

ISSAQUAH PTSA COUNCIL

Advocating and Supporting our Schools & Community

2.6

Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6 Council General Membership Meeting February 16, 2023

Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 10:07 AM, February 16, 2023, at ISD Administrative Offices.
- 31 Community and Membership members were in attendance: Lauren Bartholomew, Superintendent Heather Tow-Yick, Katie Heady, Kristi Hammond, Simran Puri, Jessica Stagg, Emily Garner, Stephanie Blecha-Maharaj, Abby White, Nikki Mason, Erin Eaton, Shannon Mayo, Angela Dahrea, Shilpa Schuettenhelm, Hannah Bowen, Laura Ni, Dana Cossgrove, Kartik Mithal, Karissa Mobilia, Alicia Spinner, Sarah Hawley, Tracie Jones, Stephanie Shipley, Sara Woody, Wendy Maruchek, Lisa Haynes, Anne Moore, Meng Yang, Trisha Marshall, Marcel Houser and Sherri Kokx
- Proper meeting notice given; quorum present.

President's Welcome and Introductions

Lauren Bartholomew

- Lauren Bartholomew welcomed all PTSA and Community members in attendance.

Consent Agenda

Lauren Bartholomew

- Consent Agenda to be tabled until next month due to ISD Presentation.

Business

Secretary

Open

- Minutes to be tabled until next meeting due to ISD Presentation.

Treasurer

Nikki Mason

- Financials to be tabled until next meeting due to ISD Presentation.
- Arts grants, Reflections, and ParentWiser receipts received, processed.

President's Report

Lauren Bartholomew

- WA State PTSA Council spring training to be held at the Bellevue Hilton, May 6-7, 2023.
 - Helpful for new boards, training credit, will be held virtually and in-person,
- WA State PTSA Autumn Leadership Conference held in August – virtual.
- Golden Acorn invites are almost complete. Held April 4, 2023, at CMMS, at 6:30 PM – council 6:30 PM.
 - Questions, contact Laurelle Graves.
 - Not all schools will be prepared. Importance of calendar, established at beginning of the year. Cannot make changes due to scheduling, and Superintendent is already confirmed.
 - Principals are invited.
- Next General Membership Meeting – March 23, 2023, 10:00 AM, at the Issaquah School District Building, Hybrid Meeting.
- ISD Strategic plans. Work in-process, with Marcel Hauser. Input Group activity
- 2022-23 Nominating Committee Council presented, discussion, vote, and unanimously approved.
 - Erin Eaton, Andrea Dahrea, and Tracie Jones were unanimously approved to serve on the Issaquah PTSA Council Nomination Committee.
 - Currently looking for 2023-24 Council Leadership.
 - Cast larger net, across Issaquah PTSA Council, looking for larger geographical representation.

Vice Presidents

Erin Eaton, Laurelle Graves, Tracie Jones

- March SOE on Website.

Standing Committees**Advocacy**

Open

- No report

Art Docent

Laurelle Graves

No report

FACE

Alicia Spinner

- Met with FACE coordinators about cultural events. Support. Really nice to see it. Document sharable with cultural events coordinator. Exchange information during same events, but differently, resources.
- Next FACE Coordinators meeting held March 13, 2023, via Zoom.
- I'd like to ask Unit Presidents to attend, and work towards future of FACE committee. Participate. See what we can do next year together?
- Working to share information, database for ISD PTSAs, Cultural Bridges, FACE representatives, and ISD organizations, programs, to support coordinating more in-person events as schools open doors.
- Looking for coordinators to engage our FACE communities within unit schools.

Membership

Simran Puri

- March and April Awards for schools with 100% staff and membership awards.
 - Applications due in March. Expect email, shortly with more details.

Outreach

Angela Dahrea

- Emailed further details to PTSA Presidents and Outreach Reps to all.
- Lunch for the Break - deadline has been extended. IFCB will continue to take registrations.
- District breakfast program - in 2 schools, pilot program to begin after break, with a slow roll out.
 - Providing daily hot breakfasts.
 - Students who receive free and reduced lunch will be incorporated.
 - Register anytime throughout the year, as family circumstances may change.
- Open house at The Garage for high schoolers, families, and community.

ParentWiser

Hannah Bowen

- Two March events planned.
 - First week of March. Forefront Suicide Prevention, presented in partnership with UW in the forefront. Open to all schools.
 - March 20, 2023. Eating disorders. Bellevue Recovery Center will provide the presentation. Open to all schools. Students encouraged to attend. Two student volunteers will serve as panelist, opportunity for questions.
- ParentWiser is looking for new leadership and volunteers to expand the program and committee.
 - Planning for spring survey to guide next year's efforts.
- Healthy Youth Initiative, March 20, 2023. Hoping district-wide councilors will attend.

