

**General Membership Meeting**

Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6

02/07/2019 9:45 a.m.

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Advocating and Supporting our Schools & Community

2.6

Call to Order

Meeting called to order 9:45 a.m. 37 people signed in. 19 of 24 schools were represented. Proper meeting notice was given. **Quorum Present.**

Guest Speaker—Trisha Marshall

Trisha Marshall, Issaquah Schools Foundation Trustee and Nourish Every Mind Table Captain Lead, encouraged presidents to be table captains for the upcoming luncheon (Friday, May 3 at Meydenbauer Center) and breakfast (Tuesday, May 14 at Eastridge Church). She noted that Molly Shen will be emceeding both events.

President's Welcome and Report—Leslie Kahler

Leslie Kahler thanked Leah Gibson and Kristen Allen-Bentsen for their hard work running the Reflections program for the district. Leslie also thanked committee chairs who are working on ongoing programs that support our district, including Heidi Fuhs (ParentWiser), and Kristen Slocum and Kim Weiss (Outreach).

Training Leslie stressed the importance of keeping PTSA/PTA officers current on training. Each person elected to a PTSA/PTA office is required to attend at least one training session per year. Additionally, one officer is required to attend PTA & the Law. AIM, the PTSA/PTA insurance carrier, can deny insurance claims if there is not an effort to fulfill training guidelines. Nominating committees should tell potential candidates that training is a non-negotiable requirement. Boards are suggested to have all officers sign a board commitment form that specifies expectations, including training.

The state PTA is offering more training through webinars. The state convention, Region 2 Back to School Conference, and PTA & the Law all fulfill the training requirement. If necessary, Council can arrange to bring someone to a local PTSA/PTA meeting to conduct training. The last in-person PTA & the Law training for this year is February 20, 2019. Be sure to sign up. The back page of the Council GMM Agenda has a list of other training options.

Dual Language Program The ISD will open its first Spanish-English Dual Language Immersion Program in the fall of 2019 at Clark and Issaquah Valley elementary schools. Students entering Kindergarten in the 2019-2020 school year are eligible for enrollment. Entering the program requires a long-term commitment. Information is available on the district website.

Issaquah Valley Preschool Pilot Program The preschool program, located in current Administration building on Holly, offers a tuition-based program for children aged three to five years old. It follows the school year calendar, beginning in mid-September. Enrollment begins in January for the following school year. More information is available on the district website.

New PTA/PTSA Charters Chartering a new PTA/PTSA takes a different length of time depending on the process chosen, but at least six to seven months should be expected. Advanced planning will be needed to charter new PTSA/PTAs as the ISD opens new schools over the next several years (two elementary, one middle and one comprehensive high school). Issaquah PTSA Council can help and provide support in that process. There is more than one way to set up a PTA based on expected fundraising, and different timelines apply to each.

GMM Speakers Speakers for the remaining GMMs will be based on feedback from presidents. A training opportunity will take place of the June meeting.

Consent Agenda—Leslie Kahler

The Consent Agenda included the following documents:

- January 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes
- January 2019 Financial Report
- Membership Report

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

Business

Secretary Sara Carmichael noted that she will put together and distribute by email an Issaquah PTSA Council GMM attendance log that PTSA/PTAs can include in the Standards of Excellence application.

Treasurer Laila Collins...No report.

Financial Review Erin Eaton reported that she and Diane Burdette conducted the Financial Review for Issaquah PTSA Council on Wednesday, February 6, 2019. No issues were found.

Advocacy Erin Eaton noted that Focus Day is Monday, February 11. Details are on the Issaquah PTSA Council Facebook page. If you go, wear blue for unity. Updates will appear on Facebook throughout the week.

Membership Valerie Yanni highlighted the “2018-2019” and “Enrollment” columns of the membership report. For Membership Awards, Membership chairs should be comparing data in these columns to determine membership percentage. To determine staff membership, the Membership chair should ask the principal for the FTE Equivalent number. Membership Award Applications are due March 1, 2019. Valerie also noted that the Membership Report identifies the PTSAs/PTAs whose membership grew this year. PTAvenue will not be available after August 1, 2019. Washington State PTA is looking for another system. More information will be provided later about what to do with the data before PTAvenue goes offline.

Nominating Committee Laila Collins requested that people interested in serving on council contact Laila, Noreen Awan, or Erin Eaton.

Council Awards Dawn Peschek and Korista Smith-Barney noted that nominations for Council Awards (for council-level volunteers) are open now through February 28, midnight, on the Council website. Awards will be announced at the March 14 GMM.

