

# ISSAQUAH PTSA COUNCIL

*Advocating and Supporting our Schools & Community*

**2.6**

## **Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6 Council General Membership Meeting January 27, 2022 9:30 AM – Via Zoom Meeting**

### **Call to Order**

- Meeting called to order at 9:31 AM, on January 27, 2022.
- 40 community and Membership members were in attendance: Superintendent Ron Thiele, Lauren Bartholomew, Angela Dahrea, 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, Lorna Gilmore, Laurelle Graves, Kristi Hammond, Jen Marks, Katie Moeller, Nicole Morgan, Laura Ni, Tiffany Parker, Dawn Pesheck, Elysa Piha, Sharon Roy, Stephanie Scott, Stephanie Shipley, Korista Smith-Barney, Alicia Spinner, Pauline Tamblyn, Mary Vickers, Suzanne Weaver, Kim Wilkinson, Meng Yang, Eve Yen, and Tracie Jones.
- Proper meeting notice given; quorum present.

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

Lauren Bartholomew

- Lauren Bartholomew welcomed everyone in attendance to start meeting.

### **Consent Agenda**

Lauren Bartholomew

- Consent Agenda included following documents, with Motions approved:
  - November 2021 Meeting Minutes
  - November and December 2021, July to December 2021 Financial Reports

### **Issaquah School District Board Report**

Suzanne Weaver, ISD Board Member – District #5

- The ISD School Board profusely thanks Superintendent Ron Thiele for his years of service and dedication.
- Active search underway to narrow ideal candidates for new 2022-23 ISD Superintendent.
- Applications open to all.
- ISD Board of Directors selected McPherson & Jacobson to lead the Executive Recruitment Search.
  - [McPherson & Jacobson LLC | Executive Recruitment & Development \(macnjake.com\)](http://macnjake.com)
  - 11725 Arbor Street, Suite 220, Omaha, Nebraska 68144
- ISD School Board have Executive Recruitment Firm post position for 8 weeks.
- Utilizing ISD stakeholders and community input to help guide search, listening to our community.
- ISD School Board will open public survey in February, better providing more community opportunities for input, assisting ISD School Board, McPherson & Jacobson processes in mapping desired characteristics, values important to those stakeholders for next ISD Superintendent.

- End of February, survey results will be announced.
- End of March, McPherson & Jacobson will narrow Superintendent applications and interviews (videos) to ten primary candidates, provided to ISD Board.
- During an ISD School Board Executive Session, Board Members will review primary candidates, video presentations and interviews, along with background checks.
- ISD School Board will then narrow candidates down to 2-3 top contenders, and provide public with final recommendations.
- ISD School Board will create multiple opportunities for community engagement, conversation, focused on “meeting” the three candidates.
- Hopefully, ISD School Board will announce finalized decision by end of March 2022

## **Business**

### **Secretary**

Tracie Jones

- November 2021 Minutes filed as presented.

### **Treasurer**

Pauline Tamblyn

- November 2021 Financials, December 2021 Financials, July - December 2021 Financials filed as presented. No new information or changes.

### **President’s Report**

Lauren Bartholomew

- Working with Susan Mandell, ISD Executive Director of Elementary Education.
  - Waiting for guidance around extra-curricular, after school, PTSA programs and direct involvement within elementary classrooms and schools.
  - Official guidelines, checklists from ISD to soon follow.
- Region #2 Training, 2.14.22: Managing Your Non-profit PTA.
- Updated PTA website access codes. Information to follow.
- WA State PTA Unit Membership Awards applications open until Mid-March 2022.
- Nominating Committee is currently looking for 2022-23 Council Leadership.
  - Region 2 Training for Unit Nominating Committees – February 4, and February 17, 2022.
  - Trying to cast larger net, across entire Issaquah PTSA Council, looking for larger geographical representation.
  - Looking for additional volunteers to join Council PTSA Nominating Committee.
    - Contact Lauren Bartholomew for further information.

