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**MINUTES**

Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, February 9, 2017

 ISD Administration Building

9:30-11:30am

***Call to Order***

Call to order 9:38 a.m. 37 people signed in; 22 of 24 schools were represented. Proper meeting notice was given. **Quorum Present.**

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

* Thank you for getting out the word on the Community Values (CV) survey. We received over 1,000 responses. Presentation of CV survey results will be at IMS on Wednesday, Feb 2/15 in the art room at 4pm.
* Results of training survey show we are doing well. Only a few PTAs that have some members that still need some training. Webinar on Saturday still has 54 slots still available.
* Compiled Funding Guidelines are finished. Have had board review. Becky Gordon will send out to the membership.
* 1/15 – Nine PTSA council members attended the School Board linkage meeting where the Levy Cliff and what it means to the ISD was discussed.
* PTA & Principals - 2/28, 9am secondary schools. Presidents are not required to attend. 5-10 minute presentation by Becky.
* PTA & Principals - this spring for elementary in March/April, “What you can do to get ready for the new school year” with Jodi Bongard. In the fall, we will resume original format.

**Minutes** – *Leslie Kahler*

January 12, 2017 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** – *Erin Thacker for Laila Collins*

January 2017 Financial Report was distributed and reviewed. Beginning balance was $31,120.83 and ending balance was $29,136.32.

**Financial Review** – *Erin Thacker*

Committee met on January 25th. All was found to be in order with no issues.

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

Reminder that nominations are being accepted. Link to submit and the rubric are on the website. Last day to submit is 2/15. Reception planning has begun.

**Nominating Committee** *– Ina Ghangurde, Heidi Fuhs, Valerie Yanni, Leslie Kahler*

All positions are open. Only have two people that will probably stay, along with Becky Gordon who would like a co-president. NEED a treasurer.

**Levy Cliff Discussion** *– Dawn Peschek*

Bonds are for building/maintenance but levies are for operation. Suzanne Weaver, School Board member explained that the M&O levy is key for the operation for the district. It is capped by the state. In 2010 an extra 4% was allowed to be collected, but that allowance will expire in 2018. Issaquah’s Levy Lid is 28.97 percent. It will drop to 24.9 percent and cost the district $15 million over two fiscal years. The Levy Extension Bill has passed the House but stalled in the Senate. The Bill is designed to extend the Levy Lid for one more year while education funding is sorted out. The district has to renew/guarantee employment in April 2016, but does not know how budget from State will look yet. The Levy backfills things like Special Ed, Summer School Credit Accrual and the Optional 7th period at two of our high schools. Decisions have to be made now, but legislators may not have budget resolution until May/June 2017.

 VIS volunteers will be sought for Levy Committee for February 2018 campaign. The Levy will be run at whatever level of Maintenance and Operation Levy is allowed by the legislature at that time. Watch for ask for committee members through district enews. VIS will also be seeking new board members.

**Advocacy** – *Korista Smith-Barney*

No report. Breakout session was exercise showing how to determine who a person’s legislators are and how to contact them. Had attendees contact their legislators via email in the meeting.

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

*Breakout session – small groups led by VPs discussed advocacy at their school.*

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

* Discussed the Standards of Excellence application and referenced examples on back table.
* Checklist says to attend the mid-winter conference, but it is being replaced with a Webinar this year.
* Elementary schools should consider a PTA presence at Kindergarten registration.

**Membership** *– Erin Eaton*

Changes in membership awards...Seedling & Sapling will not be offered this year. Silver and Gold level awards have been modified to be year-long now.  Currently have 14,827 members. That is 123 members away from meeting goal for the year. Sunny Hills just hit Platinum...Gold includes Sunny Hills... and Issaquah High.  If each school in the district brought in six new members we would reach goal.

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

Presidents were asked to make sure their Art Docents are forwarded information about monthly training sessions.

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

The next, “What Every Parent Wants to Know About the American School System” will be June 9, at Apollo at 6:30 pm. Two kindergarten registrations next week at Clark and IVE. If schools want help, please let them know. A Transition event for middle school will be held as a pilot at IMS.

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

The first State of Mind conference had a great turn out. The next one will be at Liberty HS March 11 . Keynote speaker will be Dr. Natalie Goodwin of the Eating Recovery Center of Washington. There will be 12 sessions. 11:30 until 4:30. Adults and students welcome.

