentor new board members or chairs. It was agreed that stepping into a leadership role can be intimidating, but assuring a new board member or chair they have support can help ease their concerns.

**Best Practices –** *Ina Ghangurde*

There is a March 1st deadline for submitting the following awards:

* Standards of Excellence
* 100% Membership and 100% Teacher Membership
* Leadership Academy

Submissions for the *“Men’s Making a Difference”* student essay contest are also due on March 1st.

The transition handout was reviewed as it is a valuable tool for transitioning between new and old boards. It also provides a “to do” list of items to start thinking about for next school year.

**Membership** – *Leslie Kahler*

Now is the time to promote your spring campaign. Automatic membership awards will continue through the end of the year. Cascade Ridge, Discovery and Maple Hills have all obtained 100% membership.

**Advocacy** – *Leslie Kahler*

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

**Golden Acorn/Advocate Awards** – *Heidi Fuhs and Cindy Kelm*

Issaquah PTSA Council presents the following awards:

* Golden Acorn
* Outstanding Advocate
* Outstanding Service
* Outstanding Educator

There is a link to the nomination form on the Council homepage, and nominations can be submitted online. The deadline is Monday, February 12th for Golden Acorn, Outstanding Advocate, and Outstanding Service nominations, and Council Award winners will be announced at the March 8th General Membership meeting. There will be a District wide Awards Reception on Tuesday, April 3rd from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at Issaquah Middle School. Outstanding Educator nominations are due in April and the reception will be held at the May luncheon.

**Committee Reports**

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

ISF website is now live with art lessons for Local Unit art docents. Currently there are just 1st grade lessons, but more will be added.

There will be a needle felting training class on Thursday, February 9th from 12:00 to 2:30 pm at 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, March 3rd and 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*

No Report.

**Outreach** *– Kim Weiss*

As of yesterday, Lunch for the Break was short 200 boxes for the upcoming February break. They have a goal of 450 boxes. Liberty, Apollo and Briarwood are signed up to do a school food drive. Donor drop off for the February break will be Wednesday, February 14th, and family pick up will be on Thursday, February 15th. There are 3 ways to donate:

1. Donate a box of food you have packed;
2. Donate funds to the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank for fresh fruit, vegetables and loafs of bread; or
3. Purchase a box of food online that will be delivered to *Lunch for the* Break locations through *Supply All Kids*.

HopeFest will be held on Saturday, March 3rd at the Bellevue Highland Community Center. HopeFest is a big resource fair that serves about 1,000 people from eight Eastside cities. Families need tickets to attend, but they are easy to obtain from the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank. Organizers are looking for donations, but do not have collection locations, so all donations must be dropped off the day of the event.

**ParentWiser** – *Heidi Fuhs*

The spring keynote speaker is Dr. Laura Markham, the bestselling author and founder of *Aha! Parenting.* She will be presenting *Peaceful Parent, Happy Kids* Wednesday, May 16that 7:00pm at Skyline High School, and *Peaceful Parent, Happy Siblings* on Thursday, May 17that 10:00am at Village Theater.

**Reflections –** *Leah Gibson*

No Report.

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

There are 2 upcoming events:

1. Club Inclusive on Thursday, February 8th, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Blakely Hall; and
2. ISD/ARC presentation on Community Resources from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at Pacific Cascade Middle School on Thursday, February 15th.

Please send the name and contact information of your STAR/Special Ed liaison to Carrie.

**Webmaster** – *Cindy Kelm*

The Washington State PTA Enrichment Guidelines have been posted to the Issaquah PTSA Council website on the meetings document page.

**District Updates**

**Issaquah Education Association (IEA) President, Doug Jones**

The *Membership Matters* campaign is getting underway. The IEA interviews all new hires to the District. This gives them good insight into how the District is doing.

The IEA is currently in the process of elections to the Executive Board. There will be 4 new members to the Executive Board, including Doug Jones’ successor.

This is another bargaining year, but they will wait till the Legislative Session is over in hopes of having more clarity. The bargaining process will start in the spring and will likely go into the summer. A contract likely won’t be in place till late August, and neither side perceives any large, unsolvable issues.

The IEA is working with the District on trying to find ways to meet the State’s standard for K-3 staffing. As this District will be space challenged until the new schools are built, both sides are trying to find better ways to utilize current staff.

There has been a growing problem in recent years with the retention of Special Education staff. The IEA is working to find out why this has been happening.

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

The District is already planning for next school year. The anticipate hiring close to 200 staff members. Paula Phelps, Executive Director of High School Education, is retiring at the end of this school year. Donna Hood, the Skyline Principal, will be taking over this position. Josh Almy, Executive Director of Middle School Education is moving onto Deputy Superintendent. Sara Jo Pietraszewski, the Challenger Principal, is taking a year off, and Newcastle Principal, Richard Mellish, will be moving to the Central Office.

There will be a PTA space in the new administration building. Renovations have already started on the new site. The District hopes to have everyone moved to the new administration building by the start of the 2018 school year. Once everything is moved out of the old administration building, work can start on the new middle school.

The City of Issaquah is determining the property lines of the Highlands hill top property. The appraisal has been completed and a request for purchase and sale has been made. The appraisal has also been completed on the Volpe Family property. The court delays on the Providence Point property are frustrating, but the District isn’t ready to walk away. The District is putting together a press release that will explain to the community that we are running out of space for another high school, and that this property is in a location where another high school is needed.

STEMposium is coming up on Thursday, February 15th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Issaquah High School. This event allows K-12 students to show how they integrate STEM skills and knowledge through classroom projects, after school clubs, and student competitions.

**New Business –**

None.

Meeting adjourned: 11:31 am

Submitted by:

Erin Thacker

Secretary, Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6