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**General Membership Meeting Minutes.** Thursday, September 21, 2023 @ 10am

**Meeting called to order at 10:05am by Erin Eaton.** Welcome everyone. Lauren reviewed hybrid procedures. Question: What is the purpose of Council? Answer: Councils purpose is to support local PTA’s through sharing information and training.

**Attendance;** Erin Eaton, Karissa Mobilia, Kristi Hammond, Tracie Jones, Lauren Bartholomew, Nikki Mason, Laurelle Graves, Lovenia Hardin, Melissa Valdez, Simran Puri, Angela Dahrea, Hannah Bowen, Betsy Grant, Laura Ni, Laila Collins, Kartik Mithal, Katelyn Shriber, Rachel Hearn, Robyne Muscatel, Nicole Jacobs, Sandra Vanderzee, Jessica Stagg, Emily Garner, Nicole Raegen, Amber Thomas, Sara Woody, Amy Miller, Stephanie Blecha-Maharaj, Shannon Mayo, Darcy Wilson, Sangeeta Iyer, Lauren Stephenson, Neha Sharma, Meetu Sachdeva, Christina Smedegaard, Tracy Cooke, Kasey Trefethen, Nischala Uppala, Wendy Marucheck, Jennifer Rinker, Susan Ho and Derona Uzzle (IEA President)

**EC Reports**

**Treasurer**. Nikki Mason. July and August Treasurers Report. Noted Parent wiser carryover. Nikki sent a welcome email to all Treasurers and Presidents this week. Email Nikki Mason at [tresurer@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:tresurer@issaquahptsa.org) if you have any questions.

**Secretary.** Lauren Bartholomew. Voting delegates reports are due at our next meeting Oct 19th. Can email them or send them in next month. One person may only serve as a delegate for one position. Also, only one person can vote per position. For example. I am one person so I am voting as council secretary also if you are co-presidents only one can vote each meeting, the other can serve as an alternative.

**Vice Presidents.** Karissa Mobilia, Kristi Hammond & Tracie Jones. Tracie shared SOA report. Can be found in meeting documents and meeting PowerPoint. Question: Do you have to approve budget twice a year? Yes, you approve in the spring so you can work over the summer and again in the fall with the current years board and membership.

**President**. Erin Eaton. Presented the proposed 2023-24 standing rules. 2 changes from the previous year; 1. Annual dues changed to $200 per PTA/PTSA and 2. Addition of the DEI position to section 6. Betsy shared that we should review or add a policy regarding account passwords to align with the financial review findings and interpretation. This work will be done by the board.

Motion was made to approve the 2023-24 standing rules as presented by Kristi Hammond. Seconded.

Ya- 100%, Nay- 0 Abstain- 0, Motion Passes.

Mission and Goals. Read by Erin Eaton. 1 change to add DEI to the committee’s work.

Motion was made to approve 2023-24 mission and goals as presented by Kristi Hammond. Seconded.

Ya- 100%, Nay- 0 Abstain- 0, Motion Passes.

Annual Budget Approval. Nikki Mason reviews all lines of the budget. Request was made to amend the staff appreciation line from $200 to $600 to better align with actual spending. Request was made to change the name of ‘special interest’ to ‘non-traditional ptsa’ in the membership dues section to align with language in our standing rules.

Vote. Motion to approve the 2023-24 budget as amended by Laurelle Graves. Seconded.

Ya- 100%, Nay- 0 Abstain- 0, Motion Passes.

**Financial Review Committee Report.** Besty Grant. Financial review was completed by Betsy Grant and Pauline Tamblyn. Everything complied. 2 notes; Secretary minutes from last year were inconsistent noting we didn’t have a secretary and this year we have one to provide consistency and that the board should look at creating a policy regarding passwords to align with financial review questions. Also, if you have recurring bills (examples, website, zoom) make sure you’re renewing in the correct year so that you don’t pay in the wrong billing year. Companies will offer discounts for early sign up but you must make sure that has the budget for it.