Special Education

Betsy Grant

- No report

Website & Communications

Laura Ni

- Council surveys provided for Unit PTSAs. Contact Laura Ni for further information and deadlines.

Ad Hoc Committees**Influence the Choice**

- Hidden in Plain Sight (HIPS) is an exhibit created by Influence the Choice. The exhibit is a re-creation of a teenage bedroom with signs of substance misuse. Could you find everything? Do you know what to look for?

- o Hidden in Plain Sight educates and empowers parents to communicate with their children about at-risk behaviors that lead to substance use disorders.
- o February 17, 2023, at 6:00 PM, IHS.
- o Talk to kids in an ongoing conversation about dangers of drugs, especially fentanyl, as it could be the difference between life and death.

Issaquah Schools Foundation

Trisha Marshall

- Nourish Every Mind will be held April 27, 2023, 12:00 PM, at Issaquah Community Center.
 - o Looking for table captains and Unit PTSA tables, contact Ali Mills.
 - o Tool Kit available by end of February.
 - o Event conflicts with April's Issaquah Council PTSA GM Meeting.
- Twenty-seven Impact scholarships were awarded, totaling \$80,000.
 - o Link to Grant Recipients <https://isfdn.org/core/files/isfdn/uploads/files/2022-23%20ISF%20Funded%20Teacher%20Grants.pdf>

Reflections

Anjali Tandon

- No report

Safety

Laurelle Graves

- No report

Volunteers for Issaquah Schools

- No report

Guest Speaker

Lisa Haynes, The Garage

- Blackthorn Haven - Teens experiencing homelessness will access services at the Blackthorn drop-in center located in central Issaquah. The drop-in center will offer food, clothing, showers, phones, storage for belongings, a washing machine and dryer, desks, supplies for completing homework, and recreation with peers. Most importantly, full-time counselors and full-time case workers will be available to assess students' needs and begin working immediately to locate housing and resources for teens and, possibly, for their families. Counselors will emphasize family reconciliation as appropriate, or alternate housing as necessary.
- Questions, email Lisa Haynes, Program Director of Host Home Program, lisa@issaquahteencafe.org.

Issaquah School District Updates

Superintendent Heather Tow-Yick and Marcel Hauser

- Here to share updated strategic plan updates, along with priority and goals for next few years.
 - o Goal is to bring together voices, inputs, receiving robust info needed as precursor to launch.
 - o Raising concerns in a gentle way. What might be missing and supportive for our directions, enabling us to relook at process.
 - o Build sandboxes, which puts relationships first and Transactions second.
 - o Start with data review: gather information, leadership interviews, and data.
 - o Workshops and engagement codesign, allotting 3 years to design going forward.
 - o Create plan + work plans underneath. Progress monitor.
 - o We're here, and doing the internal work; detail planning; finalizing for March 2023 presentation.
 - Processes
 - Interviewing student, staff, parent groups, along with ISD leadership.
 - Original draft of the ISD Vision includes 75% of provided Stakeholders input. Exit ticket gathering. Sending out thought exchange. Crowd source. Early preview. Unroll on March 1, 2023. Go back to thought exchange to refine. Two votes. (handout)
 - Two Handouts: (1) Core Aligned, 6 pages, highlighting 5 buckets; (2) Student Well-being flyer.
 - o Sampling of what we heard:
 - Not representative of all, but best we could.
 - Plug students into existing supports.

- Goal metrics strategy.
- Goal (1) includes metrics strategy.
- Goals (2) draft and current metric is numerical representational of goal.
 - How to measure; what are things we can do, strategies. Move needle on content. Repeating

Activity: In teams, answer the following questions: What barriers do we need to overcome to make our new vision a reality? What should ISD do that hasn't been done before? What are you excited about with our strategic planning?

Group #1: We would like to see all the different groups represented when listening to student input; funding would be needed to conquer many of the goals everyone's described; great need for mental health services and professionals throughout the district, along with PBSES, inconsistent grading, materials, training, policies become barriers, especially with multiple kids, busy schedules, lack of understandings; district wide teachers should all be in alignment with courses, expectations, and outcomes. The district needs to work on finding ways to retain staff, including benefits, salary, reimbursement for Master's degrees, affordable housing programs housing programs.

