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**DRAFT MINUTES**

Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Issaquah School District Admin Bldg

9:30-11:30am

***Call to Order***

Call to order 9:33 a.m. 42 people signed in; 19 of 24 schools were represented. Proper meeting notice was given. **Quorum present.**

**District Visitor – Cindy Schwinden and Tricia Romo, Facilities Scheduling**

Cindy Schwinden will retire after June 20th and Tricia Romo will be her replacement. Cindy said thank you to all schools that have turned in their facilities forms. Four schools still need to turn in forms. All forms should include a contact name, email and phone number. If requesting a custodian, a three-hour minimum is required. Any use of a school kitchen requires the use of a Kitchen Tech. Becky Gordon presented flowers to Cindy and Tricia.

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

* After the meeting, “Managing Your Non Profit PTA” training begins at 11:30.
* Becky Gordon expressed appreciation to Kimberly Nocco for her work on the recent luncheon, Kym Clayton for selecting the game and Leah Gibson for shopping for Council’s contribution to the luncheon.
* Council officer names have been sent to Washington State PTA as required.  
  Local units should submit next year’s information to PT Avenue by June 30th or fines may be assessed as late fee. There is help available to avoid the fines.
* Issaquah Awards will be posted on the Council web site.
* National PTA School of Excellence will be on Facebook live June 15th at 3 pm. There is additional information on the National PTA web site.
* For next year’s Council meetings, the district office is not available for all dates. If there are any other room options available, please let us know.
* The new PTA Region 2 Director, Mindy Lincicome will begin June 1st.
* The Fall PTA training will be August 22nd in the evening. Location to be determined.
* A thank you was received from Echo Glen for their luncheon.
* The 2017 ACT graduation will be held June 15th. Let Becky know if you would like to attend with her.

**Minutes** – *Leslie Kahler*

May 18, 2017 GM meeting minutes were distributed and reviewed; filed as presented. Leslie Kahler thanked Korista Smith-Barney for filling in for her in May, and reminded presidents that an email has gone out asking for their new officers and chairs, due back to Leslie by June 15th. She added a watermark and word DRAFT to minutes that are being reviewed today; posted copy does not show this. Leslie Kahler also mentioned that Cindy Kelm will be available to begin posting to the web site again starting Sunday or Monday.

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

May 2017 Financial Report was distributed and reviewed. Beginning balance was $21,064.38 and ending balance was $19,623.39. All reimbursements are due this week. The financial audit committee needs to meet in July. Erin Thacker will take the lead on scheduling this.

There will be a vacancy in the VP of elementary North position next year. Care Maree Harper has just given notice of resignation and will send official written notice (included in minutes after the fact). Let Becky Gordon or Leslie Kahler know if you are interested. Nominee can be appointed over the Summer and officially elected in the Fall.

Becky Gordon asked for feedback on the regular agenda and asked if attendees understand that the number in parenthesis after the chair names indicates the number of minutes the chair has asked for to give her report.

Becky Gordon shared the following results from the End of the Year Survey: 33 surveys were returned.

There may be some disinterest in breakout sessions. Due to this, Council will make sure they are useful and not have just to have them.

It was suggested that bi-monthly meetings be held for Council rather than once monthly meetings. A survey was sent out to gauge interest. 16 responded in favor, 13 responded no, and 10 had no opinion. The Council Board discussed this option and decided in response to desire for fewer meetings to drop the December and June meetings and offer optional training instead. Some comments indicated the meetings are long, but review of the minutes show that most meetings are two hours or less. The board feels that face to face meetings is important but will look for ways to shorten what is reported. This will be an open and ongoing discussion. Send any ideas to Becky Gordon or Leslie Kahler. It was clarified that any school can send a PTA member in the place of the president. Only voting delegates may vote, but a member may represent the school. The school’s standing rules should indicate who voting delegates are. Voting delegate names are submitted to the secretary in the fall if you need to check on yours. Council meetings will still aim for the second Thursday of each month except in the case of holiday, school break or other school related reason to change. September 14th will be the first GMM. Presidents will receive the dates for all meetings next year very soon.

Concern was expressed about email overload from all over the community.

A request to send reminders out via text rather than email was presented. It was decided to ask Cindy Kelm to review and report back. Becky Gordon reported that using an online source for listing resources is being reviewed rather than developing a Facebook source is being explored. It was asked that all group emails being sent out, list the addresses in the BCC line rather than the TO line. When listed in the TO line, every recipient shows up on phones and must be scrolled through to get to the body of the email.

Becky Gordon has the charms that were given out as gifts at the May General Membership meeting if anyone didn’t get one.

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

*No report.*

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

Alisa George reported that now is the time to:

Acknowledge volunteers  
Confirm membership approved interim budget  
Confirm Financial review and date  
Get information shared in online back to school registration ready to go

A Best Practices Chair is needed for next year.

**Advocacy** – *Korista Smith-Barney*

HB 1046 removes three high stakes assessment requirements required for graduation. WA State PTA is behind it and wants us to get behind it. An Advocacy Chair is needed for next year.