### **Volunteers for Issaquah Schools (VIS)**

Dawn Peschek

- Levy Committee Report and Recommendations presented at tonight's ISD Board Meeting.
  - Board of Directors will have Work Study scheduled during tonight's Board Meeting.
  - Public Comment will be presented from voices across district.
- VIS swag for Unit PTSA distribution may be collected today at Tutta Bella parking lot, from 12:30-2:00 PM.
  - Questions, text Dawn Peschek.
- VIS new website, same email address.
  - [Volunteers for Issaquah Schools – Bond & Levy Campaigns for Issaquah Schools \(visvote.org\)](http://visvote.org).
  - Same information may be found using categorical tabs.
  - Sample Unit Endorsements scripts available on website.
    - Encourage your Unit PTSA to endorse VIS.
      - After Levy officially adopted by School Board.
  - Levy information, communications, videos, land acquisition.
  - Powerpoints available for Unit presentations, information, graphics, overview.

- Issaquah PTSA Presidents directly received VIS updates, documents, graphics overviews, detailing relevant data to better inform collective PTSA community, as well as legal disclosures information.
  - Share and update accordingly, bi-monthly email updates.
  - Important document for all PTSA Presidents Public Disclosure Commission: Guidelines for PTSA Campaign Rules.
    - Document emailed to all PTSA Presidents, and found on Issaquah PTSA Council Website.
- Upcoming VIS Speaker Series, providing ISD Board Members to directly discuss upcoming April Levy with individual Unit memberships.
  - Contact Dawn Peshek to schedule ISD Board Speaker.
    - [volunteersforissaquahschools@gmail.com](mailto:volunteersforissaquahschools@gmail.com).
- Upcoming Honk and Waves being scheduled; stay tuned for details.
- Presidents: identify VIS representative or contact for each Unit PTSA.
- Yard Signs available in February and March.
- Great VIS volunteer opportunities for middle and high school students.
- Thank you to our generous community for all donations.
  - Thank you to those Units who budgeted donations.
- Welcome donations to support Levy Campaign.
- Example website for information presentation, incorporating all emailed components.
  - Liberty High PTSA ([LibertyHighPTSA.com](http://LibertyHighPTSA.com)).
- VIS Postcard Distribution, beginning of March 2022.
  - Unit PTSAs will be forwarded further guidelines and instructions.
  - Procedural, legal processes, as Council applies for bulk postal rates, and following ISD, State, and local Levy protocols.
  - Contact Dawn Peschek immediately if issues arise.

**Vice Presidents**

Wendy Cummins, Erin Eaton, Nicole Morgan

- No Reports.

**Best Practices**

Nicole Morgan

- January SOE.

**Standing Committees**

**Advocacy**

Cortney Eldridge

- Celebrating 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the PTA.
- February 2, 1897 – Council of Mothers.
- National Days of Service to commemorate.
- PTA 5 Year Strategic Plan – Goals and Advocacy (Council Website Meeting Documents found on Issaquah PTSA Council Website).
  - [www.pta.org/docs/default-source/files/why-pta/governance/strategic-plan-web.pdf](http://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/files/why-pta/governance/strategic-plan-web.pdf)

**Art Docent**

Laurelle Graves

- Coordination meeting with Karen Harmon, ISD Coordinator.
- ISD Administrative Meeting February 3, 2022.
- Stay tuned.

**FACE**

Alicia Spinner

- Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank looking for support throughout winter season.
  - Still working with COVID processes in place, creating challenges for many families.
- Consider using PTSA energy funds, support for ISD LRC Programs.

- Working to share information through ISD PTSA's FACE representatives and ISD organizations, programs.
- Coordination with guest speakers, Lorna Gilmore and Sharon Roy, EL-16.
  - Both PowerPoints on Council website.

### **Outreach**

Angela Dahrea

- Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank Lunch for the Break Registration.
- Introductory email to all Unit Presidents and Council representatives.

### **ParentWiser**

Hannah Colbenz

- February 16, 2022 presentation: An Updated Perspective on Tech Usage; Dr. Devorah Heitner, PhD.
- April 5, 2022 presentation discussing teen decision making.
- Spring Survey – welcome suggestions from Council community.

### **Special Education**

Betsy Grant

- Current Webinar details ISD recovery services.
- Upcoming Webinar to discuss multi-tiered services.
- Special Education monthly meetings resume in February.

