

**General Membership Meeting**

Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6

03/12/2020 9:45 a.m.

Zoom Online Meeting

Call to Order

Vice President Leslie Kahler called the meeting to order 9:45 a.m. 37 people were connected to the meeting. 21 of 24 schools were represented. Proper meeting notice was given. **Quorum Present.**

President's Welcome and Report—Erin Eaton

Leslie Kahler, Vice-President Middle and High schools, led the meeting for Erin Eaton.

Consent Agenda—Erin Eaton

The Consent Agenda included the following documents:

- February 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes
- February 2020 Financial Report

There were no comments or corrections.

MOTION 1 Kristi Hammond moved to accept the consent agenda. The motion received a second. The documents will be filed as presented.

Business

Secretary Sara Carmichael—No report.

Treasurer Laila Collins noted that now is a good time to start working on budgets for next year.

Vice Presidents—Leslie Kahler, Joana Figueiredo, Noreen Awan, Nicole Morgan

Online Meetings Leslie provided tips for running online meetings. Washington State PTA sent an email on March 5, 2020 that contained topics to consider during this rapidly changing situation. Leslie noted that BOD and GMM meetings can be held by video or audio conference calls, but not by chat app or other online tools like email. The key consideration is that members must be able to both hear and respond to each other. Voting and all other normal business activities are allowed, although voting should be done by roll call. Leaders should take care to moderate the online meeting to keep control. Regular meeting rules apply. Take attendance (or use the software tools available), establish quorum, and prepare minutes. To modify standing rules to allow mail or email voting, reference the following on the Washington State PTA website: Leadership Guides, Leader Resources, Elections and Voting. Recording the meeting can be beneficial, but is not required. Other reminders: You need to invite people (send a meeting link) to the online meeting. Remind people, when voting, that only voting delegates may vote.

Erin Eaton addressed using Zoom for online meetings (zoom.us). PTAs/PTSAs can use a free version or choose to purchase an option with more features. The council board used Zoom for their recent board meeting. To vote, each person on the meeting cast their vote using the chat feature.

Talking to the Media Leslie provided tips for talking to the media. "Ten Tips for Speaking to the Media" is posted on the council website. The president is the designated spokesperson for the PTA/PTSA. Board members, if contacted by the media, should refer questions to the president. Do return calls. Be prompt, but be prepared. Don't feel pressured to answer immediately if you need time to formulate or research an answer. Be factual and accurate. Steer clear of opinion, speculation, judgement, and accusation. There is no such thing as "off the record." Look for ways to put a positive spin on comments.

Best Practices Leslie noted that the best practices document is posted on the council website.

Guest Speaker—Carolyn Kennedy, Director of Programs for Issaquah Schools Foundation

Carolyn Kennedy has been in close contact with the Issaquah Foodbank. The most urgent needs are for students who are food insecure and families that need childcare. The foodbank is closed this week and operating with

limited staff and volunteers. They are not accepting in-kind donations from individuals. Financial donations can be made on their website. They are creating an Amazon wish list that people can use to order items that will be delivered directly to the foodbank. The foodbank will also accept gift cards to local grocery stores. The foodbank will distribute food by packing boxes and giving those to families outside of the building. There might be volunteer opportunities to help. Watch your email.

Carolyn will send all this info to all presidents and ambassadors. Carolyn's email is c.kennedy@isfdn.org if you need more information.

The PowerPack program usually distributes bags on Fridays. Schools and PowerPack volunteers have been notified to try to get them out today (Thursday). The foodbank has 250 PowerPacks available. Presidents should contact their counselors and/or PowerPack volunteers to assess whether your school has enough or needs some from the foodbank. Carolyn has the list of PowerPack volunteers.

Committee Reports

Standing Committees

Art Laurelle Graves—No report.

FACE Alicia Spinner—No report.

Membership Valerie Yanni—Valerie noted that council membership is about 96% of last year's membership, with 12,650 members. The report is posted on the website. Thank your membership chairs. Make sure that the MemberPlanet numbers and OurSchoolPages numbers reconcile. In April/May talk about membership and the areas on your website that need to be updated. Make sure handoffs are happening.

Outreach Darci Hanley & Tracie Jones—No report.

ParentWiser Heidi Fuhs—Heidi reported that the event scheduled for March 25, a screening of Upstanders, is being rescheduled for April 30 or the end of May. The scheduled spring speaker has been rescheduled for next fall, probably the end of October. The ParentWiser website will be kept updated as schedules change.

STAR/Special Education Lisa Coston—No report.

Webmaster/Directory Cindy Kelm—No report.

Ad Hoc Committees

Influence the Choice Katie Moeller—Katie reminded everyone about the video contest for middle and high school students. She also took the opportunity to address anxiety that kids are facing. Kids feed off parent anxieties. Parents should try to be their authentic selves; don't try to hide anxiety. It's never too early, never too often (starting at elementary levels) to discuss substance use and abuse. Approach topics in small conversations. Show you care about student's health and well-being, including success and failures. Find natural conversation points such as dinner time and in the car. Think about how to integrate substance education in conversation so children are equipped to say no. Make sure you have rules and consequences around substance use and that your students know them. Boredom buster ideas: make a video for the contest, take walks together, explore students' interests, have family game nights.

Issaquah Schools Foundation —No report.

Reflections Leah Gibson & Kristen Allen-Bentsen—Kristen noted that the district Reflections reception was cancelled because of snow. It was not rescheduled because there was not enough time before selected art pieces were submitted to state. The State Reflections Reception is currently scheduled for May 2 at Issaquah High School. Art pieces not advancing to nationals will be returned in late May. Pieces that advance to nationals will be returned in the fall.

Echo Glen and ACT Staff Appreciation Kristen Allen-Bentsen—Kristen and Nicole Morgan are working and cautiously proceeding. The luncheons usually take place in late May/early June.

VIS Dawn Peschek—Dawn expressed thanks to PTAs/PTSAs, Presidents, and Communications chairs for getting the levy information out to the community. Dawn shared many of the efforts used to advocate for the levy including information nights, robocalls featuring student voices, honk and wave events, signage around the district (large signs and yard signs), eNews messaging, website postings, thousands of postcards, and extensive social media presence. Dawn asked that Cindy Kelm post the VIS fun facts on the council website.

Council Awards Kristen Allen-Bentsen is leading the District Golden Acorn Reception. Cindy Kelm, Erin Eaton, and Laila Collins will be working on our council award nominations. Stay tuned for further information via email. Cindy noted that nominations are open. Find the link on the council website.

OurSchoolPages Replacement Committee

Betsy Grant, explained that the committee was tasked with researching various services that are available to provide support for PTA/PTSA websites and communications because OurSchoolPages (OSP) announced they will discontinue service December, 31 2020. The committee reviewed about 10 service providers and spoke with PTAs currently using the services to get first hand user information. The committee was also able to leverage information from other PTA research. During the research phase, the committee learned that OSP had been purchased and would not be closing down. There are still technical concerns and unanswered questions surrounding OSP. The committee narrowed the field to three options: OSP, Membership Toolkit, and Memberplanet. Given the current events, they recommend staying with OSP for now and revisiting the options when more is known about the future of OSP. Membership Toolkit is a robust system, but more expensive. Memberplanet website options aren't very user-friendly.

District Updates—Ron Thiele, ISD Superintendent

No district updates. Send questions for Ron to Leslie (vp-middle@issaquahptsa.org or vp-high@issaquahptsa.org).

Meeting adjourned: 10:56 a.m.

Submitted by:

Sara Carmichael

Secretary, Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6