

# ISSAQUAH PTSA COUNCIL

*Advocating and Supporting our Schools & Community*

**2.6**

## **Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6 Council General Membership Meeting March 24, 2022 9:30 AM**

### **Call to Order**

- Meeting called to order at 9:32 AM, March 24, 2022, at ISD Administrative Offices and via Zoom.
- 48 Community and Membership members were in attendance: Superintendent Ron Thiele, Kristen Allen Bentsen, Lauren Bartholomew, Angela Dahrea, Jillian Born, Derona Burkholder, Laura Burnett, Julie Chang, Hannah Colbenz, Shanna Collins, Laila Collins, Dana Cosgrove, Wendy Cummins, Angela Dahrea, Erin Eaton, Cortney Eldridge, Qibo Fan, Tara Farhead, Joana Figueiredo, Laura Gaffney, Emily Gardner, Minal Ghassemish, Betsy Grant, Laurelle Graves, Kristi Hammond, Meridith King, Amy M., Jen Marks, Karissa Mobilia, Katie Moeller, Anne Moore, Nicole Morgan, Laura Ni, Tiffany Parker, Dawn Peschek, Elysa Piha, Stephanie Scott, Stephanie Shipley, Korista Smith-Barney, Alicia Spinner, Jessica Stagg, Pauline Tamblyn, Mary Vickers, Suzanne Weaver, Meng Yang, Eve Yen, May Young, 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:
  - February 2022 Meeting Minutes.
  - February 2022, July 2021 to February 2022 Financial Reports.

### **Business**

#### **Secretary**

Tracie Jones

- February 2022 Minutes filed as presented.

#### **Treasurer**

Pauline Tamblyn

- February 2022 Financials filed as presented.

### **President's Report**

Lauren Bartholomew

- Washington State PTA Convention – May 20-22, 2022.
  - Unit PTSAs start planning for training.
  - Convention counts towards next year's training credit.
  - In-person Convention held May 20-22, 2022, at Lynnwood Convention Center.
  - Remote Conference held May 20-22, 2022 through Whova app.
  - Recorded, online content available through July 11, 2022.
  - Units need to prepare Delegate forms for Convention.
- Council Awards Ceremony; Details and invitations to follow.
- Council End of Year Celebration; Details and invitations to follow.

### **Vice Presidents**

Wendy Cummins, Erin Eaton, Nicole Morgan

- WA State PTA updated Standing Rules and Information, available for download on website.

**Best Practices**

Nicole Morgan

- April and May SOE, updated monthly SOEs may be found on website.

**Standing Committees****Advocacy**

Cortney Eldridge

- No report

**Art Docent**

Laurelle Graves

- Coordination meeting with Karen Harmon, ISD Coordinator.
- ISD Administrative Meeting moved to March 4, 2022.
- Certain program specifics still individual Principal decisions, along with COVID mitigation factors, ISD policies, at start of next year.
- Goal: Provide year-long Art Docenting program within each ISD elementary school.
- ISD provide training.
- Updates announced August 2022.
- Within Social Studies classes, 2-4 times/year.
- Utilize classroom supplies = low/no cost factors.

**FACE**

Alicia Spinner

- Working to share information through ISD PTSAs, Cultural Bridges, FACE representatives, and ISD organizations, programs, to coordinate more in-person events as schools open doors.
- Recruiting FACE Chairs for 2022-23 school year.

**Outreach**

Angela Dahrea

- Outreach Newsletter.
- Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank Lunch for the Break, register before April 8, 2022.
- Planning future Outreach Town Hall/Chat sessions.
- Partnering with IFCB for coordinated food drives throughout the year, in conjunction with unit PTSAs.
- ISD Breakfast Program, joint team with ISF and Carolyn Kennedy.
  - ISF and Council coordinate providing ISD schools with Safeway gift cards to purchase breakfast supplies.
  - Direct contacts: school nurses, secretaries, counselors, and principals, personalized/school.
  - Equity need, not equal need.
  - Angela Dahrea and Carolyn Kennedy coordinating with schools, providing gap services.

**ParentWiser**

Hannah Colbenz

- April 5, 2022 presentation discussing teen decision making, with Julie Metzger.
- Spring Survey – welcome suggestions from Council and greater community.
- How to help PW? Advertise, complete Unit survey, expand book clubs, provide parent support groups, collaborate with PW and other schools.
- YTD: 17,000 tickets to this year's events, 31,000 registered via email, 26 PTSAs.
- Coordinated with Chestnut Hill, Parent Map, Parent Edge, and PNW Parent Education groups.
- Donations: \$6,000 = donated from 26 schools; \$2,000-\$8,000 from ISF and Swedish Hospitals.
- Costs: \$17,000 for annual speakers' series, \$850 for Zoom services, and various charges for language services.

