

# ISPTSA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 10th, 2018

IS Library

**Call to order:** 7:15 pm

**Attendance:** See sign in sheet. Quorum Present.

Meeting was announced to membership in ISPTSA Electronic Newsletter – Monday Messenger - for two weeks prior to meeting date.

**Welcome to General Membership** by Ching Gao.

## **Introduce the board:**

The following presented persons were voted on by the membership and accepted by the membership as the 2018-2019 slate of officers: Dori Kelleran and Nancy. A voice vote was asked of the membership. The voice vote was unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes:** Review and approve the Minutes from ISPTSA General Membership Meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Minutes accepted as submitted.

**Approval of Standing Rules:** Review and approve the revised Standing Rules. Standing Rules accepted as submitted. Motion accept the standing rules Meribeth and second Ching

***A motion was made to accept the standing rules as presented by Dori Kelleran. Motion was seconded by Ching. Motion Passed.***

**Approval of 2018-2019 Budget:** Budget totals \$120,000 – the balanced budget shows recurring list, scholarships and other items paid for by PTSA.

***A motion was made to accept the budget as presented to the general membership by Dori Kelleran. Motion was seconded. Motion Passed.***

Details of grants submitted and accepted to a total of \$10,000, including Wobble Stools for Math department which are a great example of the type of innovations the ISPTSA likes to fund

## **Presidents Report to the General Membership:**

The messages covered were:

- Please participate in your PTSA – through meetings, volunteering for the board etc.
- Please support the PTSA through donations, volunteering etc.
- Stay involved by nominating parents for the board
- We are always looking for alumni help as part of the community to make our school excellent
- We make a difference through excellence and Innovations e.g. the Wobble Stools

Other ways to get involved:

- Communication: there are lots of tools to ensure we communicate all the things happening in the school – Monday Messenger, our website, Directory Spot, the Bulletin Board, Facebook and remind.com etc.
- Community: help out by directing traffic, attending the tailgating meet ups, donating food for special occasions, answering the call for volunteers for things like the Middle School Socials, Staff appreciation lunches, Super Wed Pizza.
- Spiritwear: PTSA would welcome any feedback on the current Spiritwear, and any ideas for future items - direct to Ching

### **Committee reports:**

#### **Fundraising – Dori Kelleran**

We have been running the Raise the Torch Fall Fundraiser through October with a goal of raising \$30K. This \$30K goes towards the PTSAs Full Year target \$100k (includes Raise the Torch, Spring Auction and corporate matching). All of the funds raised go to school academics, students and our community.

#### **Outreach - Meribeth Nordloef-Pedersen**

We hit our goal of 100% membership in 2017-2018, and we want to do it again this year: as of October we are at 50%. We also have a target of 100% of teachers and staff.

Outreach also includes

- Advocacy – we currently have an open chair position if anyone is interested
- Reflections Chair – this is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Reflections with the theme of Heroes Around Me
- Volunteers – Five parents have volunteered, and we now have an ‘on call’ category of volunteers where you can sign up for general requests when opportunities come up – see Monday Messenger
- Senior student scholarship (\$1000) – we are currently working on the criteria and application process and need volunteers for this committee. We can either offer two \$500 scholarships or one \$1000 scholarship
- Computer Club – includes programming and gaming building towards a State competition. We have two PTSA members interested in supporting.

#### **Principal Talk - Tara Gray**

Tara gave a talk on how best to stay informed, including one best practice of having our students share with their families. She also advocates that all questions and concerns, as well as praise for IS teachers should preferably be student led, and that many prefer emails

With regard to Synergy / Parentvue, remember that this is the app for keeping up on your student’s attendance and grades, and expect it to take up to three weeks for grades to get into grade book. Also, use Outlook for calendar of homework and not Synergy when looking for dates.

Tara also recommended parents to pick a day per week when you look at your children’s grades and stick to it, and talked about The Power of Habit (Charles Duhigg) which recommends building a positive routine for students: cue, routine, reward. A link to the article is included in the PowerPoint presented at the meeting.

Tara also reminded everyone to encourage their kids to take advantage of tutorial which should be considered as part of the school day. It is a great time to students to study for tests, catch up on school work, etc. Best practice is to get students into a rhythm of going to tutorial on particular days.

Remember that tutorial is not a time for parents to meet with teachers, unless a meeting has been previously scheduled.

Tara also talked about International's high-quality instruction and specifically about Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) which takes into account the needs of each student within each classroom to ensure all kids getting what they need to be successful. This is data-driven instruction, focusing on Algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade this year, but will eventually include other subjects.

Tara presented on IS academic success and how we see 100% graduation (no other school is doing that) as well as 100% college admissions. We are also a Microsoft Showcase school and are looking for volunteers for hosting showcase conferences Feb 13.

Other areas of IS success discussed was student community bonding, the High School Retreat, 6<sup>th</sup> grade retreat, camps and focus week, along with partnering with PTSA which saw the addition of evening options for Back 2 Business day this year which went well and we will want to do again next year

There has also been a focus on student well-being, particularly around social-emotional learning, as well as state standards and bullying prevention.

#### **Introducing 2018-2018 French Intern - Elodie Perez**

Elodie is from Bordeaux, France and is here to gain experience teaching in the US. This is a great opportunity for Elodie and our students. Thanks to Elodie's host family and support from PTSA.

#### **Other Business:**

##### Funded Makerspace

Tara Jones is the IS Research Technology Specialist. Makerspace has been funded by ISPTSA, and equipment (including printer and supplies) purchased – it is available to all students and includes 3D and banner printing, and is also available for use by clubs and teachers. The PTSA received a funding request this year to add to Makerspace, augmenting with a virtual reality camera and supplies. In addition, a Senior Project grant request was received and approved to make Makerspace more prominent and usable.

##### Grants

PTSA grants are open to students and parents as well as teachers for projects that benefit the school and the students.

##### School improvement plan

The 3-yr plan from last year has been replaced by a new plan, and this is year zero. The District is testing to eventually bring in a four year plan cycle. Tara would welcome feedback on ideas for plan. Still need to build out with SMART goals. The District I also in a 3-year accreditation review of a seven year cycle.

##### New changes with new superintendent

There have been noticeable differences, and change is important in education: content is always changing and teachers need to relearn and redevelop to stay innovative at IS. With regard to testing at the district and state level, the State is continually adjusting on how implement. This makes it hard to see year to year as it changes every couple of years. At the school level, we want to develop deep learners with successful long-term characteristics eg critical thinking etc.

#### Parent / Teacher Conferences

This was a conversation we started last year when we decided to move to targeted discussion – if parents don't reach out with a concern or their teacher doesn't see a concern, there will no longer be general conferences. We tried presentations but we couldn't make that successful.

#### Teacher / parent social

We did this last year are we doing this again? Last year there were more teachers than parents, so Tara would like input to make it more successful this year and whether we should do it. There has been no decision yet. PTSA will add to Monday Messenger to ask for feedback / interest.

#### Vending machine

A new one is coming to IS from Fresh and will be situated in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade locker bay. It will include bars, parfaits, juices etc. to encourage students to get energy from nutritional options and students can use cash or card.

#### Paperless Report Cards

Most parents do not take option of paperless report cards – you can sign up in ParentVue where they will go out four times a year. Will be added to Monday Messenger, explaining how to opt out of the paper copies (can print your own copies if you need them).

#### Next Gen meeting

The next General Meeting will be on February 12<sup>th</sup> 2019. If anyone wants us to have more General Meetings, please email the PTSA to let us know.  
In April will nominate and approve next board.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:13 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Zena Heywood - ISPTSA Secretary