

# ISSAQUAH PTSA COUNCIL

*Advocating and Supporting our Schools & Community*

**2.6**

## **Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6 Council General Membership Meeting October 28, 2021 9:30 AM – Via Zoom Meeting**

### **Call to Order**

- Meeting called to order at 9:33 AM, on October 28, 2021.
- 35 members were in attendance: Superintendent Ron Thiele, Kristen Allen Bentsen, Cornell Atwater, Lauren Bartholomew, Jillian Born, Derona Burkholder, Laura Burnett, Julie Chang, Hannah Colbenz, Laila Collins, Dana Cosgrove, Wendy Cummins, Angela Dahrea, Erin Eaton, Cortney Eldridge, Qibo Fan, Tara Farhead, Joana Figueiredo, Minal Ghassemish, Betsy Grant, Laurell Graves, Kristi Hammond, Jen Marks, Karissa Mobilia, Katie Moeller, Nicole Morgan, Laura Ni, Tiffany Parker, Dawn Pesheck, Elysa Piha, Stephanie Shipley, Korista Smith-Barney, Stephanie Scott, Janell Tamaela, Pauline Tamblyn, Mary Vickers, Suzanne Weaver, Abby White, Kim Wilkinson, Eve Yen, Tracie Jones.
- Proper meeting notice given; quorum present.

### **President's Welcome and Introductions**

Lauren Bartholomew

- Lauren Bartholomew welcomed everyone in attendance to start meeting.
- Schedule Change: Cornell Atwater will follow Consent Agenda, with ISF presentation.

### **Consent Agenda**

Lauren Bartholomew

- Consent Agenda included the following documents:
  - September 2021 Meeting Minutes
  - September 2021 Financial Report

### **Issaquah Schools Foundation**

Cornell Atwater, ISF Executive Director

- Cornell Atwater introduced herself, along with Janelle Tamaela, ISF Board President.
- Cornell Atwater provided contact information, promoting open communications throughout ISD.
- ISF strives to deliver consistent messaging, furthering all ISD partners.
  - Issaquah Schools Foundation and Issaquah PTSA Council = encouraging all ISD students.
- Differences between ISF and Issaquah Council PTSA?
  - ISF drives resources directly supporting district-wide student programs, working with all schools.
  - Issaquah PTSA Council provides umbrella support to unit PTSA/PTAs working in all schools, encouraging the educational, health, welfare, and safety of ISD students.
- Community Partners: Cultural Bridges, Eastside Baby Corner, Issaquah Chamber of Commerce, Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank, City of Issaquah, ParentWiser, Issaquah Rotary Club.
- 18,000+ ISD students, with decline in enrollment, over past few years.
  - Decreased funding from WA State creates gap between current budget and state funding.
  - 2022 Levy renewal will appear on next year's ballot.
  - Communications between ISD, ISF, and Council critical to maximize shared resources.
  - Creates inequity.
- "Friend-raising" nurtures relationships using associations, conversations to build upon future connections.
  - Monster Mash 5K, Nourish Every Mind.

- Goal: Funding current-level programs, identifying innovation, while continuing growth & development.
  - Art Docent program funding provides for teachers, volunteer trainings, and resources.
  - ParentWiser supports academics, behavioral and mental health, using timely topics, speaker-based presentations.
  - Cultural Bridges translates informative magazine and ISD documents into 7 different languages, growing in response with diverse community.
  - Necessary to develop Equity Training and Racial Trauma Training.
  - Additionally, continue supplementing Nurses Funds, Tools for Schools, Before School Breakfasts.
  - ISF provides dedicated funds where budget shortfalls occur.
- Tremendous overlap between ISF and Issaquah PTSA Council.
  - "10% do 90% of the work."
- Thank you.

**Business**

**Secretary**

Tracie Jones

- September Minutes filed as presented.

**Treasurer**

Pauline Tamblyn

- September Financials filed as presented. No new information or changes.
- Reminder: 2021-22 Council dues reduced to \$50 this year, requesting payment.
- Reminder: AIM Insurance to be paid, and certificate copy sent to Council Treasurer.
- Reminder: 990 tax forms due, send copy to Council Treasurer.

