

Ithaca PTA Council Meeting
March 8, 2016

Present: Brenda Prince (President), Pat Fox (Secretary), Kebbeh Gold (Belle Sherman), Colleen Strong (South Hill), Amy Schwartz (CHES), Lauren Loiacono (SEPTA), Vanessa Wagner (IHS), Karen Yearwood (BJM), Ruth Mahr (SEPTA), Sarah Sopchak (Enfield), Jennifer Biloski (CHES), Ixchel Branagan (BJM), Susan Barnett (IHS), Kimberly Munson-Burke (DeWitt).

Guests: Rob Ainslie (BoE), David Brown (ICSD), Matt Landahl (ICSD), Luvelle Brown (ICSD).

Brenda Prince called the meeting to order at 9:18am. The minutes for the last meeting were accepted as written. Corinne Frantz was not present; Brenda Prince said there was no change to the Treasurer's Report.

Rob Ainslie said that the Board of Education was voting on the one-year agreement with ITA at that night's meeting and that facilitated negotiations will begin again. He reported that the Employees' Association would vote Thursday on a three-year agreement. David Brown added that everyone agreed that the language in the agreement was antiquated and it had been changed. Rob mentioned the Smart School allocation of \$2.5 million that will probably be spent on security and the Energy Performance contract that has been waiting in Albany for more than a year. He also talked about the lease of district property to the Enfield Community Council.

Dr. Luvelle Brown talked about the presence of lead in the water in school buildings. The district is looking for consistent, reliable testing protocols. There is an RFP out for an engineering firm to advise the district; bids close on March 15th. Certified bottled water will be in all buildings until tap water meets standards.

Dr. Brown mentioned that the district is assembling a committee of parents, teachers and administrators to examine the course offerings at the high school – Regents, honors and AP.

Matt Landahl said that he and Amanda Verba are giving presentations about the budget at PTA meetings. The Board approves a budget on April 19th and the public votes on May 17th.

Rob Ainslie added that the board would probably not try to override the tax cap.

Brenda Prince suggested the idea of setting up committees to address specific topics that could happen in the evenings.

Lauren Loiacono announced the next SEPTA meeting to be held on March 14th. She also promoted the Doug's Fish Fry fundraiser happening on March 24th.

Colleen Strong announced a Chipotle fundraiser for South Hill occurring on March 8th.

Lauren Loiacono made a motion to adjourn. Sarah Sopchak seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:22am.