**Special Education**

Betsy Grant

- Upcoming Webinar to discuss multi-tiered services.
- Special Education monthly meetings to soon resume.
- ISD listening sessions – goal to improve IEP meetings. April 28, 2022.

**Website & Communications**

Laura Ni

- Contact for Unit LINK, and questions on Survey.
- When units need survey results, directly email Webmaster for complete updates.

**Ad Hoc Committees****Influence the Choice**

Katie Moeller

- TECH – “Teens Encouraging Community Health” youth group recruiting students.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual INFLUENCE THE CHOICE Student Video Contest.
  - Promote, showcase resilience students show in the face of adversity.
  - inspire youth to POSITIVELY influence each other by producing 2-minute public service announcements.
  - Like us on FB, promote Video Contest.

### Issaquah Schools Foundation

Laila Collins and Laura Gaffney

- Recent Unit ISF Coordinator update email.
- Nourish Every Mind May Month-long Event.
  - Looking for volunteers, sponsors, auction donations.
  - Request Unit PTSAs to donate gift baskets or \$100 towards ISF auction items; due April 20, 2022.
  - Goal: \$400,000, funding ISD shortfalls throughout district.
  - Online Event includes: updates, programs, Q/A, poll, and guest speakers.
  - ISF requests Units frequently share information on social media.
  - Auction takes place May 6-15, 2022.

### Reflections

Kristen Allen-Bentsen & Heather Bratton

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

### Safety

Laurelle Graves

- No report.

### Volunteers for Issaquah Schools

Dawn Peschek

- Ballots mailed to residents in two weeks; Ballots due April 26, 2022.
- Thank you to all our speakers, advocates for going out into the community, informing public; providing equitable opportunities for all students.
- Thank you to all those who've endorsed the ballot measures; listing available on VIS website.
  - Vis encourages everyone to support the ballot measures through endorsements: <https://visvote.org/endorse-renewal-levies/>
  - Sample Unit Endorsements: <https://visvote.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2022-sample-endorsement-vote-ptas.pdf>
- Postcard campaign pick-ups were successful, with Anne Moore and Karissa Mobillia.
  - Any schools needing assistance, contact Karissa Mobillia.
  - Mailing schedule for individual units, to be sent first week of April.
  - Mail directly at USPS-Gilman Blvd location, in bulk mail.
- Honk and Waves
  - April 6, 2022 and April 25, 2022.
- Speaker are still available for GMMs, Preschool Outreach, HOA Meeting, and other public events.
- Signs available for staking and windowfronts, contact Dana Rundle, along with VIS swag; in-person meeting or individual coordination to pick-up.
- Levy information, communications, videos, land acquisition, <https://visvote.org/>
- Share and update accordingly, bi-monthly email updates. Documents 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.
  - Yard Signs.
  - 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.
  - VIS postcard distribution funded through donations.
- Contact Dawn Peschek.

### Issaquah School District Updates

Executive Director of Elementary, Melinda Reynvaan

- Oversees Preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade, including PK-K registration, Spanish Dual Language Programs, Early Entrance, SAGE and MERLIN Programs, Summer School.
- Melinda Reynvaan's first year working at ISD, and main job provides support for district Principals.
- Strategic spring planning going on for 2022-23 school year.
- Working on strategies to reintroduce volunteers within the schools.
- Currently, volunteer allowances are primarily determined by building Principal and COVID protocols.
- No field trips permitted; following COVID protocols, along with unvaccinated elementary students.
- Masking in classes.
- Waiting for guidance around extra-curricular, after school, PTSA programs, and direct involvement within classrooms and schools.

### Issaquah School District Updates

Executive Director of Middle Schools, Jason Morse

- Working on COVID mitigation, and ongoing school supports, providing safe schools.
- Working on organizing Summer School programs to address pandemic learning loss, special services.
- Opened Cougar Mountain Middle School – great first week.
  - THANK YOU to the CM PTSA for packing, unpacking, organizing the new campus.
  - THANK YOU to ISF for also providing community lift support during transition.
- Summer school available through building principal invitation.
- Pleased with recovery services; provided as needed.

