

ISPTSA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Tuesday Oct 3rd, 2017

IS Commons

Call to order: 7:07 pm

Attendance: Dinner attendance and sign in sheets could not be located after meeting. No attendance available.

Meeting was announced for at least two weeks prior in the ISPTSA Monday Messenger.

Welcome to General Membership by Meribeth Nordloef-Pedersen

Minutes: Review and approve the Minutes from ISPTSA General Membership Meeting on Tuesday June 13th. Minutes approved.

ISPTSA Theme: What is a Community for us? Even though IS is a fairly young school IS has traditions. There is a FAQ available about the IS traditions available in the office.

Treasurer's Report to Membership: by Meribeth Nordloef Pedersen

Financial report is provided every month. New software is being used by the PTSA called Money Minders. Current expenditures related to tumbler sales, insurance, software and grants unallocated. This category covers grant submissions that come in from teachers for expenses from last year but are submitted this year. There have been a few grants unallocated.

Checking \$5,000.000 and Savings account at \$105,000.00. The Scottrade account will be closed out this year and it is at around \$3,000.00. The PTSA has around \$114,000.00.

Vote on 2017-18 Budget by Meribeth Nordloef-Pedersen

The preliminary Budget was presented to the general membership.

The PTSA asked the membership to approve the budget as presented. The president informed the membership that the budget as presented was not a budget presented to spend down the accounts but was based on real operational expenses.

Fall Campaign: Fall Campaign budget goal of \$35,000.00 covers the goal of academic requests and staff grants. The fall campaign covers line items such as the Book Fair that occurs during the Bite of IS. Money earned from the Book Fair is donated to the Library to buy needed supplies.

Spring Social Event: Budgeting \$40,000 for income. Looking to only have a live auction and no silent auction.

Corporate Matching Gifts: Corporate Matching Gifts are \$15,000.00. The PTSA asks that members please check to see if their employers are corporate match programs and to apply them to the Fall Campaign.

Promotional Items: The PTSA is providing items such as Directory Spot to PTSA members and offering new this year the ISPTSA tumblers.

Administration and Communication: Expense of \$58,175.00. Examples of Line Items are 6th Gr. Parent Lunch, BSF Donations, Staff Appreciation, Orchestra, Fetal Pigs, Choir, Library, etc. There will be no world language intern this year. This item won't be allocated out for this year.

Recurring Programs: Items such as Shakespeare Play for HS, HS Retreat, Baccalaureate & Commencement, Campus Improvement and the Speaker Series.

PRIDE Fund: When the PTSA participated in the Campus improvement day the PRIDE Fund was a restricted fund and was changed by the membership to assist with the campus improvement to make changes for the school to improve the environment for students and staff. A very brief description of a restricted fund or line item was presented to the membership.

As the budget was presented it was noted that it is not a balanced budget. The budget has an income of \$100,000 and expenses of \$112,000.00. The president expressed reassurance to the membership that with her previous experience she felt that even though the budget wasn't balanced the PTSA would still have a positive experience and would most likely balance over the year.

A motion was made to accept the budget as presented to the general membership by Molly Kihanya. Motion was seconded. Motion Passed.

Review and Approval of Standing Rules for 2017-2018: by Meribeth Nordloef-Pedersen
Changes to the Standing Rules were presented to the membership.

Section 3.4 a change in wording to include, "International School students shall be honorary members with no votes. The students shall be conference members with the ability to discuss issues and express ideas at meeting of the general membership and at board of director's meetings".

And changes to 3.5 "International School teachers and staff are encouraged to be PTSA members of the current academic year and to apply for International School PTSA grants for that academic year."

A motion was made to accept the Standing rules as presented to the membership. By Melissa Richardson. Motion was seconded. Motion Passed.

What's new this year?

1. 4 General Meetings this year.
2. Fall Fundraising Campaign: Community creates success at IS.
3. Participate in our Career Fair for all students slated for January 2018.
4. New Student Liaison to the board position.
5. 2nd annual Campus Improvement Day February 10th. Looking to having it indoors.
6. ISPTSA Social and Live Auction 2017: Theme "Hats off to IS". Scheduled for March or April.

Support by Joining: more than 435 other parents and teachers to grow our community in membership to reach 100% goal. Join our Monday Messenger and stay informed. Join our online directory DirectorySpot and stay in touch.