**President's Report**

Lauren Bartholomew

- Council Outreach, Membership, VP-Elementary Schools - South are open positions.
- NEW: Principals and Presidents Meetings.
  - Working with Susan Mandell, ISD Executive Director of Elementary Education.
  - November roll-out; email from Issaquah PTSA Council President with further information.
  - Program provides regularly scheduled, monthly meetings with Principals, for one hour.
  - Starting with Elementary Principals and PTSA/PTAs; Middle and High Schools to follow.
  - Rebuilding connections and transparency to create stronger community.
    - In-person or virtual meetings dependent on building Principal.
- NEW Schedule Change: Open floor for unit representatives to ask VPs and Council questions.

**Vice Presidents**

Wendy Cummins, Erin Eaton, Nicole Morgan

- NEW: Unit Representatives: Question and Answer Session.
  - Volunteer approval?
    - Issaquah PTSA Council President will follow-up with Superintendent Thiele.
    - ISD provided schools with strict guidelines, following local and state mandates.
    - Currently, building Principal decides who/why to approve.
    - PTSA/PTAs are encouraged to proactively initiate conversations with building Principals.
    - Each school is different, and individual decisions are based on school need.
  - Cougar Mountain Middle School recently received 501(c)3 Non-profit Organization Status.
    - Reminder: Council requests each unit PTSA/PTA donate \$250 to new ISD PTSAs.
  - Membership Drives ideas and suggestions?
    - Use ParentWiser to show benefits of joining PTSA, but also savings with \$10 admission fees.
    - Letters to families.
    - Gift card raffles.
    - Building positivity in messaging.
    - Competitions between classrooms – Elementary.
    - Teacher and school-wide grants.
    - Quotes from teachers and administrators.
  - Comparing memberships across Issaquah PTSA Council?
    - Issaquah PTSA Council usually among higher percentage PTSA/PTAs in WA State.
    - Tricky comparing different, diverse building populations and sizes of schools.
    - Very challenging past two years, and still struggling to recover.

- Point of Pride: Grand Ridge PTSA's Virtual Arts Program.
  - PTSA created monthly power point art projects for all grades – Virtual Art Docents.
  - Low-lift for teachers, as everything readied for projects.
  - Tremendous undertaking by GR PTSA volunteers.
- Point of Pride: Briarwood PTSA hosting first family community night at local pumpkin patch.
- Point of Pride: Sunset PTSA hosting annual fundraiser/auction, due to volunteer support.
- Recruiting VP Elementary Schools - South.

### **Best Practices**

Nicole Morgan

- October – November 2021 Standards of Affiliation, different from Standards of Excellence.
- Reminder: All elected BOD Members must attend one training class, and provide training record.
  - WA State PTA has upcoming online training sessions in all areas.
- Nomination Committee training session – Committee recruitment in November.
- One unit BOD Member must attend “PTA and the Law” each year. Monthly sessions offered.
- Spring Convention counts as mandatory training credit for following year.
- Reminder: 990 forms and AIM Insurance – send copies to Council Treasurer, Pauline Tamblyn.

### **Standing Committees**

#### **Advocacy**

Cortney Eldridge

- Candidate Forum presented on October 18, 2021.
  - Well attended, receiving positive responses.
  - Thank you to volunteers for supporting Candidate Forum, community event.
  - Soliciting feedback through follow-up survey.
- WA State Legislative Assembly took place last month.
  - Review of 2020-2022 Legislative Priorities.

#### **Art Docent**

Laurelle Graves

- Coordination meeting with Karen Harmon, ISD Coordinator.
- Art Docent program not allowed at schools until King County - ISD move into Phase II.

#### **FACE**

Alicia Spinner

- FACE Chairs monthly meetings.
  - Role within schools, ISD Equity training, learning about communities.
- Several open FACE Chair positions throughout ISD.

#### **Membership**

- No report.

#### **Outreach**

Lauren Bartholomew

- Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank needs volunteers
- Holiday Gift Card Program collection begins November.
- PowerPacks coordinated with school counselors and administration.

#### **ParentWiser**

Hannah Colbenz

- “Building Resilience and Positive Coping Skills”, with Dr. Laura Kastner, October 13, 2021.
  - 400 registrants.
- November 18, 2021 next presentation.
  - “What Do You Say?”, with William Stixrud, PhD & Ned Johnson.
- Request: Continue advertising through eNews and email, as main driver of information.
- ParentWiser resources listed on website, password protected.

#### **Special Education**

Betsy Grant

- Current Webinar details ISD recovery services and IEP meetings.

