

February 25, 2013 – Ithaca High School PTA

Draft of Minutes

20 people (administrators/parents) in attendance – no one signed in

Amanda Verba, TST BOCES Youth Development Coordinator talks about DASA Act and how the district has been preparing staff/students.

Amanda handed out a calendar outlining all of the trainings that have been done and will be done in the district and community with respect to the new DASA rules that took effect this year.

### **Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) 2012**

It is hereby declared to be policy of the State to afford all students in public schools and environment free of discrimination and harassment. The purpose of this article is to foster civility in public schools and to prevent and prohibit conduct which is inconsistent with the school's educational mission.

No student shall be subjected to harassment by employees or students on school property or at a school function; nor shall any student be subjected to discrimination based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex by school employees or students on school property or at school function.

### **Some Helpful Reminders:**

It is the obligation of anyone who witnesses an act of discrimination and/or harassment on school property or at school functions to discourage, respond, and report the act to school personnel

Don't Confuse Conflict and Bullying

Don't ignore it

Don't get into a debate

Don't bully the bully

Don't bring the bully and target together

Don't punish the target

Don't assume the problem is solved

*We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere.*

*-Elie Wiesel, the Night Trilogy: Night/Dawn/The Accident*

## ACTIVE BYSTANDER – WHAT TO DO

We agree that violence is bad and that all of us are involved one way or another. We also agree that all of us have legitimate reasons we have not been more involved up until now. And, finally, we've also come to agree, now that we are more aware of our involvement, that we want to do some things different. So, let's figure out some Green Dots.

The green dot program doesn't tell you what to do, it just asks you to do something. It is complete silence and inaction that allows red dots to continue. Anything to combat that inaction is going to be a stop in the right direction. There are three major categories of reactive green dots you can do – the three D's:

1. DIRECT

2. DISTRACT

Three Major Categories of Reactive Green Dots

3. DELEGATE

Potential Red Dot+Obstacle=Self Defining Moment

It was asked by a parent what Administration does when these DASA forms are turned in? Administration looks at the form. Depending on the circumstances, there is mediation, social support and they talk to the individual. Sometimes the individuals that turn in the forms give a lot of information that is helpful and sometimes no information is given so little can be done. Each case is handled carefully.

## PRINCIPAL REPORT ON SAFETY

Jarrett Powers spoke on School Safety – Over 100 doors on campus, 118 teachers

12 fire drills/year have already taken place

Early Dismissal

Absentee rate is 12-15%

Changed the visitor tags

Assigned Hall Monitors

Trying to get people more involved to create a better/safer community at IHS

3 Lockdowns/year - 2 with Ithaca Police Department present – working with IPD to improve.

Students cutting class has decreased

Student referrals have decreased

Drugs are probably the biggest problem on IHS Campus – there is concern that if smoke shops on the Commons are socially acceptable we're giving the students the wrong message. Students don't know what's in the synthetic drugs on the market today. It's important to educate your kids about this.

Student Resource Officer has been put on hold and the Board of Education is looking at the whole district and how safety is handled for a safe school plan. IHS is partnering with consultants for a district wide plan – no projected date of completion.

Some parents voiced their concern about drugs/safety issues in the high school. Mr. Jason Trumble spoke about changes in getting Ithaca Police Department more present on campus and working with campus administration and staff to ensure safety.

A parent mentioned the problem with the Bridge at Fall Creek and its “activity”. This is not school property – it is the City of Ithaca Property and Ithaca Police Department occasionally patrols the area. It was suggested by a parent that maybe the school would like to form a peer group of high schoolers to monitor this area and possibly distract certain activity from happening.

**STUDENT2STUDENT** – trained peer listeners available during all lunch periods on Mondays and Tuesdays in the HUB (d13) Students, Roey Goldstein and Edan Bar talked about their involvement in student groups at the school.

Come talk to a group of your peers if you:

- Have stress at home
- Have stress at school
- Have stress in a relationship
- Just need to talk to someone

We are IHS students:

- Lending an ear through peer-listening
- Giving a voice through advocacy
- Changing the school culture and climate
- Standing up to bullying

Learn more and join the students’ conversation

Follow: @S2S\_607 (Twitter)

Like: facebook.com/S2S.ihs

Message: [Student2Student.ihs@gmail.com](mailto:Student2Student.ihs@gmail.com)

By Students. For Students

Program adjourned – 8:15pm

Executive Board Meeting

2/25/13 8:15 p.m.

In attendance Jarra Jagne, Maria Gandolfo, Debbie Mahoney, Julie Hughes, Alice Wu, Vicki Brew

Minutes from previous meeting approved

**Treasurer report** - \$2514.03 – treasurer report approved

**PTAC** – Wendy Bakal submitted written report – see below

Fall Mailings: Wendy met with Jason Trumble last month after surveying all PTA units for their directory processes and outcomes. At this meeting we agreed that there should be a consistent policy among all units in the district regarding opt in/opt out processes. Wendy shared an ideal opt-out proforma that we would like to see. His plan after the meeting was to coordinate with Matthew Landahl (his counterpart of the elementary level) and then the ICSD legal counsel. We had a plan to meet this Thursday but I received a note today that legal was not ready yet so we are rescheduling the meeting. The plan is to have this on the agenda at a future PTAC meeting so that he can hear directly from each PTA unit before final decisions are made.

Math pathways: In response to parent requests regarding changes in the math curriculum not only at the high school level, but also in the middle school, Mr. Trumble will seek input from staff to put together a new and more accurate flow chart for pathways up through calculus.

Weather release: Regarding the recent weather “early release”, the District is working on a paradigm shift from what has been done in past years to what makes sense for any given situation at hand. In this case, it made sense to release the older children early, while keeping the younger children in school for the second bus run. This is explained in more detail in the current issue of the ICSD insider.

IPEI Spelling Bee: The PTAC will sponsor a team for the spelling bee to be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mini grant applications will go out this week – please review and get back to Jarra Jagne.

**The Word** – Debbie Mahoney

Last issue is May – need names of people to thank for all the programs that the PTA has supported over the year. The most current Word will go out with progress reports on March 7. The Word will need volunteers for next year.

**PTA Membership**- Currently at 303 – Great increase over the past few years.

**Upcoming PTA Programs –**

- March 11 8 pm – Jim Maas – Talk on Sleep in Kulp Auditorium
- April – Student 2Student – Roey Goldstein/Chris Bennett
- May?

**PTA RECRUITMENT:**

All Executive positions will be vacant next school year. Please reach out to community for help. If you are interested in helping the PTA, please contact Jarra Jagne.

Meeting adjourned 9:30 p.m.