### Issaquah School District Updates

Executive Director of High Schools, Andrea McCormick

- Oversees Principals, Online Learning, CTE, Echo Glen.
- Working on EL12 progress, district-wide consistent grading practices, donation-based scholarship programs using back-to-school registration process.
- Desire for autonomy among teachers, equally paired with continuity for schools.
- Field trips permitted due to fewer COVID cases, higher vaccination rates, and mitigation efforts.
- I-Ready Test scores provided achievement levels, not individualized school scores.
- High schools added additional 9<sup>th</sup> grade pre-algebra classes for extra math supports due to gaps in knowledge due to pandemic.

### Issaquah School District Updates

Superintendent Ron Thiele

- Thank you to everyone working to support ISD through VIS.
  - Levy presentations, visible signs of roll-out through community supporting ISD, great progress.
- Thank you to everyone, including the ISD School Board, working on new Superintendent Search.
- WA State Legislature finished Spring Session.
  - ISD will not receive ESSER Funds.
  - Will receive Enrollment Hold Harmless Appropriations; last year to receive funds.
  - Washington State revenue forecast-excess \$1.4 billion, with Education as "Paramount duty".
  - Washington State plans to distribute \$180 million to education; 50-70% of Washington State school districts benefit under plan.
- Lost 1,600 students, this year = \$23 million.
  - Enrollment declines; pandemic driven.
- ISD employees will receive 5.5% COLA raises.
  - WA State funds 70% of \$\$\$ raises, with \$6.2 million ISD backfill.
- ISD monetary reserves, pre-COVID, = \$44 million.
  - Current fund balance = \$26 million.
- Healthy Youth Students Survey Data
  - Released within one week.
  - Preliminary observations: depression and suicides have increases, with decreasing substance abuses.
  - Influence the Choice will provide survey analysis for families.
- Collective Bargaining Agreement, current four-year contract ends in August.
- Bussing Challenges.
  - Cost increases as price of diesel rose from \$2.79 to \$5.79/gallon.
  - Limited driver availability.
  - Prioritizing older kids – keeping everyone safe.

- Special Education.
  - Boot camps available during winter and spring breaks.
  - Summer school will be available through building principal invitation.
  - Pleased with recovery services; provided as needed.
  - High schools added additional 9<sup>th</sup> grade pre-algebra classes for extra math supports due to gaps in knowledge due to pandemic.
- Washington State revenue forecast-excess \$1.4 billion, with Education as "Paramount duty".
- Washington State plans to distribute \$180 million to education; 50-70% of Washington State school districts benefit under plan.
- Declining ISD enrollment will not make-up for shortfall.
  - Graduating Class = 1,350 students; incoming kindergarten class = 1,200 students.
  - Projected flat population, without increases = 21,000 to 18,500 students.
  - Largest declines seen in K-2<sup>nd</sup> grades.
- Staffing concerns.
  - Possible staffing cuts with declining enrollment and loss of levy funds = RIFs.
  - Extra staffing required for outside lunches and activities.
  - Worried about SPED continuity, with disruption of staffing security.
  - According to Collective Bargaining agreement, staff are offered new contracts due to seniority, necessity, SPED.
    - SPED: Classroom support, dual language; actively recruiting to fill vacancies.

**Issaquah School Board Update**

**Anne Moore**

- ISD stakeholders and community input guided search, listening to community.
- Live public surveys, better providing more community opportunities for input, assisting ISD School Board in mapping desired characteristics, values important to those stakeholders for next ISD Superintendent.
- In total, 27 qualified candidate applications.
- Narrowed down to 12 candidates.
- Currently three selected to move forward for final opportunities, community engagement, conversation, focused on "meeting" the three candidates.
- Tonight, two-hour Executive Board Session, before the public Board of Directors Meeting, reviewing candidates, moving forward to offer one candidate the Superintendent's position.

**New Business**

Lauren Bartholomew

- Thank you. Look forward to seeing everyone at next hybrid meeting, April 28, 2022.
- Last Council Meeting for the 2021-22 school year.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:53 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  
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Pauline Tamblyn, Treasurer  
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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  
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North: Cascade Ridge, Cedar Trails, Challenger, Creekside, Discovery, Endeavour, Sunny Hills

Nicole Morgan, Vice President of Elementary Schools – Central District  
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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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Laurelle Graves - Safety Committee  
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Dawn Peschek - Volunteers for Issaquah Schools (VIS) -  
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