

Newcastle Elementary PTSA

Parent Teacher Student Association



General Membership Meeting

December 6, 2021

7pm-8:30pm

Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Mary Vickers, Dr. Wood, Brooke Weller, Hilary Doherty, Bisa Meek, Heidi Kayler, Erin Davidson, Lara Velasco, Mei Atangan, Mary McGuire Brown, Albert Kim, Ellen Lubbers, Kelli Medak, Whitney Walker, Trisha Marshall, Hamida Abu, Ali Bligh, Farah Alvi, Marcia O'Donoghue, Allison Sweeney, Rebecca Nguyen

Call to Order 7:02pm - Mary Vickers

Vote to approve September 27th PTSA General Meeting Minutes- Mary Vickers introduces the minutes to be approved. Bisa motions to approve the minutes and Hilary Doherty seconds and with no abstentions or objections noted the minutes are approved.

Nominating Committee - Mary Vickers - 3 members elected at a membership meeting. Nominees are Rebecca Nguyen, Farah Alvi, Whitney Walker. Hilary Doherty nominates the listed nominees and Trisha seconds. Rebecca, Whitney and Farah voted and approved by PTSA without abstentions or objections.

Advocacy Chair- Ellen Lubbers - The annual legislative assembly occurred on October 23rd and 24th. Equity, Safety, Mental Wellness and Funding Solutions are the focus for the year.

Top 5 2021 Legislative Priorities

1. Increase access to nursing, mental health and social emotional learning staff
2. Support students and preserve education funding
3. Increasing educational equity by closing the digital divide
4. Supports and funding for students with disabilities and their families
5. Prevent and reduce gun violence and suicide

Also supported:

- Equitable access for highly capable students
- Mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change
- Safe school plans and emergency preparedness

Issaquah Schools Foundation Update - Hilary Doherty - The Foundation helps students build an academic foundation, explore opportunities and launch successfully into their future. The Foundation bridges the gap between state and local funding. Hilary noted the program introduces programs that are culturally diverse, directly impact students in need, and supports teachers through grants and various pilot programs that impact the district as a whole. The Monster 5K Halloween event was also a success and events like it help bridge the gap in funding between the state and local level. The Foundation specifically helped support student academic tutoring, partnered with Costco for the district vaccine drive and provided care packages for students.

VOICE Mentor Program - Heidi Kayler - VOICE mentor programs co-manager explained the services and needs of the program. School support teams suggest students who would benefit from a mentor. The program provides social and emotional support for students that encourage them to become more engaged in school and support academic development through personal connection.

Financial Update - Ali Bligh- Budget will be posted on the website to show year to date spending. \$13,000 given total. Please submit requests in order to continue to provide support to students and teachers. The tax returns have been filed and the annual renewals in place. Please remember to submit expenses within 30 days so we have a current picture of spending.

Activities Update - Outreach, Programs VPs- Marcia outlined the winter programs.

- Donation/ Food Drive will occur in January to continue to support the Issaquah food bank.
- Angel program has 24 committed volunteers with 12 students who are being supported anonymously.
- Winter Art projects will be coming home in January while some art projects will be happening in class.
- The Science Fair and a virtual cooking class will take place in the spring. Volunteers are always needed/ appreciated.
- The Harvest Lunch for the teachers occurred in November and was greatly appreciated by teachers and staff.
- The Cookie Exchange for teachers will take place in the new year. Families provide the cookies (two dozen) and the PTSA provides boxes for the teachers to select their choice of treat!
- Spirit Wear Friday's is back and in full swing to bring back the community spirit of the school.
- Card My Yard is still donating some proceeds to the school so please continue to consider this as an option for various events.

Adjourn PTSA Meeting - 7:58pm Mary Vickers adjourns the General Membership meeting.