

ITHACA HIGH SCHOOL PTA

PTA Meeting, Nov. 1, 2016

Minutes by PTA secretary Carolyn Theodore

The second IHS PTA meeting of the academic year took place in the Cafeteria with 12 people in attendance. The meeting included refreshments and was led by PTA president, Vanessa Wagner. The agenda is attached.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM Sept. 15, 2016

Carolyn Theodore noted that the minutes had been emailed prior to the meeting. There were no corrections or additions. Jacquie Lopez moved to approve the Sept. 15, 2016 minutes, Erin Oates seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The minutes will be posted on the PTA website.

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET

Jacquie Lopez reported that there are a few more expenses and memberships coming in, and reminded the group that another Direct Appeal is planned, likely in the Spring.

Volunteers are needed to run the Direct Appeal this year. Please notify Vanessa if you are willing to help coordinate this fundraiser, send emails, collect checks, etc.

Since some money is left over from last year the group discussed possible guidelines for how much to spend and how much to save for future years. It was decided that if requests come in for unbudgeted spending during the year, the group will discuss and decide on a case-by-case basis whether to fund the programs.

It was discussed what the PTA should spend money on, and Vanessa plans to request feedback. More student awards is one option, and club starting funds is another potential need, since the district no longer supplies starting funds to IHS' approximately 40 student clubs.

FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE

Vanessa reported how the PTA proposed to help with the school's need for food that was reported by teachers and discussed at previous meetings. The PTA cannot address the entire need and proposes to award several mini-grants each semester to reimburse teachers for out-of-pocket expenses. The proposal is made in recognition that many enrichment programs are now being funded via other outlets, such as IPEI, and most of the PTA mini-grants have requested reimbursement for food purchased by teachers.

The group discussed feedback from meeting attendees and emailed in, and concluded that there was a demonstrated need and money available. Erin Oates moved that we increase the funding for mini-grants from \$2,000 to \$3,000 in the 2016-17 budget, Debbie seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

It was suggested that the PTA could also put the word out to request donations of food or supplies, perhaps on a once/month frequency in the E-news, and that teachers could provide a wish list of items needed.

PROGRAMMING

- “Screenagers” program is in consideration, potentially with Boynton, Dewitt and LACS. The cost is \$1,000 to screen the 1-hour movie. An executive board member is going to watch in Lansing and decide whether to propose for IHS.
- “Consent is Not Enough” program is being offered by Cornell University and IHS may participate.
- “Community Conversations” program is in development to engage the community in discussion of various topics. The PTA will request input on topics of interest, and Beth Warner-Breuhaus and Vanessa Wagner will review and determine the topics.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Besides a coordinator for the Direct Appeal, we need a Nominating Committee for next year’s officers. Two executive team members and one other volunteer are needed.

ICSD DAY Nov. 15

In support of the superintendent’s Team ICSD initiative, seeking photos and videos of why we love ICSD, the PTA posed for a picture with the “Team ICSD” sign for posting on the website.

COMMUNICATIONS

We reviewed a Daily Announcement and were reminded of where it appears on the home page of the IHS website. We discussed again the fact that the eNews is received twice by those on the PTA listserve, and the version sent by Student Services reaches many more families. We don’t mind the duplication and like that the listserve version contains more of a summary.

Send any news to Erin Oates to be distributed, even if it misses the eNews deadline.

NEXT MEETING

The PTA intends to schedule monthly meetings in the future, with the next meeting likely the 2nd week of December. It will be a short business meeting followed by a community discussion on a topic to be determined.

ATTACHMENT

- Meeting Agenda

**PTA Association Business Meeting
November 1, 2016
5:30-6:30pm – IHS Cafeteria**

1. Approve Meeting Minutes from 9/15/16 – 2 minutes
2. Budget – Where we are now and where we want to go – 5 minutes
3. Food Program Update – vote to increase mini-grant expense – 10 minutes
4. Programming – Possible programs for the year – 10 minutes
5. Volunteers now and for next year – 5 minutes
6. Team ICSD – Nov. 15th – 3 minutes
7. Communications – 5 minutes
8. Open Discussion – 15 minutes