



General Membership Meeting

Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6

11/08/2018 9:45 a.m.

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Call to Order

Meeting called to order 9:46 a.m. 33 people signed in. 21 of 24 schools were represented. Proper meeting notice was given. **Quorum Present.**

President's Welcome and Report—*Leslie Kahler*

After welcoming remarks, Leslie Kahler spoke about the following topics:

Sign Ups Leslie circulated two clipboards, the first for presidents to indicate interest in Nominating Committee Training and the second for suggested topics or speakers for the spring meetings.

October Meeting Leslie expressed thanks for everyone's flexibility in October when she couldn't be at the General Membership Meeting. Special thanks to Laila Collins for getting meeting notes from Leslie, Korista Smith-Barney who ran the meeting, Heidi Fuhs for arranging rooms for the breakout sessions, and to Dawn Peschek for being willing to miss work to help out. They showed great teamwork to make sure the meeting took place. The Standing Rules provide guidelines for how to run a meeting in the absence of the President.

December There will be no General Membership Meeting in December. If an issue comes up, presidents can email questions to Leslie. Issaquah Council will not offer training in December. There is demand for PTA and the Law, but Council cannot provide that.

Meeting Location The General Membership Meeting location may change to the new District administration building sometime in 2019. Watch the meeting announcements for location information.

Upcoming Topics Based on questions received from presidents, Council is working on information to share with the General Membership about sponsorships and scholarships. Leslie Kahler and Laila Collins have started collecting data and discussing what local PTA/PTSAs need to know.

Membership Fees and Fundraising Leslie clarified that Membership fees should cover national, state, and council dues, and some membership related fees. Membership fees and fundraising should be separate. Laila Collins added that PTA/PTSAs can include member benefits in the membership fee, but not general fund money.

After School Assistance Program The After School Assistance Program (ASAP) is now supported by Issaquah Schools Foundation.

Consent Agenda—*Leslie Kahler*

The Consent Agenda included the following documents:

- October 11, 2018 Meeting Minutes
- October 2018 Financial Report
- Membership Report

Leslie Kahler asked for corrections or comments. There were none. The documents are approved as presented.

Guest Speaker—*Alicia Spinner*

Alicia Spinner, editor of the Cultural Bridges Magazine (and Grand Ridge Elementary PTSA President), announced that a grant from Wells Fargo has allowed Issaquah Schools Foundation to publish Cultural Bridges in six different languages. The magazine is sent to all parents with students in the ELL program. All 24 Issaquah schools have a display with the magazine in all six languages. Alicia is working to let parents who don't speak English but whose children aren't in the ELL system know that these printed copies are available to pick up. Alicia will send an email to PTA/PTSA presidents to be distributed through their communications channels. Cultural Bridges is also

available online. Alicia will include the link in the email. Suggestions were made to have printed copies of Cultural Bridges at Back-to-School, Meet-the-Teacher, and New Family events in August and September.

Business

Secretary Sara Carmichael will be compiling and sending a report of attendance after the February General Membership Meeting. Presidents can use the report for the Standards of Excellence application. Be sure to sign in at every meeting. Sara expressed thanks to the presidents for turning in the Council Voting Delegate Forms and clarified the difference between Voting Delegate Forms for Council versus Legislative Assembly.

Treasurer Laila Collins noted that all Council Dues/Fees have been received. Laila expressed thanks for everyone getting this done on time.

IRS Forms 990/990EZ/990N are due on November 15, 2018. A five-month extension can be applied for, if necessary. Forms and instructions can be found on the WSPTA website.

Please scan and send a copy of AIM Insurance certificates to Laila Collins. They are due to the ISD on December 1.

Advocacy No report.

Membership Valerie Yanni shared highlights of the membership report (spreadsheet posted on the Council website). Membership is moving in a positive direction. Current PTA/PTSA membership is 11,834. Current ISD enrollment is 19,812. Valerie will be sending tips to membership chairs and is soliciting ideas to share. If membership chairs want some extra help, have them reach out to Valerie. Valerie, Leslie Kahler, Diane Burdette, and Laila Collins will be collecting and analyzing data from this year's membership (and maybe donations) to determine if the changes to the District registration process affected middle and high schools.

Legislative Assembly Korista Smith-Barney talked about Legislative Assembly and shared the Washington PTA 2019 Top Five Legislative Priorities established at this year's assembly. They are Social Emotional Learning, School Construction and Simple Majority for Bonds, Prevent Gun Violence, Strategies to Address the Teacher Shortage, and Strategic K-12 Investments to Close Gaps. Details can be found on the Washington State PTA website.

Nominating Committee Election Leslie Kahler put the following names in nomination to serve on the Nominating Committee: Laila Collins, Erin Eaton, and Noreen Awan.

MOTION 1 Nicole Morgan moved to elect the Nominating Committee as presented. The motion was seconded and voted upon. Laila Collins, Erin Eaton, and Noreen Awan were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Vice Presidents—*Dawn Peschek, Korista Smith-Barney, Wendy Shaw, Ina Ghangurde*

Best Practices Korista Smith-Barney shared several best practices. They can be found in the Best Practices report on the Council website (under Meetings, the GM Meeting Documents 2018-2019).

ISD Para Educators and Support Staff Dawn Peschek noted that para educators and support staff have initiated the grievance process with ISD. PTA cannot take a position on the dispute. Members can personally support a position, but must clearly not be linked to PTA/PTSA. The ISD has all collective bargaining agreements on its website. Email Dawn with questions.

Committee Reports

Most committee reports can be found on the Issaquah PTSA Council website.

Standing Committees

Art Laurelle Graves & Juliette Dunkelberger—No Report

FACE Ina Ghangurde—Leslie Kahler relayed the FACE report, which encouraged members to find a way to connect with people in their school communities who are from other cultures or who speak different languages. Building those relationships helps to demonstrate the value of PTA/PTSA.