### **Website & Communications**

Laura Ni

- Council and Unit Volunteer Awards **Links** currently available.
  - Links for Golden Acorn, Outstanding Advocate, Outstanding Educator are the traditional three Volunteer Awards offered through Council PTSA.
  - Additional Awards categories may include Lifetime Achievement.
  - Questions about Awards, process, dates, contact Tracie Jones, Council Secretary.
- Contact Laura Ni for Unit LINK, and questions on Survey.

### **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.
- Leadership Event, February 12, 2022: The Power of Me, The Power of We Youth Leadership Summit.
  - 7th, 8th, & 9th grade students.
  - 12:30 – 4:40 PM.
- PowerPacks distribution and registration.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual INFLUENCE THE CHOICE Student Video Contest
  - Showcase resilience students showing in the face of adversity.
  - inspire youth to POSITIVELY influence each other by producing 2-minute public service announcement.

#### **Issaquah Schools Foundation**

Laila Collins

- ISF providing ISD teacher training on youth mental health.
- Kateri Bow Enrichment Grants approved, and announcements soon.
- Student Academic Grant Applications open to all.
  - Last year, 120 grants awarded.
  - Closes 2/14/22.
- Impact Scholarships – lives enriched by ISF
  - Closes 2/28/22.

## Reflections

Kristen Allen-Bentsen & Heather Bratton

- All Reflections entries received by WA State PTA.
  - Results expected in April 2022.
  - Virtual Reception.
- TENTATIVE ISD Artwalk Reception scheduled for March 3, 2022, at IHS.

## Safety

Laurelle Graves

- No report.

## Issaquah School District Updates

Sharon Roy, Equity Specialist

- *TWO EL-16 PDF Presentation Slideshow found on Issaquah PTSA Council Website.*
- ISD believes each student has the potential to achieve, and it is our responsibility to provide all students the opportunity and support needed to meet their highest capability in a safe and welcoming environment.
- ISD acknowledges systemic and institutional inequities and bias exist, creating barriers for student achievement and well-being. We are committed to raising the achievement of all learners regardless of race, status, varied ability, mental health, English language fluency, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, trauma impact, and geography.
- ISD's culture should promote the identification and removal of barriers causing predictability and disproportionality of the highest and lowest achieving groups.

## Issaquah School District Updates

Superintendent Ron Thiele

- ISD is thankful, with sincere appreciation, for all hard-working teachers, students, families.
- Shoutout: 8th Grade Transition Night for Families new to US High School, presented by Cultural and Family Partnerships Team.
  - Over 300 family participants.
- Covid Updates
  - Daily attendance getting better.
  - 96% close to normal attendance.
  - Grateful for staff sacrifices, hard work, never giving up for keeping schools open.
  - Test to Stay has been quite successful in keeping kids in schools.
    - 100's kids have stayed due to program.
- New website is BIG IMPROVEMENT.
  - Special thanks to Alicia Engles.
- Levy Information
  - Equity funded programs, Lorna Gilmore and Sharon Roy.
  - Necessary programs, enhancements not funded by state.
  - 40-member volunteer committee.
    - Gratitude for the 5 meetings, spanning over 14 hours, representing all of ISD.
    - 96% passage through committee.
    - Tough, charged, robust conversations
    - Present tonight for ISD Board review, recommendation
    - Important to Superintendent Thiele the current tax rate remains steady.
    - All documents online.
    - Submit to King County before February 25, 2022 for April vote.
  - Levy Committee adopted three ballot proposals to be presented to ISD Board.
    - Transportation
      - Hopeful to receive granted funds from WA State for electronic busses.
    - Capital Improvements.
    - Technology Improvements
      - Elementary (1:2) and Secondary (1:1) programs.