**Issaquah Schools Foundation (ISF)** *– Lisa Small for Valerie Yanni*

Nourish Every Mind Luncheon will be held May 11th and the Breakfast will be held May 17. In honor of the 30th anniversary of ISF, the luncheon will be held at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue. It will be underwritten by a corporate sponsor. Thank you for supporting Dining for Kids. The next one is March 1 at The Gas Lamp in Issaquah.

**Outreach** *– Kim Weiss*

Thank you for support of Lunch for the Break. Donations garnered boxes in the mid 300s. The Issaquah Library is piloting a new community resource fair. More information in the Agenda Notes.

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

February 28 - John O’Sullivan
April 25 - Jessica Lahey Gift of Failure
Encourage people to sign up for seminars. The second quarterly Parent Ed meeting is tonight. Please send representation from your school and include feedback on new ParentWiser program.

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

Leah Gibson requests co-chair for next year as Yvette Blauvelt will not be returning.

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

Carrie Hipsher will be meeting with chairs. Not all schools have chairs, so need more. She will collect information on what is being done and will share with all schools. A survey has gone out to parents through special education teachers looking for feedback on needs.

**VIS** *– Dawn Peschek*

No report.

**Webmaster** *– Cindy Kelm*

No report.

**District Updates –** *Ron Thiele, Superintendent*

Discussed topics surrounding weather issues. The District has one snow plow and no option for snow removal. Thanked city partners for clearing main roads. We are no pushed into 3rd week of June for last day of school. Shout out to custodial staff for extra work. Issaquah first school in greater Puget Sound region to cancel. Safety is first priority in determining whether school in session or not or delay or not. Built in Memorial Day went away when two non-students staff days were added.

A few meetings ago it was asked why parents cannot update their own emergency contact information. Ron Thiele investigated and found it creates duplicates in the system when there are similar entries created. For now, staff must make the changes to avoid the duplicates and to ensure data is accurate, also avoiding making their data base huge. They are looking at new software and maybe down the road may be more user friendly.

January 30 was staff training day focusing on Cultural competency work. Principals leading staff through exercises....Caprice Hollands gave keynote. Kids of color interviewed for their experiences within the district and video was shared with staff. Exit survey included feedback from 700 teachers, who responded that the training helped them think more deeply about students. 94.9 percent of teachers agree the training is helpful. Cultural Competency is challenging work but rewarding. The district is made up of primarily white leadership, so it is important that those making decisions understand cultural differences. The staff within the district is being encouraged not to ignore issues, but to address them.

The district is fully engaged in planning for next year.  Kindergarten registration is happening now. Encourage parents to get registered early. Hardest class to predict is KG.

The district has been down in Olympia lobbying for Education. They brought four senior high schoolers. Discussing levy cliff, looking at three school funding plans, monitoring current info and determining what impact will be on our district.

Currently holding interviews and hiring for next year.

High School Seniors will have to have some sort of make-up day as below state requirement for yearly hours. Will mainly affect students who are low on their attendance hours.

***Questions from the Floor:***

Providence Point update...40 acre site for potential high school and elementary. There is a hearing coming up in February about landmark status. Still optimistic we may be able to acquire property but will take time. City Church is current owner. The district is in negotiations with other properties. If all go through, we would have land for all new 4 schools. Sunset remodel and remodel of Pine Lake and Cougar Ridge will begin.

Concern brought up from attendee about hate crimes...it was suggested that Cultural Competency include different faith and cultural differences. It was suggested there be workshops for kids to learn about differences. Teach kids to be kind and respectful of other religions and cultures. The district is focusing on adults first and then bringing training to kid level at specific schools when needed. It is against the law for the district to ask about immigration status. Culture of Kindness is focus of the District. If there are issues, communicate thru teacher, principal and on up.

Suggestion from attendee for more unified message from district when there could be suspected tensions within schools. Some discussion about holding more educational assemblies, but Ron Thiele clarified that
effectiveness of assembly education is not good. So they choose this approach carefully.

Meeting adjourned: Adjourned 11:42 am.

Submitted by:

Leslie Kahler

Secretary, Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6

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