

Issaquah Middle School PTSA 2.6.35
General Membership Meeting
November 19, 2011
IMS Library

Minutes

Call to Order and Special Guest: The meeting was called to order by Kristen Allen-Bentsen at 6:35. Proper notice was given and a quorum was present. A sign in sheet is attached to the original minutes.

Kristen introduced the special guest Superintendent Steve Rasmussen. The Superintendent thanked the parents and teachers for their interest in the value of education and spoke about several positive aspects of the ISD. Parents want their children in the ISD and the expectation for most children is that they will go on to post secondary education. He praised the excellent transition programs for 6th graders and for freshman. Eighty nine percent of sophomores and juniors took the PSAT test which is a good tool in college planning.

Challenges for the ISD include reduced funding from the state. The affects are not clear but could include larger class sizes and big cuts in transportation. Jake Cooper, ISD CFO, is excellent and has kept the ISD with the lowest overhead costs in the state and continues to work very hard to keep education standards at a high level. Work is being done to promote an upcoming School Construction and Maintenance Bond which will be voted on in April. The bond and its effects were discussed (see detailed handout, copy included).

Kristen thanked the Superintendent Rasmussen for taking the time to talk with IMS PTSA.

Staff Spotlight: Kristen introduced IMS Assistant Principal Seth Adams, who is in his fourth year at IMS. He described his previous experience and family. Mr. Adams deals with 97 percent of the discipline problems at IMS and his primary goal is to be fair and listen without judgement and with respect. He mentioned the bond and is hoping that it will pass because IMS is in disrepair. He encouraged participating in extracurricular activities for all children, especially intramural sports, clubs and school plays.

Principals Report: Corinne DeRosa updated the group on the Geography Bee, National Junior Honor Society and clubs that are active at IMS including the CIRT Team (disaster preparedness) and the Green Team (one of the few in WA-they have an organic garden). She encouraged parents to attend Band, Orchestra and Chorus concerts even if their child isn't a member. Students cannot take a foreign language class if they do not get a B or higher in humanities. Attendance problems have decreased and there are no students who are chronically absent this year. Teachers are still working on the CIP plan with the focus on "thinking" and how to teach critical thinking skills, questioning techniques, and managing impulsivity. All that information can be found detailed online at the IMS website.

Financial Report: Anne Watanabe reviewed the financial report, mentioning that the main fund raisers so far have been Pass the Hat and Salmon Days Parking. All bills are paid and most checks have been written. The October bank statement was reviewed by a non-signer, Michelle Lancaster.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the October General Membership meeting were reviewed, approved and filed.

President's Report: Kristen Allen-Bentsen thanked the several teachers present for attending the meeting and encouraged all teachers to attend in the future. She thanked Natalie Hancock, Brenda Laurence and Dan Chernin for their hard work on membership. IMS PTSA has 631 members, which is good but they are still pushing for new members. Walkabout volunteers were encouraged to sign up for more shifts, especially on Thursdays; this is a very important PTSA function.

New Business:

1. Angel Program- \$6000 has been donated so far and each of the students being helped will receive a \$125 gift card. Donations can be given at any time online and are greatly appreciated.
2. Finding Kind- Seth Adams described the movie and dates that it will be shown at IHS and Skyline. PR for the showings is being planned.
3. ASB- Elaine Sakamoto said that the food drive is coming to a close and drivers will be needed for pick up and delivery in one week. She passed around a sign up sheet.

VP and Committee Reports:

1. Maria Nelson reported that the Staff Holiday Breakfast will be on December 14th and sign ups for food items will go out in one week.
2. Sara Carmichael reported that the school directory will be going out soon, IMS now has a VIS Rep (Camille Vaska) and the Parent Ed committee will be meeting soon.
3. Onti Rosen reported that Katie Milne sent out thank you's for PTSA donations and membership and will be sending another email with tax deduction information. Colleen Gurkin will take over the Golden Acorn Awards. Reflections ended with 20 creative entries. Family Fun night will be January 27th; Jan Chernin, Lauren Piper and Connie Bellas are chairing the event. Onti also gave a Site Council update; the Panther Press may not be published in the same format next year and if parents have any input on traffic problems around IMS let site council members know.
4. A Legislation Representative for IMS is still needed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12.