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**General Membership Meeting Minutes.** Thursday, November 16, 2023 @ 10am. Hybrid.

**Meeting called to order at 10:05 am by Erin Eaton.** Welcome everyone.

**Attendance;** Erin Eaton, Kristi Hammond, Lauren Bartholomew, Nikki Mason, Shannon Mayo, Laurelle Graves, Lovenia Hardin, Melissa Valdez, Angela Dahrea, Hannah Bowen, Betsy Grant, Laura Ni, Laila Collins, Katelyn Shriber, Rachel Hearn, Robyne Muscatel, Nicole Jacobs, Sandra Vanderzee, Emily Garner, Kylee Hatch, Amy Miller, Stephanie Blecha-Maharaj, Darcy Wilson, Mindy Niehaul, Lauren Stephenson, Meetu Sachdeva, Christina Smedegaard, Megan Landon, Kristi Isaacs, Kasey Trefethen, Nischala Uppala, Jennifer Rinker, Amber Thomas, Wendy Marucheck, Suzanne Weaver and Julia Bamba

**EC Reports**

**Treasurer**. Nikki Mason. October Treasurers Report explained (see attached). Taxes Filed. AIM Insurance Renewed. PTA’s renewed AIM Insurance policies are due to Nikki no later than 11/21 so they can be submitted it ISD. If you don’t have your new policy emailed to Nikki ISD will cancel all facilities use applications starting 1/1/2024.

**Secretary.** Lauren Bartholomew. October and November minutes will be presented in January. If you haven’t turned in your voting delegates form, please do so ASAP. I will be sending emails requesting them.

**Vice Presidents.** Karissa Mobilia, Kristi Hammond & Tracie Jones. Kristi shared SOA report. Can be found in meeting documents and meeting PowerPoint.

**President**. Erin Eaton. No Report.

**Breakout Session 1**

In your groups share ‘one custom or tradition that you are looking forward to celebrating between November and December’. Attendees broke out virtual and in person into groups to discuss for 7minutes. A representative from each group shared what their groups discussed.

**Ad Hoc Committees**

**Influence the Choice**. Laurelle Graves. Contact laurelle@influencethechoice.org. See attached slide.

**Issaquah Schools Foundation(ISF).**Laila Collins. ISF Grant window closes 11/27. Remind your teachers to apply for an ISF grant.

**Volunteers for Issaquah Schools (VIS).** Karissa Mobilia. Thank you for your donations and continued support of VIS. Suzanne Weaver shared that there will be a BOND Nov of 2024 and that VIS’s main income is PTSA donations.

**Breakout Session 2**

In your groups discuss ‘What kind of event or activity you could add to your PTA events or meetings?’. Attendees broke out virtual and in person into groups to discuss for 7minutes. A representative from each group shared what their groups discussed.

**Guest Speaker.** Julia Bamba, Principal on Special Assignment.

Topic- Empathy Interviews. Julia introduced the concept of empathy interviews and how ISD is rolling out this path for communications within its schools, district and with the community. The goal of empathy interviews is to engage with each other in an authentic way where one party truly listens to the other without providing feedback or trying to solve their issue. This approach is meant to make sure staff are listening to understand. To better understand the process Julia created an “Empathy Interview Activity” for us PTSA Leaders to practice this concept. We broke out into pairs for 7 minutes to conduct empathy interviews with each other.

After completing the exercise there was conversation and feedback given to Julia about the process. The opportunity to submit feedback outside of this meeting was also given, email secretary@issaquahptsa.org and those emails were then forwarded to Julia Bamba.

**Standing Committees.**

**Advocacy.** Lauren Bartholomew & Shannon Mayo. See slide. ISD is inviting parents to be involved in Elementary Literacy Adoption Parent Advisory Group on November 30th, information can be found on ISD website or in PowerPoint presentation attached. Legislative Session is opening soon and there are lots of opportunities to engage in advocacy at WSPTA. Information sessions are on Dec 13th & Jan 3rd at 7pm, register at wspta.org. FOCUS Day in Olympia will be in person this year on Jan 3rd, registration will open today. Advocacy Week will be virtual Jan 15-19th.

**Art Docents.** Laurelle Graves. See Slide.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).** Lovenia Hardin. See slide. Lovenia shared emails during the holidays. Important take a ways; Make them Inclusive. Make them Informative. Make them Interactive. Make them Timely.

**Family and Community Engagement (FACE)**. Laura Ni & Melissa Valdez. See Slide. Shared the statistic that 500 new families enter ISD each year. PTSA’s need to be ready to welcome them. Discussions like this will happen at the upcoming FACE Meeting on 1/19. We encourage each PTA to send someone to this meeting to have representation and support for each PTA.

**Membership.** Simran Puri. No Report.

**Outreach.** Angela Dahrea. See slide. Holiday gift barn is taking donations. We hare hoping to get 10K in donations to them. Thank you to those PTA’s that are already having gift card drives. Lunch for the Break sign ups are open and fliers available in the email and on our website.

**ParentWiser.** Hannah Bowen. No Report.

**Reflections.** Angie Warren & Simran Puri. No Report. Council judging is underway. We have everything scheduled to complete judging by December 20th. January 25th will be the Issaquah PTSa Council Reflections Reception and Art Gallery starting at 6:30pm at Issaquah High School.

**Special Education.** Betsy Grant. No report.

**Webmaster**. Laura Ni. See Slide. Any questions or updates needed for website, please email webmaster@issaquahptsa.org.

**New Business/Q&A-** None.

**Adjourn at 12:01pm**

Meeting Minutes taken by Lauren Bartholomew

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