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**MINUTES**

Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, January 12, 2017

 ISD Administration Building

9:30-11:30am

***Call to Order***

Call to order 9:36 a.m. 43 people signed in; 22 of 24 schools were represented. Proper meeting notice was given. **Quorum Present.**

**President’s Report** –*Becky Gordon*

* If we ever have two hour delay, we will cancel the scheduled membership meeting due to the fact our rooms are reserved and it would be difficult to find another location on such short notice.
* Becky Gordon thanked Yvette Blauvelt and Leah Gibson for Reflections, and Dawn Peschek for cookies and water for the District reception. Art was given back today to students not going on to state.
* January is School board Appreciation Month. Becky Gordon recognized Anne Moore as school board member and guest. Encouraged general membership to send a note to the school board to thank them for their hard work.
* PTA & the Principal update. On Feb 28th, Becky Gordon will present information regarding working with PTAs to the secondary principals at their regularly scheduled meeting. Secondary PTA presidents are welcome, but not required to attend. Elementary principal presentation will be either February 16 or March 16 will follow regular format.
* There is a new law that requires each school district to have a Truancy Board. The district is taking volunteers to serve. Seeking about 30 volunteers, but only 5 or 6 people required to attend each month. Volunteers will rotate through twice monthly meetings. Let Becky Gordon know if you have interest.
* The Washington State PTA newsletter offered a link for input on the Every Student Succeeds Act. Each state must give input on how they will implement the law. The link is available on the Council Web site and in the Agenda Notes.
* January 30 and February 7th will be Nominating Committee training via webinar. This year the Region 2 midwinter conference will be in the format of webinars. Nominating Committee training on Feb. 7 and Money Matters on Feb 11 will be featured. Registration is up on the Region 2 web site. If there is enough interest in Issaquah, Ina Ghangurde can arrange for a local Nominating Committee training. Nominating Committee training does count towards yearly training requirement.
* Becky Gordon has completed a list of funding guidelines that local units may use to guide their donation decisions. It will be emailed out to presidents.
* The Community Values Survey will be sent to you to share with your membership. Information gathered will be shared with the district and teachers’ union prior to the beginning of this year’s contract negotiations. The survey will be out for two weeks and the presentation will be open to the public, parents, teachers and students.
* It was reported at the School Board meeting that schools are looking for ways to purchase culturally diverse books for individual classroom libraries, in case a PTA would want to help support this mission.
* Governor Inslee will visit one of our elementary schools to see a lesson on social emotional learning in the classroom.
* Presidents are asked to take a short 5 question survey, included in the Agenda Notes, regarding what training their local unit still needs. Results will enable Council to determine if future training options are necessary.
* Training is required by all elected officers each year. If training is not completed, then the PTA/PTSA will be considered a PTA not in good standing. It may affect insurance and will keep the unit from applying for awards. Training for the year must be completed before the yearly Spring convention. Convention training counts for the upcoming school year.

**Minutes** – *Leslie Kahler*

December 15, 2016 GM meeting minutes were distributed and reviewed; filed as presented. Attendees were reminded to sign in each meeting. Attendance will be sent to presidents after the February GM meeting for use with Standards of Excellence application.

**Treasurer’s Report** – *Laila Collins*

December 2016 Financial Report was distributed and reviewed. Beginning balance was $30,731.89 and ending balance was $31,120.83. Leslie Kahler, non-check signer, reviewed bank statement. All insurance certificates have been received. A mid-year review will be scheduled for January 2017 (committee: Korista Smith-Barney, Erin Thacker, Ann Taylor and Lori Riskin). Any PTAs who have hired sub-contractors, and paid them $600 or more, in 2016 must file a 1099 by the end of January. Council has completed their 1099.

**Golden Acorn & Awards** *– Dawn Peschek*

Applications for Council Golden Acorn & Awards are now available on the Council web site via Survey Monkey. Deadline to nominate is February 15th. Awards will be presented March 9. District reception is April 4 at Issaquah Middle School. Will include Acorn, Outstanding Advocate and Service Award.

**Vice Presidents** *– Kimberly Nocco, Alisa George, Care Maree Harper, Kym Clayton, Ina Ghangurde*

Breakout session held on discussing ideas for Golden Acorn & Awards. Kimberly Nocco mentioned at Apollo winners go on to serve on the awards committee the next year. Recommended timeline: announce nominations are being taken in January, makes sure applications are available by February 1, order pins in March and notify winners with enough notice that they can attend the district awards reception. It is approximately a two week time frame to order pins and receive them back. Announce your winners at your school as it is not done at the reception any longer, due to time constraints.

**Best Practices** *- Kym Clayton & Alissa George*

* January 30th Nominating Committee training counts as approved training.
* Mid-year financial review is recommended. Report its completion at a General Membership meeting.
* At a General Membership meeting, review Legislative Assembly, and tell about Focus Day. Be sure to document in the minutes.
* Begin working on Standards of Excellence in February. March 1st is the deadline to submit application.
* Consider having a PTA presence at open houses and Kindergarten Round Up. Many of these things take place in early February.
* Consider a Spring Membership Campaign
* Hold a mid-year retreat and review your goals for progress.
* For incoming families, can take membership payments in the Spring, but they would have to pay again in the Fall to maintain membership. Give thought to offering a special deal for Spring membership or apply to the next school year, but you must have a separate line item for this type of membership income.