**Standing Committees**

**Membership.** Simran Puri. Membership is down please upload your membership to Memberplanet. Congratulations to CMMPTSA for already exceeding their 2022-23 membership by 100 members.

**Reflections.** Simran Puri. Hosted two QA re: Training document. On Zoom 9/15 and In-Person 9/19. Attended by 10 chairs. All participating schools should be starting their individual Reflections programs now with a due date around the end of October. Their judging/recognition to follow their individual turn-in date. Council deadline for online UPLOAD of their artworks advancing to district judging DUE NOVEMBER 10. Council deadline for HAND-OFF of their physical artworks advancing to district judging DUE NOVEMBER 16. Reflections flier in meeting documents. Question: Can the Nov 10th date be pushed back? This maybe a hard turn around for some PTA’s. Conversation was had. Any date changes will be announced by reflections chairs.

**Guest Speaker**

**Welcome & District Reorganization**. Superintendent Tow-Yick. Introduced Bethany Rogers the new Assistant to the Superintendent. Bethany has been with ISD for over 15 years and is excited to serve in this new role. She replaced Diane Ghanbari.

Superintendent Tow-Yick wanted to acknowledge that she was invited to many PTA events last year and couldn’t make most of them. She would like to attend more events this year as she has balanced her time and schedule. Email her and Bethany any invitations. As of next week she will have visited all 33 sites in the ISD. Her initial visits have been to check in and see how that new year is starting, see what’s different this year compared to last year and 5 years ago. There was general excitement across the district. She asked about and watched our transition grades, Kindergarten, 6th and 9th grades. Currently classroom staffing is good, 5 open positions across the district. Areas of great need for staff are paraprofessionals, bus drivers and kitchen staff. A question she’d like to address is “What changes to the district have been made? They made reductions of 9M instead of the 17M predictions. The reductions were made away from the classroom, in administration and support team members. While the reductions are away from the classroom, she acknowledged that reductions will be felt. She wants to hear any ripple effects. In making reductions they have also reprioritized and looked at how they are working to be more efficient and align with their strategic plan. Superintendent shared their commitment to transparency and clarifying why they are doing things.

Superintendent also shared 4 changes made at the district to better align staff with management to support.

1. Executive Directors have been moved from under the Superintendent to Dana Bailey. This change makes sense as Dana Bailey can help support them in their work and inclusivity. As always Sup Tow-Yick is the head of the district and will be closely involved.
2. The Student Intervention team has been changes to Counseling and Well-Being and they will report to Alaina Sivadasan. This change aligns the district commitment and work to whole student well-being.
3. Sherry Knox is now the Executive Director of Secondary Schools. The decision was made to take advantage of the ED of High Schools move to go back to one ED of Secondary Schools. One of the things she is working on is harassment and bullying policy in secondary schools.
4. Julia Bamba (previously Gibson Ek Principal) is now working on Secondary Innovation on special assignment. They are excited about this addition as they look at how secondary schools work in the ISD and align our programs with the needs of our students today.

Superintendent then opened questions and topics for the group to share.

Topics shared were changes to activities busses and concerns about the looming darkness and safety of students walking home in the dark, disappointment in the hot breakfast program not being offered at Maywood and Liberty this fall, request for help with transportation so Apollo students can have field trips again and 5th grade camp.

Conversation about Smarter Balance Assessments and wondering if they captured learning loss. Superintendent acknowledged that ISD students test well in SBA but that they use other measurements and take a whole child perspective to determine trends and gaps in learning the need to address. They have a new mental health screener they will be using as well as the Health Youth survey will happen this year.

Lastly, when will be know graduation dates and times? They are working on this and will have it out as soon as it’s sorted.

**Standing Committees cont.**

**Advocacy.** Lauren Bartholomew. WSPTA Legislative Assembly on Oct 21st and 22nd. Registration is open and closes on Oct 5th at noon. Your PTA must be in good standing, meaning you must have your EC input into Memberplanet and you must have 25 members uploaded. 1st Council Advocacy Call on Monday Oct 2nd noon-1pm.