**Membership** *– Erin Eaton*

Membership is now at 15,999 members. A membership chair is needed for next year.

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

No report.

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

“What Every Parent Wants to Know About the Issaquah School District ” will be held June 9th at Apollo at 6:30 pm. Multiple languages available for flyers.

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

No report.

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

No report.

**Outreach** *– Kim Weiss*

Thank you for support this year. See the Agenda Notes for more information on Class Packs for Tools 4 Schools, and food bank summer lunch program. Healthy Youth Initiative 13th on the 15th, documentary on racism and incarceration.

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

No report.

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

No report.

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

A job description has been created for Special Ed reps. Carrie Hipscher reports that all schools should be represented by a parent ed rep. She suggested talking to your principal if trouble finding one.

**VIS** *– Dawn Peschek*

The Issaquah School District Levy Committee met for the 3rd time on May 31st. The district shared information about the Capital Levy which included details on what Technology items and upgrades are proposed as part of the 2018 Levy package. There was also a discussion about adding lighting to the Maywood Middle School Field.  The committee went over the entire 3 part total package - M&O Levy rates, Transportation and Technology (Capital) Levy and approved the entire package as a whole. The information now goes back to Superintendent Ron Thiele, who will present the final package to the school board for final approval to run a Levy in 2018.

**Webmaster** *– Cindy Kelm*

No report.

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

#### Monday, June 12th is graduation at Safeco Field, Issaquah then Liberty then Skyline. There will be 1300 students graduating. Ron Thiele reiterated comments about proposed changes in mandatory testing. He has mixed feelings about the Bill, but feels strongly that there are issues with the science assessment. He believes it is not appropriate because it does not address current teaching methods. He also stated that the Smarter Balanced test should be held in the sophomore year rather than the junior year to allow more time for corrections before graduation. He has made his positions clear to legislators. In our district, students who meet all credit requirements are able to walk at graduation, even if the state testing results are not back in time. There are a very small number of students who don’t pass the test, and normally they are also credit deficient. Issaquah has a 90 to 92 percent graduation rate, which is one of the highest in the state and across the nation. Drop out and attendance rates tend to follow demographics.

#### The ACT graduation, students 18-21 program, will be June 15th in the Administration Building.

#### New bell times will begin Sept 1. Families should receive bus schedule post card, which will be mailed out August 21. This schedule is for first week of school only and may be adjusted after the first week. Families should be aware times may be different than prior years.

#### Secondary grading project is underway. Changes in grading, such as accepting late work and moving away from zeroes as a grade are to change the culture in the district and build on the idea of these as being best practice. The new guidelines will be more forgiving and offer better data on proficiency. The guiding principles will be on the web site.

#### The district is field testing two math curriculums for algebra 1, 2 and geometry. Plan for adoption in 2018-19 school year. Now that laws have changed for how schools can donate leftover food, the district will pilot a food sharing program in corridor schools. Re-usable foods will be pulled aside for donating to local food bank.

#### Reviewing possibility of offering a dual language program within the district. Students would be immersed in an English/Spanish or English/Mandarin classroom. Students would be proficient in the langue at the end of program.

#### The district is reaching out to preschools in the community to ensure students are kindergarten ready. Most students in our district come to school prepared. Early intervention can help prevent graduation issues later. The district has a Pre-K Summer program that ensures kids enter kindergarten ready.

#### The Levy committee did excellent work. There were robust discussions about how to come to solutions when the legislators are still struggling to come to decisions and find compromises.

#### The Pine Lake Middle rebuild is under way. The expansion of Sunset and Cougar Ridge will begin soon. Clark will be packed up and come down so field and track may be added and parking drop off Issaquah Middle. The district has sold two pieces of property and is working on property acquisitions for new buildings. The School Board is considering repurposing funds from the 2016 bond, such as considering a new building for the administration office and turning the current admin site into a new school. This option could save the district millions.

#### A question was asked about bus stop times. If a bus comes earlier than five minutes to the stop are they to wait and for scheduled time to leave stop. The answer was yes.

#### It was pointed out the Wednesday bus information is not on district web site. The Wednesday schedule may come up in bargaining negotiations. Ron is not in support of making changes to the Wednesday schedule next year. In the following year possibly, but wants to give enough notice to families and not make additional changes beyond the bell schedule change. June 30 is the hopeful deadline for legislators to respond with budgeting plan. After that there can be concerns about making payroll. Issaquah has 40 days in back up. The Governor has to sign off on the legislative plan and then there would need to be time for the courts to review the plan. School Districts have to figure out what results will mean. Ron is concerned about potential disruptive start to school depending on how this plays out. Ron's goal is to hold school no matter what. But there may be some rough patches. This will be settled in time. Ron Thiele is sharing an article with staff that focuses on the positive effects on students when you promote kindness. This fits with his Culture of Kindness focus. Becky Gordon thanked Ron for his attendance this year. Becky Gordon thanked everyone for their support this year. Meeting adjourned: Adjourned 11:06 am.

Submitted by:

Leslie Kahler

Secretary, Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6

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