## Website & Communications

Laura Ni

- No report.

## Ad Hoc Committees

### Influence the Choice

Katie Moeller

- TECH – “Teens Encouraging Community Health” youth group recruiting students.
  - Empowering students, small but mighty, voice for good.
- Hired Marnie Maraldo as new Executive Director.
- Montana Institute providing community training December 9, 2021, and all welcome.
  - Positive community norms and science of positivity.

### Issaquah Schools Foundation

Laila Collins

- No report – Preceding presentation by Cornell Atwater, ISF Executive Director.

### Reflections

Kristen Allen-Bentsen & Heather Bratton

- All Reflections due to ISD Committee 11.15.21.
- No contact, car drop-off scheduled for submitting work to ISD competition.
- Issaquah Arts Council granted funds for new showcase grids.
  - Thank you to Heather Bratton for working on awarded application.

### Safety

Laurelle Graves

- No new information to report.

### Volunteers for Issaquah Schools (VIS)

Dawn Peschek

- “VIS is a 501(c)4 non-profit, made-up of volunteers who run campaigns to pass levies and bonds for the Issaquah School District. VIS is not part of the district administration, and is a completely separate group. The Passage of Levies and Bonds benefits every student in every seat in our entire school district.”
- “Volunteers for Issaquah Schools has been running levy and bond campaigns for the Issaquah School District for over 25 years.”
- “What is VIS? document is posted under Meeting Documents on the Council website.”
- “Levy Development Committee (made up of community representatives) will meet Dec 2, Dec 14, Jan 6, Jan 18 and Jan 25 to review the springboard proposal for the renewal levy. To continue to fund the programs we have now in our schools funded by the levy, the renewal levy will need to be approved by voters sometime in 2022. Levies require a 50% + 1 majority vote to pass”
- ISD Levy renewal proposal for April or August 2022.
  - Current Levy expires December 31, 2022.
  - Current Levy funds mental health counselors, nurses, special education, early learning, expanded high school schedules, all extra-curricular activities, clubs, and sports.
- Requesting line-item donations from unit PTSA/PTAs.
  - Donations may be sent to PO Box 1401, Issaquah, WA 98027.
- VIS explained importance of holding VIS as line-item on PTA budgets.
  - “VIS does not ask for donations directly from your membership, instead asks PTAs to please keep the line item on their budget.”
- VIS is very grateful for all donations to help pass ISD levies and bonds.

### Issaquah School District Updates

Superintendent Ron Thiele

- ISD is thankful, with sincere appreciation, for all hard-working teachers, students, families.
- Updated ISD COVID-19 Data Dashboard, expanding categories and data.
- 97.5% of ISD staff are vaccinated; 2.5% are unvaccinated; 4,340+/- ISD staff members.
  - Unvaccinated staff members are regularly tested, and reassigned to promote mitigation and safety.
- ISD and Costco vaccination clinic for 5–11 year-olds early November roll-out, after Department of Health (DOH) approvals.
  - Parents will receive ISD email to register for appointments, held at ISD Administration Building.
  - After-school, weekend appointments, through November and December, scheduling both shots.

