

ITHACA HIGH SCHOOL PTA Meeting, June 8, 2015

Minutes by PTA secretary Tonya Engst

This end-of-the school-year meeting took place in the school library, along with an art show where student work was on display.

Our president, Amita Verma, could not attend, so PTA vice president of communications Esther Racoosin led the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Thank you to the parents who participated in Senior Week activities.

* The PTA-sponsored annual staff appreciation luncheon will be on Wednesday. The PTA pays for catering by Aladdin's and PTA members make desserts.

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS, TONYA ENGST

Tonya notes that she is not handing out paper copies of the minutes from recent meetings, but that the minutes have been posted on the PTA website and email was sent to alert people to the availability of the minutes. She hopes that people have read them online or downloaded and printed them if desired.

A motion is made and seconded to accept the minutes from the April 7 and April 21 meetings. The motion passes.

TREASURER'S REPORT, SHIVAUN ARCHER

The PTA's fiscal year ends June 30th, but since this is our last meeting before then, this is Shivaun's end-of-year report:

* The PTA has a healthy balance in its checking account, slightly in excess of \$7,000.

* Thank you to everyone who donated or in any way sponsored the PTA by advertising in the directory.

* For the most part our budget for the past year went as expected, in terms of what we made money from and spent money on.

* Money came from the PTA's participation in helping with school pictures, membership donations, and the coffee fundraiser.

* What we spent so far:

- Administrative costs like copying, printing, website, and insurance
- \$4 from every membership goes to the state PTA
- Teacher mini-grants (a big part of outgoing expenses)
- Money awards given during Awards day
- Supporting the Family Liaison program and Link Crew
- Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- Refreshments at various events

If all goes as planned, we'll spend a little more than \$8,0000 the budget year. Given cash flow, and an expense from last year that got paid this year, the budget is working out just fine.

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRINCIPAL, JASON TRUMBLE

Esther invites Jason to say a few words. Jason says that he wants to engage in meaningful dialog with the PTA since it is a crucial component of our community here at Ithaca High. Thanks to everyone for welcoming him as Ithaca High principal. Jason would like to continue the monthly PTA board meetings that we began trying to have with him this year, where we talk about what's happening at Ithaca High (and not just during the school year, but also this summer).

Jason wants every child in this building to participate in an extracurricular activity, such as a club or sport. He knows that some kids are overcommitted. But he is especially concerned about students that aren't involved at all, because he wants all students to have a strong sense of belonging and community. He thinks that solutions will include transportation, communication, and invitation. He wants to "get down in the weeds" about what that might look like, so that we can "actualize" it.

STUDENT REP TO THE IHS SITE COUNCIL, CONNOR COOTS

Connor is an outgoing senior.

Connor notes that Site-based Council is a group of students, parents, and community members who get together to discuss pertinent issues concerning Ithaca High School. At the moment, a focus is bridging the gap between students and the district office. Next school year, Connor hopes that more parents will be active in Site-based Council.

Wendy Bakal asks, Would it be possible to coordinate between PTA meetings and site-council meetings? This might make it easier for people to get to meetings. Connor agrees that this would be a good idea, especially when topics intersect, such as budget-related meetings.

VOTING IN THE 2015/16 OFFICERS

The officer slate is as follows:

- * Co-presidents: Vanessa Wagner, Jacquie Lopez
- * Treasurer: Shivaun Archer
- * Secretary: Carolyn Theodore
- * Co-membership VPs: Tina Hallock and Ally Rooks
- * Co-programming VPs: Anne Horst and Beth Breuhaus
- * Communication VP: Esther Racoosin
- * PTA Council liaisons: Pat Fox and Susan Barnett

Anne Horst moves that we accept the above slate, Wendy Bakal seconds, and it passes nearly unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Tina Hallock reflects on what Jason said about wanting all kids to be involved. She feels that the PTA could support that effort as it plans for the coming school year.

Anne Horst comments on how she wants to work on having more people - and a broader range of people - come to more PTA meetings.

Alice Wu talks about how next Tuesday there will be a college panel, wherein recent IHS grads come back and talk about their college experiences. The panel is aimed at students in particular, juniors especially, but also any grade and parents.

Family Liaison Barbara Bergman says that she and Mary Cole are working on improving the packet of papers that is sent at the end of the summer from the school to each student. They hope to make the overall batch of papers easier to understand and manage.

At an earlier meeting, it had been suggested that more information be included on report cards, like a one- or two-line message of the most important information that the school would like to share. As it turns out, from the standpoint of getting the computers to do this, this good idea is far harder to implement than you would think. It might be realistic, however, to add a half page in a bright color with a few key bullet points. [I'm not sure who said this.]