Outreach Kim Weiss & Kristen Slocum—Kristen Slocum reported that the Holiday Gift Barn is ramping up and Lunch for the Break is planning for the December break. Register donations to help the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank plan. Kiwanis of Issaquah is holding a coat drive and looking for PTAs available and interested in putting a box out for donations. Book donations can be placed on the round table.

ParentWiser Heidi Fuhs—Heidi Fuhs spoke about the ParentWiser Meet and Greet at Capri Cellars this evening from 5:30-8:00 p.m. for presidents and Parent Ed representatives. Also, ParentWiser will be presenting “Like” in March.

Influence the Choice Katie Moeller—Katie Moeller noted that Influence the Choice partnered with ParentWiser to show the “Breaking Points” documentary. Katie can help bring a screening to your school. It is appropriate for elementary, middle, and high school Parents and students ages 14+. Student panel discussions can be set up for screenings. Influence the Choice is now an independent non-profit focusing on the overall well-being of students (mental, physical, social-emotional), not just drug use. katie@influencethechoice.org.

STAR/Special Education Carrie Hipsher—No report

Webmaster/Directory Cindy Kelm—No report

Ad Hoc Committees

Issaquah Schools Foundation Diane Burdette—No report

Reflections Leah Gibson noted that the number of Reflections entries was down this year. Reflections chairs should not feel obligated to send 12 entries to the district level. The drop-off date for District Reflections is Monday, November 19 from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Issaquah Library Meeting Room. The District Reflections Reception is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2019, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Issaquah High School. The State Reflections Reception will be at Issaquah High School in April. Ways to better advertise Reflections and grow excitement for the program were discussed.

VIS Dawn Peschek—No report

Introductions & Q&A

Training Leslie Kahler noted that officers are required to attend a sanctioned training every year. There is a list of classes on the council website and other resources on the state website.

Introductions Leslie Kahler lead the group in introductions.

Questions Leslie Kahler—Leslie will try to include a Q&A session at each meeting. Members can email Leslie, write a question at a meeting, or simply raise your hand during the meeting.

- **Gift Cards**—Are gift cards allowed to be used as incentives for teacher membership? No, PTA/PTSAs are not allowed to purchase gift cards with PTA/PTSA funds. PTA/PTSAs must not give gift cards to volunteers or teachers. A member can give a gift card independently of PTA/PTSA. If your PTA/PTSA receives donations of gift cards, treat them like cash with two people to record and track them.
- How does a PTA reply to inquiries about a District lawsuit? Not a PTA issue.
- How does a PTA reply to inquiries about the para educators dispute? Not a PTA issue.

District Updates—Gary Arthur, President IEA; Ron Thiele, ISD Superintendent

Gary Arthur Gary Arthur contrasted the local high tech environment with the low tech creativity of art. He sees support of art from his colleagues. Art shows patience, time to open the heart. He shared his feeling that Reflections is an amazing program with a name that fits its intention. This year’s theme is Heroes Among Us, and he described a 12-year-old student’s piece of art, in which a servicewoman is embracing her daughter with a U.S. flag in the background. A photo of this piece can be found on the Issaquah Education Association (IEA) Facebook page.

Ron Thiele Ron Thiele noted that he cannot comment on a recent lawsuit filed against the District. District attorneys are working on it. Issaquah School Board President Anne Moore read a statement at last night’s meeting. It will be posted on the board’s website in a day or two.

Ron also noted that he cannot comment on the grievance filed by support staff and SEIU paraprofessionals.

The supplemental insurance form, brought to his attention at the October meeting, is legitimate. Distribution of the flyer is part of the District’s contract with this company. The ISD contracts with the company for activities such as Fifth Grade Camp. In the future, the flyer will come with an explanation that it is supplemental.

Ron addressed changes to the Online Enrollment Verification Process (EVP), specifically why PTA/PTSA membership is no longer a mandatory step. There were three main concerns: 1) Focus groups of parents felt the process was too long. They also wanted all forms online. The district looked for ways to streamline parts of the

process. 2) Lack of clarity whether joining PTA/PTSA (and Boosters and the Issaquah Schools Foundation) was required. 3) Concerns about digital/cyber security. The links directed users to sites that the District has no control over. Ron stated that PTA/PTSA will not be added back to the EVP process as a mandatory step.

The District is collecting information on elementary STEM curriculum, focusing mostly on science, with implementation planned for 2020-2021.

Regarding new schools, design work for Elementary #16 is underway. It is about 22 months from opening. Permits may be issued in January and ground broken this summer. The District is still watching the Providence Heights property (for High School #4 and Elementary #17). Demolition of the current buildings is moving forward. It is likely in the coming weeks that the District will enter into a purchase/sale agreement contingent on the landmark status being removed. For Middle School #6, there are concerns about the Holly site (where the current administration building sits). The District would prefer to locate MS#6 closer to south end. There is property at the base of Talus that the District could be interested in. The District has put the remodel of the new Administration building out to bid. Some permitting issues are being worked out. The goal is to be in the building by early spring.

Ron was asked about property near Swedish. The District was uncomfortable with the results of the Geotech study. The lot did not meet feasibility standards.

Ron was asked if the co-curricular budget will increase as teacher pay increased. It will be considered in future budgeting discussions.

Ron was asked about money brought in through the District surplus sale. Ron assumes the income goes into the general fund.

Regarding the status of the high school scheduling process, at their most recent meeting, the committee came up with three recommendations for schedules. During the final meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 13, the committee's goal is to have consensus and provide a recommendation to Ron. Ron will consider that information and announce his decision at the December 12 board meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 11:46 a.m.

Submitted by:

Sara Carmichael

Secretary, Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6