



General Membership Meeting

Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6

05/14/2020 9:45 a.m.

Zoom Remote Call

Call to Order

Erin Eaton called the meeting to order 9:48 a.m. 40 people signed in (as recorded in Chat). 22 of 24 schools were represented. Proper meeting notice was given. **Quorum Present.**

President's Welcome and Report—*Erin Eaton*

Erin Eaton welcomed everyone to the Zoom call and noted that we will have a June GMM meeting for the purpose of electing officers. The meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2020 at 9:45 a.m.

Consent Agenda—*Erin Eaton*

The Consent Agenda included the following documents:

- April 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Erin Eaton asked for corrections or comments to the minutes. There were none. The minutes are approved as presented.

- April Financial Report

Laila Collins noted that she wrote one check in April, to ParentWiser for \$1,200.00.

Budget

Laila Collins presented the proposed Issaquah PTSA Council budget for 2020-2021. She noted that Council will carryover a large sum (\$41,500, including ParentWiser funds of \$22,500). Because of the carryover, dues for local PTAs/PTSAs will be \$50.00 at all levels for next year (COVID-19 Special for just 2020-21). Local budgets should be updated to reflect the reduced dues amount. Laila will add an electronic meeting platform line item of \$500.00 under Administrative expenses. ParentWiser is also including \$500.00, making \$1,000 available for the electronic meeting platform. Local PTA/PTSA budgets should include \$15.00 to cover the SurveyMonkey expense, \$250.00 for ParentWiser, and donations to Issaquah Schools Foundation and Volunteers for Issaquah Schools (VIS). Other items to consider for budgeting include Echo Glen and ACT. Laila expects Council to end the year with about \$24,510. She will send an email to treasurers about various budget considerations.

Not all PTAs/PTSAs use SurveyMonkey. Laila recommended leaving the line item in budgets for now. After time to research, the topic can be revisited in the fall. Other questions or comments about the budget should be sent to the treasurer (treasurer@issaquahptsa.org).

MOTION 1 Nicole Morgan moved to adopt the budget as amended. The motion received a Second. Votes were cast in Zoom chat. The motion passed, and the budget is adopted.

Business

Secretary Sara Carmichael—No report.

Treasurer Laila Collins—No further report.

Golden Acorn Awards Erin Eaton and Laila Collins presented Golden Acorn awards for Issaquah PTSA Council to Sara Carmichael and Valerie Yanni. They bestowed Leslie Kahler with an Honorary Lifetime Membership.

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

Gratitude Leslie Kahler thanked everyone for working so hard to support their families and communities.

Charms Every year, Council members are presented with a charm to commemorate their year of service. This year the charms will be mailed. Members of Council were asked to send their mailing address to the secretary (secretary@issaquahptsa.org).

Committee Reports

Standing Committees

Advocacy Kristen Slocum—No report.

Art Laurelle Graves—No report.

FACE Alicia Spinner—No report.

Membership Valerie Yanni noted that last month's reminder was for presidents to talk to membership chairs to make sure that they upload membership data. This month, Valerie suggested that PTAs/PTSAs have a discussion about the amounts charged for memberships.

Membership as of May 1, 2020 is 12, 668.

Outreach Darci Hanley & Tracie Jones—No report.

ParentWiser Heidi Fuhs reminded presidents to keep a Parent Ed rep on their rosters. ParentWiser works in partnership with each PTA/PTSA and relies on those reps to help run in-person events. Hannah Coblenz is taking over next year. ParentWiser has a lot lined up for next year and is also looking to expand online offerings. Send ideas for other topics or speakers to ParentWiser.

STAR/Special Education Lisa Coston—No report.

Webmaster/Directory Cindy Kelm—No report.

Ad Hoc Committees

Influence the Choice Katie Moeller shared thanks to all for promoting the Influence the Choice video contest, announced the winner (Henry from Skyline), and showed the winning video entry.

Issaquah Schools Foundation—Carolyn Kennedy noted that the virtual Nourish Every Mind event is next week, featuring adult and student speakers each day of the week (mcause.us/Nourish2020). They are still looking for virtual table captains to reach out to the community and encourage support.

Carolyn is still compiling a master document summarizing what non-profits collectively give to the district. She is collecting budget data for any type of grant that PTAs/PTSAs put into their building. She will distribute the completed document to the whole Council. She is looking into building a task force to look at the whole grant/money picture. Send questions or concerns to Carolyn (c.kennedy@isfdn.org).

Reflections Leah Gibson & Kristen Allen-Bentsen—No report.

VIS Dawn Peschek—No report.

District Updates—*Ron Thiele, ISD Superintendent*

Superintendent Ron Thiele spoke about how the district has been handling the changes caused by COVID-19, then shared some administrative staffing changes and capitol projects updates. Construction is moving forward for Elementary 16, which is on schedule to open Fall of 2021. Middle School 6 permits should be coming soon, with a Fall 2021 scheduled opening. The district is in mediation related to High School 4 and Elementary 17. Other projects, considered essential, are moving forward.

The eventual re-opening of schools will depend on orders from the state and public health. The district is thinking through a wide range of scenarios and options, including sports and other events, with the focus on keeping students and staff safe.

Ron spoke to the challenges of teaching and learning in the current environment and appreciates the support of families. He noted that the district has provided about 40,000 meals at 21 locations since March 18. Child care for essential personnel has been provided at Sunset Elementary. Over 3,400 laptops and 200 wifi hotspots were pushed out to students. The district is preparing for virtual ceremonies (graduations and promotions).

Q&A

Common learning platforms: The adoption team recommended to the cabinet that secondary schools move to Canvas, which integrates with MS365, and elementary schools use MSTeams and SeeSaw. Final decisions will be made soon. Efforts are also being made to consolidate communications between teachers and families through a common email address.

1:1 laptops: In the past, the district has decided against laptops for all students, but the topic is on the table for a capital tech levy in 2022.

Parent volunteers: Ron expects that parent volunteers will not be allowed on campuses in the fall.

Summer school: Summer school will happen, but the details are being worked on now. Final decisions for summer school will be made by May 22nd.

Social-emotional aspect for younger students: Counselors and PBSES coaches are pushing out information and best practices. Mental health counselors are offering Telemed sessions for students.

High School Grading: The district stands behind the decision to give grades to students (other districts chose to assign only A grades). About 80% of school districts in Washington state are giving grades. Higher education admissions processes are becoming more wholistic and are aware of the different high school grading standards during the pandemic.

Outside organizations (e.g., Scouts and Missoula Children's theater): Ron expects that outside organizations will not be allowed in schools in the fall. That decision will depend on Governor's orders.

Teachers: The district is in ongoing communication with the all the unions and labor groups. The teachers are not in an open contract year. Discussions focus on the impact of the working conditions.

Budget cuts: Issaquah has received its 18th consecutive clean state audit. The 2020-2021 year looks to be in pretty good shape, but things might be tight two to three years out. Ron appreciates PTA/PTSA financial and moral support.

Will school fields and tracks open?: Yes, but there is no current time line. The focus is to do this safely and prevent too many people showing up.

Allowances for families to choose when to send kids back to school: The district is working to get the students back safely and will follow state, health department, and insurance guidelines. Ron acknowledged that some people won't be comfortable sending their students to school. The district will try to accommodate them.

Boundary rezoning: There will be a task force. The district hopes to start the process in June. They will be looking for volunteers to serve on the committee.

Meeting adjourned: 11:25 a.m.

Submitted by:

Sara Carmichael

Secretary, Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6