Support by participating.

Membership was encouraged to attend the Tailgate functions, community building events, and participate in Teacher Appreciation.

Support by donating

Donate to the PTSA fund. Donations support teacher grants. Grants support classroom experiences and student enrichment.

Brief Introduction of ISPTSA Officers:

President-Meribeth Nordloef-Pedersen, Secretary-Amy Frei, VP Communications-Stephanie Winkler-Hadley, Treasurer One-Beverly Ni, Treasurer Two-Michelle Lee, CO VP Community-Sylvia Abrahamsson, CO VP Community-Li Wu, President Elect-Ching Guo.

ISPTSA Tumblers:

New fundraiser introduced to the membership this year. ISPTSA Tumblers are \$17 for PTSA members and \$20 non-members. A tumbler was presented to the principal as a gift.

Membership: by Joanie Cheng

ISPTSA has 437 members. Thank you especially to our teachers who have joined this year.

Nominations:

January General Membership Meeting will have voting for the Nominations Committee. Members were asked to consider joining the committee.

Presentation by Principal: Tara Gray

Expectations: All students to come to school every day on time. Please make sure laptops are fully charged. International Schools Beginning: Founded In 1990. IS is an Innovative place and want to be a learning environment of 21st century learning. IS wants teachers and students to be willing to take educational risks.

Focused on international and intercultural. International School (IS) wants students to take a lead role in their learning. IS also wants to continue being a leader in learning for the district. IS continues to be connected globally. The French Consul visit was a highlight as well as the Holland Technology group. Having these connections opens doors and resources for IS students. IS is a leader in educational technology learning.

Synergy: This is the new student information system. Tomorrow night and Thursday night presentations available for parents. There are teacher contractual expectations. There are resources in place to help teachers and staff work with synergy. When a student has a 'make-up' or missing assignments teachers must update grades within 10 school days. Assignments and tests should be updated within 15 school days.

Best practices: Promote student independence and self-advocacy. Build routine and make it a positive experience. Teach the skills organization tricks you have found helpful.

The Power of Habit by Charles Duhigg: Cue-Routine-Reward.

Parents are encouraged to have students communicate with teachers (both through email and in person), help students reach out to their teacher when needed, students can also reach out to their counselor if they wish to talk with them.

Suggested Resource for parents: <http://amycarney.com/blog/alk-away-from-doing-these-8-things-for-your-teen-this-school-year/>

Fall Conference Needs:

In the past staff have done arena conferences. The school has tried to improve the experience through adjusting times and other options. Despite attempts at improvement to teacher conferences, teachers are not seeing a positive impact on student learning. Additionally, teachers are exhausted and report being unable to do their best in the classroom because of the impact on their time and energy. Finally, HS staff aren't contractually obligated to participate in conferences

Staff Goal for conference changes: Increase outcome for students, the belief is that by supporting students in taking the lead on conference they will have more ownership of their learning experience.

Option: Student lead conferences. Students would work with each of their teachers to complete a power point to review their learning and goals, students would present the power point to their parents reviewing each of the classes, and sharing their strengths and challenges.

Select 40-minute session with a max of 17 students per session. The teacher would serve as host in the room. These plans are not final, and the staff welcomes input from parents.

Times suggested are 7:15-7:55 for the morning session, dates still to be determined (November)
What else would parents and guardians like staff to consider?

The floor was opened to parent input. Discussion occurred about the suggested change to parent conferences.

Other topics of interest to membership:

Donations: PTSA partnership, IS Staff Appreciate PTSA transparency and Additional donations; BSF, Direct donations to the school and SchoolPool.

Transportation: Membership was reminded that since IS is a choice school transportation is an area where advocacy both on the part of the administration and the parents side is an ongoing topic. The membership was reminded to keep up on the latest information about transportation at the district transportation website.

Skiing: The membership was reminded that the Bellevue School District is not affiliated with any other Ski School than the Bellevue Ski School. That is the only BSD approved Ski School program. The administration cannot vouch for any other afterschool skiing programs.

Pilot Programs: How pilot programs are implemented, and the process was discussed briefly with the membership by the administration and staff. Membership was reassured that students educational outcome and success is a priority during program material piloting.

November general membership meeting topic will be Testing.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:10 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Frei-ISPTSA Secretary