- Addressing new, updated, and upgraded technology.
- EPO expenditures vital to ISD
  - Nurses, mental health professionals, transportation, security and safety, learning, extracurriculars and more.
- EPO Levy: nurses, mental health professionals, transportation, security and safety, learning, extracurriculars, and more.
- Ongoing expenses for HS #4.
  - Needed \$50 million, rather than requested \$15 million, from last Levy.
  - Expenses, out of ISD control variables, COVID pandemic, global supply chain.
- Elementary planning for next year; kindergarten registration helps with those preparations.
- Olympia Updates
  - Enrollment declines, and not receiving last year's ESSER fundings.
    - Senate Bill 5563 and House Bill 1590 aim to combat "enrollment stabilization funding to address enrollment declines due to the COVID-19 pandemic"
    - Disparity in emergency funds distribution.
    - Non-renewal of Senate and House stabilization measures.
    - Bills currently working the way through House and Senate do not look favorable for equalizing enrollment stabilization funding. "Bills are in trouble."
    - ISD program impact: special education, learning assistance program, including students enrolled in free or reduced lunch plans, transitional bilingual support, highly capable program, career and technical education, trade/technical/ skill center allocations, residential schools - juvenile detention facilities, dropout reengagement, alternative learning, and Running Start college credit courses.
    - Stabilizing Bills facing upcoming vote, end of January, to clear committee
    - Questions, Cortney Eldridge, Issaquah PTSA Legislative Representative.

### Issaquah School District Updates

Lorna Gilmore, Equity Family Specialist

- [TWO EL-16 PDF Presentation Slideshows found on Issaquah PTSA Council Website](#)
- ISD's working towards eliminating barriers and provide full access to all the educational opportunities in our district for students AND families.
- ISD provides families supports such as Parent Workshops, access to Family Liaisons and resources to help staff better support our students and families.
- ISD Family Partnership Advisory Group has been working together to support students' success by supporting families.
- Equity team provides input and ideas on how the district and Family Partnership ISD staff can provide support for families especially our culturally and linguistically diverse community.
- The members attend district events and support family engagement to support our diverse community.
- 27-32% of ISD students are foreign born.
  - Translation and interpretation services increased to create support system using.
- Partnered with community members to launch equity work within the city of Issaquah
- Created a Student Equity Team involving students from all four high schools
- Hired an Executive Director of Equity
- Partnered with the Snoqualmie Tribe and wrote our own third grade Social Studies curriculum to capture history from their truth and voice
- Hired three Family Partnership Liaisons to support families in all three feeder patterns
- Created a Religious and Cultural Holidays Calendar to spread awareness and to learn about the holidays that are celebrated by our Issaquah community
- Held student listening sessions to give voice to student experiences/perspectives regarding equity, diversity, and inclusion in our district

- Held Equity Advisory Committee meetings to help guide the equity, diversity, and inclusion work of the school district. This committee is comprised of staff, parents, and community members.

**New Business**

Lauren Bartholomew

- Thank you. Look forward to seeing everyone at *next meeting, January 27, 2022.*

**Meeting adjourned at 11:44 AM.**

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Respectfully submitted,

Tracie Jones  
Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6, Secretary



## 2021-22 Issaquah PTSA Council Contact Information

### 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

[face@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:face@issaquahptsa.org)

*Membership (OPEN)*

[membership@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:membership@issaquahptsa.org)

Angela Dahrea - Outreach

[outreach@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:outreach@issaquahptsa.org)

Hannah Colbentz - ParentWiser

[parentwiser@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:parentwiser@issaquahptsa.org)

Betsy Grant - Special Education

[special-education@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:special-education@issaquahptsa.org)

Laura Ni - Website & Communications

[webmaster@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:webmaster@issaquahptsa.org)

### Ad Hoc Council Committees:

Katie Moeller – Influence the Choice

[influencethechoice@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:influencethechoice@issaquahptsa.org)

Laila Collins - Issaquah Schools Foundation

[isf-rep@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:isf-rep@issaquahptsa.org)

Kristen Allen-Bentsen, Heather Bratton - Reflections ISD

[reflectionsisd@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:reflectionsisd@issaquahptsa.org)

Laurelle Graves - Safety Committee

[artdocent@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:artdocent@issaquahptsa.org)

Dawn Peschek - Volunteers for Issaquah Schools (VIS) -

[vis-rep@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:vis-rep@issaquahptsa.org)