**Art Docents.** Laurelle Graves. Annual Art Docent conference will be on October 21st at Clark Elementary from 9am – 4pm. Sign up goes live October 1st. There will be Friday Art Labs on the 1t Friday of each month at the Admin Building. Flier in meeting documents. Sign-ups released monthly.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).** Lovenia Hardin. Supporting DEI; Commit to being more than just PTA & Improve diversity. Shared the Nation PTA DEI Resource Guide. Email Lovenia at [DEI@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:DEI@issaquahptsa.org) for questions or support. Question: Are you wanting a representative at each school? Erin answered that yes and that we are building as we go so there’s no rush now to add this to your board. If you have this in place they will connect with Lovenia.

Question: Is there a job description? Not yet. This can be worked on.

**Family and Community Engagement (FACE)**. Laura Ni & Melissa Valdez. F.A.C.E Meetings will be on 10/13, 1/19 & 5/10 at 11am. 10/13 & 1/19 will be at 55 Sunset, 5/10 will be at the admin building. Topics for 1st meeting; Introduction to FACE and “How to do the New Family Welcome” Event. Cultural Bridges Magazine is a good resource.

**Outreach.** Angela Dahrea. Email was sent out to school representatives or Presidents sharing information on powerpacks, donation drives for the fall and holiday gift program. Please connect with your counselor, nurse or school rep to discuss school needs. Power packs are on their 3rd week. Fliers in the meeting documents.

**ParentWiser.** Hannah Bowen. Upcoming Event- Middle School Matters with Phyllis L. Fagell, LCPC on Tuesday, October 3rd 6:00pm. Save the date flier in meeting documents. This event is geared to 3rd-9th graders. Hannah needs help with a facilitator for the Oct 3rd event. Reach out to Hannah if you’re available to support.

**Special Education.** Betsy Grant. No meetings this year. Email will be coming out the Special Education Network reps at your school. The networks’ goal is to support community information and communication. Betsy will be looking for supports with social media and resource sharing.

**Webmaster**. Laura Ni. All the meeting dates are on the Council website. Subscribe the council event calendar will add all the meetings automatically to your phone calendar. If you need help to set up surveys, please email [webmaster@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:webmaster@issaquahptsa.org) and we will set survey monkey surveys for you. Any questions or updates needed for website, please email [webmaster@issaquahptsa.org](mailto:webmaster@issaquahptsa.org).

**Ad Hoc Committees**

**Influence the Choice**. Laurelle Graves. Information on power point. Come See Us! Salmon Days Oct. 7-8. ISF Parent Connect Conference Oct. 14, Laurelle will be there. Looking for parent reps at each school. POMPOW is or Middle Schoolers (6-8) Nov 4 @ PCMS and we’re looking for HS Facilitators 10/28 & 11/4. Contact laurelle@influencethechoice.org

**Issaquah Schools Foundation(ISF).**Laila Collins . Information in Power point presentation. Fliers in meeting documents. ISF is looking forward to grow their partnership with PTSA Council. Upcoming events: Parent Connect is Youth Mental Health & Well-Being Conference for parents. Sat Oct 14th. Visit isfdn.com to reserve your spot. Monster Mash 5K on Oct 28th. Grants will open in November, send your staff requests our way if they want program support.

**Volunteers for Issaquah Schools (VIS).** No Report.

**New Business/Q&A**

**Adjourn** 12:07pm.

**UPCOMING DATES**

9/21 - General Membership Meeting – 10am

10/1 – Advocacy Committee Meeting via zoom - 12pm

10/3 - Parentwiser – Middle School Matters w/Phyllis L Flagell

10/13 - Family and Community Engagement (F.A.C.E.) Meeting at Sunset 55 - 10am

10/19 – General Membership Meeting – 10am

10/20 & 10/21 WSPTA Legislative Assembly [Register Here](https://whova.com/portal/registration/legis_202310/)

10/21 – Issaquah PTSA Council Art Docent Training – 9am-4pm

Meeting Minutes taken by Lauren Bartholomew

Reviewed by Membership on\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_