Council Awards Reception Laurelle Graves reported that invitations for the Council Awards Reception, held to honor award recipients from all PTSAs/PTAs in the district, will be available next month. Invitations are given to local PTSA/PTA award honorees and principals. Laurelle noted that there is also an online invitation. It is no longer necessary for PTSAs/PTAs to report the names of their honorees to council. The reception is Thursday, April 4 at Gibson Ek, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Special Topics

Budgeting Tips Laila Collins presented several budgeting tips:

- Establish a Budget Committee soon consisting of the current treasurer, current president, incoming treasurer and president if possible, and an other parties that are knowledgeable about your PTSAs/PTAs activities.
- The budget is reviewed by your board and approved at a General Membership Meeting before the end of the school year.
- As you develop the budget, consider your mission and goals. Do line items fulfill the mission and goals?
- The amount of funds carried over year to year should be enough to cover one year’s operating expenses (e.g., insurance and software fees).
- Treat gift cards as cash by logging and tracking them. PTSAs/PTAs should avoid dealing with gift cards if possible.
- For scholarships, donated memberships, and other restricted funds, keep separate line items in your budget.
- Because Council has accumulated an excess of funds, dues may be reduced next year. She will communicate specifics to the treasurers.
- Laila will send an email to treasurers about getting started on their budgets.

VIS Dawn Peschek, Suzanne Weaver, and Alicia Veevaert spoke about Volunteers for Issaquah Schools (VIS), the 501c4 organization that works to promote Issaquah School District bonds and levies. They handed out an informational flyer (also available on the Council website). VIS is supported in large part by PTSAs/PTAs. Presidents were encouraged to a VIS line item in their budgets, even in non-bond/non-levy years. The ISD is working to run an EPO levy in 2020.

Sponsorships Dawn Peschek and Valerie Yanni provided guidelines for PTSAs/PTAs to benefit from sponsorships. The handouts, including sponsorship guidelines, a sample letter, sample sponsorship agreement, and sponsorship/fundraising Q&A, are posted on the Council website. Direct questions to Dawn, Valerie, or Leslie Kahler.

Best Practices Korista Smith-Barney shared best practices covering topics including Focus Day and Advocacy Week, Awards, Nominating Committee, Budget Review Committee, and having a presence at feeder schools. Korista's report is on the Council website.

Committee Reports

Standing Committees

Art Laurelle Graves & Juliette Dunkelberger—Laurelle Graves announced that the Art Docent conference scheduled for February 9 has been cancelled due to low registration. There are no plans to reschedule it.

FACE Ina Ghangurde—No report.

Outreach Kim Weiss & Kristen Slocum—Kim Weiss reported that the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank is still in need of 30 more boxes for Lunch for the Break. Snow has provided a challenge to gathering donations. The last day to drop off donations is Wednesday, February 13. Recipients will pick up boxes on Friday, February 15.

ParentWiser Heidi Fuhs—Heidi Fuhs reported that the Teen Vaping event scheduled for February 4 is rescheduled for Monday, February 11. The documentary LIKE will be presented at all three comprehensive high schools in March.

Katie Moeller noted that Hidden in Plain Sight will be presented March 4 at Maywood Middle School and April 2 at Skyline High School. The event is for parents only and appropriate for parents of elementary, middle, and high school students.

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 & Kristen Allen-Bentsen—Leah announced that 50 of the 250 pieces of art submitted to the Council Reflections competition have been advanced to the state competition. Non-advancing art has been returned to the appropriate schools. The state reception is April 4, 2:00 p.m. at Issaquah High School.

Influence the Choice Katie Moeller announced that the Influence the Choice Video Contest due date is March 15.

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

Gary Arthur Gary related how IEA teachers interact with PTA with a story about the IHS AP Ceramics teacher, Mark Moody, and the amazing art produced by his students. Mr. Moody noted how much his students benefit from having four kilns, two of which were purchased by IH PTSA. Gary closed with his appreciation for the resources provided to teachers by PTSA/PTA.

Ron Thiele Ron Thiele announced, because of the threat of snow, schools will be released two hours early on Friday, February 8. Ron shared some of the many concerns that the district weighs when making snow closure decisions. STEMposium will proceed tonight. Swinging in Vienna will be rescheduled. High school activities for state and regional competitions will go forward with accommodations. • Ron announced that the district has reached an agreement with the office professionals and para-professionals. • Ron shared some district personnel changes. He also noted that ISD will be hiring a planning principal for the new elementary, opening Fall 2020. • Kindergarten registration is open and available online. • The district has received the building permits needed for work on the new administration building. Ron is confident that it will be ready in the spring. • The district is continuing design work for a new middle school located at the base of the Talus community. Ron had no updates

on the Providence Heights property (potential site for elementary 17 and high school 4). • Ron mentioned the open school board seat vacated by Lisa Callan. • Regarding the 7-period schedule, the district expects to hire seven to eight new teachers. Jake Kuper has released the staffing plan based on enrollment projections. The district plans to provide professional development for extended period (block) teaching.

New Business

None.

Meeting adjourned: 11:15 a.m.

After adjournment, Lorna Gilmour continued her presentation about Cultural Competency.

Submitted by:

Sara Carmichael

Secretary, Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6