- Requesting community volunteers, in ISF partnership.
- Child-forward, age appropriate, positive environment, working with younger children.
- Martin Turley heading-up for ISD.
- Recognize Elementary Conferences conflict, but direction given by WA State and DOH.
- Prioritizing kids' emotional health, going through clinics.
- 600,000 shots ordered by WA State.
- Slower roll-out due to younger age group, and many families prefer personal pediatrician.
- Return to Learn – In-school rapid antigen testing available in all schools.
  - 10–15 minute test results on site; approved by King County and DOH.
- Unvaccinated student in close contact with possible outbreak cases must complete at-school testing, through 9-day cycle, to remain in school.
  - Parents/guardian must authorize agreement.
- Nationwide shortage of rapid-antigen tests; ISD will offer testing as long as tests are available.
- ISD School Board requested Levy Proposal shifted timeline: April or August 2022.
  - Looking for ISD Levy Committee volunteers, providing input on ballot proposal.
    - Contact building Principals.
    - Different from VIS.
- Looking for Volunteers to support non-profit VIS organization, in promoting 2022 Levy renewal.
- ISD - WA State Testing taking place this year, previously canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions.
  - Goal: Identify, address, and improve deficits across all subject matters.
    - i-Ready Assessment creates personalized pathway of instruction called "My Path"
    - ISD Supporting Student Learning at Home, i-Ready Webinar, 11.10.21
- Volunteer opportunities.
  - Opening at certain schools for specific, extended programs.
  - Challenging to process all volunteer applications, including vaccination exemptions.
  - To date, ISD has approved 522 volunteer applications.
  - Moving from Phase I to Phase II determines when volunteer approvals move forward.
  - Following DOH, King County guidelines and timelines.
- ISD hiring paraprofessionals, custodians, office staff.
  - 40 open paraprofessional positions.
  - Recently hired 60 certificated substitutes.
- Special Education – IEP Recovery Services
  - 1,600 IEPs across ISD; approximately 10% of population.
  - Individual family meetings to address appropriate recovery services.
  - Student Recovery Services take place outside school hours, not impacting current studies.
- Ongoing ISD supply chain issues.
  - Food services and deliveries.
  - Capital projects construction materials.
- October 25, 2021 wind storm caused power outages throughout ISD.
  - Issaquah High School, Gibson Ek High School, Issaquah Middle School, Clark Elementary School were impacted, canceling classes; no make-up day required.
  - When in doubt: ISD website, Remind text alert, individual school website, email alert.
  - District E-news sends updates on inclement weather schedule changes.
  - Bus riders, "Find Your Bus Route" webpage for emergency snow routes.
  - Emergency Transportation Bulletin online.
- ISD High School Graduation.
  - Possibly June 9, 2022, at T-Mobile Park; still working through details.

### **New Business**

Lauren Bartholomew

- After meeting, unit representatives invited to join break-out rooms led by VPs, supporting individual PTSA/PTA leaders, promoting engagement, possibly scheduling individual/group monthly meetings.
- Thank you. Look forward to seeing everyone at *next meeting, January 27, 2022.*

**Meeting adjourned at 11:31 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Tracie Jones  
Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6, Secretary

## Addendum

Attachments: IssaquahPTSA.org – Meeting Documents:

October Agenda  
September 2021 Meeting Minutes and Financials  
Best Practices: October and November SOA Guidelines  
ISF 2022 - Overview  
What is VIS? Volunteers for Issaquah Schools  
WA State PTA Legislative Guidelines  
PTA: Taking Ballot Positions  
2020-2022 WA State Legislative Platform

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### 2021-22 Issaquah PTSA Council

#### Executive Council Committee:

Lauren Bartholomew, President  
[president@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:president@issaquahptsa.org)

Tracie Jones, Secretary  
[secretary@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:secretary@issaquahptsa.org)

Pauline Tamblyn, Treasurer  
[treasurer@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:treasurer@issaquahptsa.org)

Wendy Cummins, Vice President of Middle & High Schools  
[vp-middle@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:vp-middle@issaquahptsa.org) & [vp-high@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:vp-high@issaquahptsa.org)  
Middle Schools: Beaver Lake, Cougar Mountain, Issaquah, Maywood, Pacific Cascade, Pine Lake  
High Schools: Gibson Ek, Issaquah High, Liberty, Skyline

*OPEN POSITION:* Vice President of Elementary Schools – South District  
[vp-el-south@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:vp-el-south@issaquahptsa.org)  
South Elementaries: Apollo, Briarwood, Maple Hills, Newcastle

Erin Eaton, Vice President of Elementary Schools – North District  
[vp-el-north@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:vp-el-north@issaquahptsa.org)  
North: Cascade Ridge, Cedar Trails, Challenger, Creekside, Discovery, Endeavour, Sunny Hills

Nicole Morgan, Vice President of Elementary Schools – Central District  
[vp-el-central@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:vp-el-central@issaquahptsa.org)  
Central: Clark, Cougar Ridge, Grand Ridge, Issaquah Valley, Sunset North

#### Standing Council Committees:

Cortney Eldridge - Advocacy & Legislation  
[advocacy@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:advocacy@issaquahptsa.org)

Laurelle Graves - Art Docent Program  
[artdocent@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:artdocent@issaquahptsa.org)

Alicia Spinner = Family & Community Engagement  
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Laura Ni - Website & Communications  
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#### Ad Hoc Council Committees:

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Laila Collins - Issaquah Schools Foundation  
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Kristen Allen-Bentsen, Heather Bratton - Reflections ISD  
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Laurelle Graves - Safety Committee  
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