Group #2: These conversations are happening everywhere. The thought process needs a refresher; diversify retainment and hiring practices. Barriers: Student individuality, meeting students where they are, challenging with large numbers and staff turnover - One in many. ISD needs to look towards achieving goals, and not making bar so low to meet percentage or data points, but real learning and achievements. Stop the mentality of "Check each box". Opportunities for all, AND, it's okay to veer off path. GE. Much fewer opportunities for students stuck in the middle. Pilot training is not able to merge with high school plans. We desperately need more pockets of alternatives for students because no one really fits in the box. Kids are exhausted trying to be something they will never be. Goal – 4-year college, not accessible for all. Market/ advertise alternative high school beyond planning.

Group #3: We're excited for new academic opportunities – getting kids up to speed, especially after the past few years. The numbers of students who need catch-up services is greater than reported. Academic barriers: equitable and equal resources. The needs vary across the district, for example 5th grade camp... who in ISD pays when kids who can't afford, or parents are too stretched? Not all schools have same courses, services, supports, gradebooks, classroom instruction and content. (Maywood does not provide language courses. Cougar Mountain does not offer yearbook. Woodshop classes are only offered at HIS, when all students can benefit from these skills.) Students experiencing disabilities, have greater needs, including those currently working with 504 and IEPs. Consider resource sharing or equitable offerings. Students need alternative pathways for individual success. Running start, in person vs online. Normalize alternative experiences, such as vocational and visibility.

Group #4: I believe families are unaware of resources. There's stigma, requirements, language barriers, cultural beliefs, all creating an environment where it's difficult for families to ask for help. They just give up. Many new languages within the schools. Lack of awareness. ISD needs to develop strategies for more/smarter multi-cultural involvement and connection, also creating opportunities to foster interest. In gathering thoughts and data, use more diverse practices to work with families who feel left out of process, "Method-diverse ways to collect information to diversity." Nontypical methods. Outreach efforts need great change at the school level. Big differences between school board, superintendent, principal, teacher. Bridge the gap.

Group #5: District-wide uniformity, equitable programming, and outreach. "Angel" programs need to exist at all schools, with standardized processes, low barriers, incorporating appropriate cultural understanding. Free or reduced lunches to all students. Academic opportunity. budget for equitable resources, training, curriculum supports materials for families, neuro diverse individuals, teachers. Our district is becoming a minority majority, and policies, staff should reflect our diverse nature by looking within our community. Language-specific engagement opportunities, new innovative ways to learn more from resident stakeholders.

New Business

Lauren Bartholomew

- Thank you for attending today's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracie Jones
Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6, Interim Secretary

2022-23 Issaquah PTSA Council Contact Information

Executive Council Committee:

Lauren Bartholomew, President
president@issaquahptsa.org

OPEN, Secretary
secretary@issaquahptsa.org

Nikki Mason, Treasurer
treasurer@issaquahptsa.org

Erin Eaton, Vice President of Middle & High Schools
vp-middle@issaquahptsa.org & vp-high@issaquahptsa.org
Middle Schools: Beaver Lake, Cougar Mountain, Issaquah, Maywood, Pacific Cascade, Pine Lake
High Schools: Gibson Ek, Issaquah High, Liberty, Skyline

Laurelle Graves: Vice President of Elementary Schools – South District
vp-el-south@issaquahptsa.org
South Elementaries: Apollo, Briarwood, Clark, Cougar Ridge, Maple Hills, Issaquah Valley, Newcastle, and Sunset

Tracie Jones, Vice President of Elementary Schools – North District
vp-el-north@issaquahptsa.org
North: Cascade Ridge, Cedar Trails, Challenger, Creekside, Discovery, Endeavour, Grand Ridge, Sunny Hills

Standing Council Committees:

OPEN - Advocacy & Legislation
advocacy@issaquahptsa.org

Laurelle Graves - Art Docent Program
artdocent@issaquahptsa.org

Alicia Spinner - Family & Community Engagement
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Simran Puri (OPEN)
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Angela Dahrea - Outreach
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Hannah Colbentz - ParentWiser
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Betsy Grant - Special Education
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Laura Ni - Website & Communications
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Ad Hoc Council Committees:

Katie Moeller – Influence the Choice
influencethechoice@issaquahptsa.org

Laila Collins - Issaquah Schools Foundation
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Anjali Tandon - Reflections ISD
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Laurelle Graves - Safety Committee
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Volunteers for Issaquah Schools (VIS) –
vis-rep@issaquahptsa.org