**Membership** *– Erin Eaton*

Currently, 14,460 members. Last year we ended with 14,729. Our goal is to increase by 1.5 percent. Make sure you have uploaded to PTA Avenue. Two schools, Beaver Lake Middle and Cascade Ridge have hit 100 percent. Will be sending out link for membership award info.

**Advocacy** – *Korista Smith-Barney*

Korista Smith-Barney collected postcards with messages to legislators and will meet presidents to collect if necessary. Korista reports that the district’s number one priority is that the levy cliff needs to be fixed. Focus Day arranged activities are sold out, but people can still attend. There are four legislator meetings scheduled.

**Art** *– Laurelle Graves & Juliette Ripley-Dunkelberger*

No report filed.

**F.A.C.E.** *– Margarita Leas & Ina Ghangurde*

Family Partnership Team and Cultural Bridges will help support Kindergarten Roundup in several schools. Let Ina Ghangurde know if you would like that support. There have been reports of elementary students, whose parents are from other countries, being told by other children that their parents will now be deported because of the election. A program is being designed to lend understanding to parents so that they know how to address these kinds of concerns.

**Healthy Youth Initiative** *– Pat Castillo*

Information about the State of Mind is in the Agenda Notes.  Three of them, open to students and parents will be held, February 4th at Liberty High School, March 11th and April 29. The 5th Annual Video Contest has kicked off. Open to middle and high school students, but separated by age group. High School has a $1,000 prize. Deadline for submissions is March 10.

**Issaquah Schools Foundation (ISF)** *– Valerie Yanni*

No report filed.

**Outreach** *– Kim Weiss*

Thank you for the sugar and flour donations, as well as the Lunch for the Break donations. The goal of 400 boxes was met. A new location has been added for the February break. Elementary schools, Briarwood, Apollo, Newcastle and Maple Hills will be running school wide drives for February Lunch for the Break boxes. Maywood Middle School may considering assisting. A poll was taken and elementary schools still want Lunch for the Break kidmail flier to distribute. Kim will send electronic copy to be distributed at each school.

**Parentwiser –** Heidi Fuhs & Debbie Steinberg-Kuntz

No report filed.

**Reflections** *– Leah Gibson & Yvette Blauvelt*

Thank you for participating. Reception was very well attended. There were 54 state finalists; art is being returned. Portfolios will be required next year.

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

A meeting with Special Services Administration was held. The District Special Services Administration cancelled the January and March parent meetings, as they will be doing podcasts instead. A survey will go out next week to gather community needs.

**VIS** *– Dawn Peschek*

No report filed.

**Webmaster** *– Cindy Kelm*

Cindy Kelm can design surveys for local units at any time. Council directories are available for those who have not yet picked one up.

**District Updates -** *Emilie Hard, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching & Learning Services*

Thank you to all for your volunteer efforts. Emilie Hard oversees curriculum adoptions special initiatives and projects works with school board. She reviewed the following with the general membership:

*Most recent adoptions*:

Cultural competency, which started three years ago. Learning about diversity in our district and cultural competency. See hand out for more details. The district is becoming increasingly diverse. Two percent less white every year. The district wants to support all cultures. There has been option cultural competency training for staff for the last ten years. Three years ago began working with consultants. The District now offers “Introduction to American Education System” to help ELL families learn the differences in education in our country. On January 30th, will do kick off of cultural training with all certificated staff. Follow up will occur in each building.

Did interviews with kids of color and their perspective on their school experience. The video will be shown at the training. Will have an additional contractor in August. An online book study is being done with Tahoma, Snoqualmie and River View school districts, “Whistling Vivaldi”. The district is working towards offering parent education in this area as well.

The district is supporting programs around diversity, and Citizenship – students will live as responsible citizens. The district wants to include more diversity in curriculum. The goal is to recruit a more diverse workforce and to strengthen parent and family engagement. There is an Equity Advisory Team who meets three times per year, and collects data from parents on what could be done better to provide equitable opportunities for all students.

*New Curriculums:*

Sharing how parents’ math anxiety can affect student achievement. Have just adopted a new elementary math curriculum and will be working on high school next. The district wants to emphasize that all kids are learners and to encourage parents not to make statements like, “I am not good at math.” There are seminars and professional development supporting teachers in talking about math. The focus is to help kids understand the underpinnings of math talk. There are instructional videos of successful math teacher and instructional coaches helping in the classrooms.

There has been a new middle school language arts adoption. It gives students choice in what they read, in an effort to draw more interest in reading from kids. Students work with Readers Workshop, which gives them a book of choice and then they talk about what they have read. The students will experience common lessons as the books they can choose from are thematic. Teachers were trained last Summer and trainers continue to work with teachers. They may bring in an expert in June.

The district is currently in the middle of reviewing middle school science curriculum and elementary social studies.

Meeting adjourned: Adjourned 11:36 am.

Submitted by:

Leslie Kahler

Secretary, Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6

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