

Incline Middle School Jr. Boosters
December 21, 2011, 9:15 am
Home Ec Room #103

Jr. Booster Officers: Kathie Goldberg, Jayne Findlen, Debbie Larson, Joanne Devine
School Personnel: Sharon Kennedy, Mary Blount
Others: Taylor Mihalko, Chris Swick, Kari Ferguson, John Eppolito, Tanya Soule, Larry Swick,
Valerie Taylor

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 am and minutes from the last meeting were approved.
Announcements included:

- Mary Alber gave Jr. Boosters the Bernie Trilling book on education if anyone wants to borrow it.
- IMS will start saving box tops as a fund raiser so please start sending them in.
- Raley's is hesitant to give IMS donations for events because of the Raley's card that people use when shopping where a percentage goes to IES. IMS has not been one of the recipients of funds but is considering starting the program.

Treasurer's Report

Jayne distributed a handout showing the current balance at \$5223.25. Two new members have joined so we're getting closer to our budgeted amount. Sharon said we have a few new families at IMS. Kathie asked if Junior Boosters information is part of the new student/family packet. She said it was given to Leslie and Claudia to be included in the registration that was done in the spring. Sharon said all registration will be electronic starting next year so signing up should be electronic. It was suggested it be on www.Incline Schools .org so people can learn about Junior Boosters and sign up online.

Directory—Kathie still isn't sure the status of this.

Upcoming Events

ISAEF-sponsored Community Education Forum—The need for a community forum was discussed at our last meeting. The topic was then discussed at ISAEF which has decided to sponsor a community forum with a format similar to the brown bag lunch. Only Incline school administrators and parents as well as the Incline Great Schools Committee representatives will be there, no Washoe County School District personnel. The first meeting will be Jan. 25th 5:30 at IMS. Anonymous questions will be written on cards and the session will be limited to an hour. Someone will keep minutes and post them online. Questions unanswered during the session may appear online with a response if time runs out during the period. There will be a moderator, perhaps Allen Ferris or Byron Gehring. The goal is to have a meeting once a quarter.

Meetings for Middle school parents—Debbie asked whether Sharon still planned on holding additional meetings for parents focusing on middle school scheduling and class offerings. Sharon said such meetings are in her plans and that area superintendent Nancy Sanger will be involved.

WCSD Calendar Meeting, February 8th, 5:30pm at IHS—The calendar meeting regarding proposed calendar changes beginning the 2013-14 school year is now February 8th. The school schedule affects the entire community so everyone is invited.

Spelling Bee—Some time in January. Still no date.

Talent Show—Because of the Republican caucus on Feb. 4th needing the high school, the talent show has been rescheduled for Feb. 11th.

Science Fair—Larry gave the forms to the science teachers. The science fair is set for February 15th. All students who want to participate must submit their paperwork by February 1st.

Staff Appreciation—Kathie talked to IHS and IES about switching the date and it looks like IES will switch to the second full week in May to avoid the week of CRT testing. IHS can't change because of AP testing. Kathie will contact the people who volunteered to head this up.

IMS Staff Reports

Sharon Kennedy, site administrator—The Lego robotics group that Rich Drewes leads is going to nationals. Volleyball tryouts are over and the teams have started practicing. The next round of MAP testing will be in January. We'll have to be on a block schedule then and for the 8th grade writing test. Wrestling starts in winter. This Friday at 1:10 is the winter sports award assembly.

Kathie asked Sharon if she wanted to address the letter that came home from district saying IMS didn't meet AYP and is in need of improvement. Sharon said the lack of proficiency in reading, which was limited to four groups, including special ed, special needs, Hispanic. There is a lot of intervention with those groups. There was a decrease in the percentage of students who didn't make it. The district is looking to move away from measuring AYP in absolutes (75% proficiency across the board) and toward a model focused on measuring growth. The AVID program starting next semester will help. Interviews will begin soon for the kids recommended to be in the program.

Mary Blount, counselor—We have PBS (Positive Behavior Support); rules are posted everywhere and kids are getting rewards. We are alternating between focusing on behavior and homework. Only 38 of 200 got a 100% of homework for the month. Kathie pointed out that there are kids who are trying to do all their homework but are confused. These kids should be considered differently than the group who misses homework because they never intended to do it. Sharon said that when kids need help they should seek out teachers for clarification or understanding. The purpose of the program is to get personal responsibility and 100% homework is 100% homework. If there's a mistake, a teacher will go back and make a change.

Tahoe Safe Alliance will be conducting anti-bullying messages. A parent presentation will be Jan. 23rd 6:00 pm at Parasol building and will include an update on the law regarding bullying and what the schools are doing. It is now against the law to bully. Mary does small group counseling and has been doing a grief group for kids who have lost someone close to them. She takes referrals so if you know anyone who might benefit from this, please let her know.

Joanne asked about GT. Sharon said Ashley Donahue is on campus 2 or 3 days a week and meets with different GT groups, alternating grades. She is a resource and works with teachers and meets with students.

Other/New Business

Kari Ferguson, IVGID—The dance at the Chateau went well with 135 kids attending. There will be three more IVGID dances. The Youth Advisory Council national trails day is Jan. 7th. Next week they will have camps at IES for younger kids and they are looking for leader-in-training volunteers. YAC meetings are now right after school on Wednesdays and pizza and salad are still served at meetings. The next one is Jan. 11th at 1:35 at the Rec Center.

Chris Swick, CYMBAL—Chris praised Terry Pittman and John Mueller for the great job they do with music in our schools and encouraged parents to support them by supporting CYMBAL. Come to the meetings. The next meeting is probably on Jan 9th, the first day back at school. Regarding SAFE Routes to School, Chris said they discussed marking the roads, but that it is too cold to paint now.

John Eppolito distributed a handout about Springboard, a program intended to raise the bar so that more kids can handle AP classes. John said we keep losing AP classes at the high school because not enough kids are up to the challenge and feels Springboard would address this problem by increasing rigor at the lower grades. He said current academic attention is on the low and middle kids and we're forgetting the top kids. Most of our kids are college bound yet we're losing ground there. According to John, Springboard is proven and cheap and will help kids be capable of handling tougher classes. Clayton school implemented Springboard and has improved. Sharon talked to the principal at Clayton and learned they are only doing English, not math. You can do both, or one or the other. The principal said they didn't see results last year, but that was just one year and he felt it was too soon to tell. If people want to go down and see what the program is like, they're welcome. Sharon says the program is scripted, which is why it works for schools needing improvement.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40. The next meeting is January 18th in room 103.