

Notes from the Ithaca PTA Council Meeting Nov 8, 2016

Celeste Ptak

Steven Manley, the executive director of IPEI (Ithaca Public Education Initiative), spoke. IPEI is turning 20 years. Tuesday **Nov 29** is Giving Tuesday and IPEI is asking ICSD staff, parents and alumni to celebrate by donating \$20. Help spread the word by adding #20for20 #IPEIturns20 or #IPEI #TurnTwenty when making an online gift. The next grant deadline is **Jan 18**. If there are any questions about how to apply for grants contact Steven. The 19th annual Adult Spelling Bee will be **Sunday March 5**. This is their biggest fundraiser.

Brad Granger from the Board of Education spoke about future discussions regarding the lead in the school's water. Monday, **Nov 14** there will be a public meeting in the district boardroom to discuss this issue. For most schools, the best option seems to be adding filters to the drinking fountains. Enfield and Caroline are not using public water and the district is looking at other solutions. Brad also touched on the issue that the school district is not expecting much of an increase in state aid next year.

Liddy Coyle gave an overview of how the PLC (Professional learning) day went. The focus was on family engagement. There were discussions about "who is the community and how do they engage?" Everyone watched the TED talk by Chimamanda Adichi about single stories and then were asked to think about the stories we have.

https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en Liddy wants to expand the voices in the room and get parent voices. She is trying to collect as many voices as she can. If you have something to say about your child please record it on voice memo and send it to Liddy. Upcoming professional development **Nov 10** 3:45-4:45 inclusive and culturally responsive practices council meeting in the PD training room.

Luelle Brown will have College Reps visit at the next PTA council meeting. We began to compile a list of questions and issues that we would discuss with them to help high school students plan their coursework in line with what colleges are expecting. If you have any specific questions you want answered, please let Celeste know and she will pass them on.

Karen Yearwood from the villages at Ithaca spoke. The Villages provide tutoring services. They also have a family advocacy program and will attend CSE and TEAM meetings. The advocates are also available to help with upcoming parent teacher conferences.

The PTA council wanted to remind individual school PTA units that they need to remember to coordinate with other units (elementary and middle schools) to avoid conflicts. Also, check the district calendar to ensure that there aren't any other conflicts. The National PTA does have a suggested meeting schedule of the elementary schools meeting the first week of every month, the middle schools the second and high school the third week.

Community Conversations: Superintendent Luelle Brown will engage the community in a variety of locations throughout the district to listen to the community. The community members will be asked a series of questions related to 1) what skills do we wish for graduates of ICSD to have and why 2) what do you want to see happen in the ICSD classrooms. The 3 remaining conversations will happen Nov 21 at 5pm at Brookton Market, Dec 5 at 5:30 at GIAC, Dec 12 at 5:30 at IC3. For more information call 607-274-6845.

Parent University Nov 13, 5-6pm at Ithaca HS small gym. This is for parents of children K-12. Childcare will be available. Breakout discussions topics/activities will be 1) Chromebook 101, 2) Google Docs and Classroom, 3) teenagers, technology and parents, and 4) Tech questions.