



Interdistrict School  
for Arts and  
Communication

## IPAT: ISAAC Parent Action Team

# Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** Monday, October 24  
**Meeting Location:** ISAAC Conference Room

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1. **5:35pm:** Call to Order
  - a. In attendance: Corrina Ferguson (IPAT Chair), Gina Fafard (Executive Director), Susan Mojica, Jennifer Barnes, Patricia Seva, Brenda Eikenburg and Jill Rusk
2. **Minutes:** Review of minutes from 09/12/11 meeting
3. **Board of Directors Representative's Report**
  - a. review of minutes from last BOD meeting (9/13/11)
  - b. review of BOD Treasure's Report (dated 9/13/11)
  - c. any parent questions, comments, concerns to bring to BOD?
    - i. camping trip questions
    - ii. high-school readiness
  - d. next BOD meeting date: 11/02/11 in ISAAC conference room
4. **Director's Report**
  - a. Many field trips
  - b. Working with the Coast Guard Academy – Skyping in the classroom – working with 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes
  - c. Roger Trembly, engineer Artist working with students in math and science
  - d. Early Bird has started
  - e. ASELA (after school program) to start first week of December – to include swimming, ice skating, tap dancing (Margo), Jazz instructor
  - f. Hopeville Pond trip – no overnight due to insurance liability issues, insurance audit done in mid September
    - i. Corrina suggested Gina speak with Paul Carolan, Director of RMMS to discuss how they handle a full week-long overnight trip at Nature's Classroom
    - ii. Gina suggested possibly researching a different location
    - iii. Parents expressed the importance of the overnight camping experience for ISAAC students. Requested a commitment for a concerted attempt to find a way to make this overnight trip happen going forward.
    - iv. Swing Choir Trip: will it happen in the future? To be determined – a question of liability
  - g. Guard Arts Center – Student art work in lobby
  - h. Progress reports out
  - i. Picture day this Friday

- j. Fundraiser for gym – GALA honoring Ken Kitchings on 11-05-11
  - i. \$1.2 million needed for new gym
  - ii. Donation of \$75,000 plus a \$50,000 commitment
  - iii. Need a construction loan
  - iv. Looking into refinishing the entire 3<sup>rd</sup> floor to provide room for additional students – need an additional \$400,000

## 5. Unfinished (old) Business

- a. *Camping Trip Review*: Success, challenges, questions as to lack of overnight stay this year.  
[SEE COMMENTS UNDER DIRECTOR'S REPORT]
- b. *Multicultural Dinner & Basket Raffle IPAT Fundraiser*
  - i. select and approve date – Date to be finalized at next meeting - possible dates discussed: March 30<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> – **ACTION**: parents to look at other community and school events that may be in conflict before finalizing
  - ii. brief overview of needs for the event – raises money for Student activity fund; includes dinner, cabaret & basket raffle
  - iii. elect chair of the Dinner & Fundraising: **ACTION**: need to draft and send out letter seeking volunteers to help facilitate this event
  - iv. **ACTION**: need to edit fundraising letter -copies of last year's letter passed out for review
- c. *Other Fundraisers*:
  - i. Evening of Giving idea at Crystal Mall, unfortunately not taking place this year due to mall renovations. Consider looking into this fundraising idea next August.
  - ii. status of fall fundraiser - (cookie dough, etc) – **RESPONSE**: will be sent out soon – money to be raised for the Student Activity Fund
  - iii. Bake sale at winter concert
    - 1. date needed. **ACTION**: Date will be provided soon via Gina and Kate Fiorvanti
    - 2. elect parent chair of bake sale: Jill Rusk & Jennifer Barnes – co-chairs
  - iv. any additional fundraising suggestions + needs, i.e. Mixed Bag and more
- d. *Ideas*:
  - i. **ACTION**: Make a list of what we are raising money for
  - ii. **ACTION**: show where money has gone in the past
  - iii. **SUGGESTION**: flat screen televisions for the lunchroom to show educational/nutrition/exercise videos
  - iv. **SUGGESTION**: teacher wish lists
  - v. **SUGGESTION**: bake sale at an outside event such as the Food Stroll in New London and in other communities (Groton Fall Festival, Mystic Village) to both get ISAAC's name out and raise funds at the same time. **ACTION**: Corrina to speak to Penny Parsekian re Spring Food Stroll. All parents to keep their eyes out for other possible, more regional events.
  - vi. T-shirt sale: **ACTION**: Jill to contact Sue LaFrance
  - vii. Friday School Fundraiser Day – example: pay \$1 to get to wear a crazy hat
- e. *Parent / Teacher Conferences*: Friday, 12/02/11
  - i. parents provide lunch & desserts for teachers (20 people)
  - ii. call for immediate volunteers & menu items - Corrina: dessert; Jennifer: soup; Jill: cheese & crackers; Brenda: sandwiches; Pat: veggies & dip
  - iii. school open at 7:30 – all food to be at ISAAC by 11 am

## 6. New Business

- a. Community Building Event(s) [NOT DISCUSSED. MOVE TO NEXT MEETING.]
- b. ISAAC Open Houses
  - i. Dates needed – 2 days to be determined

- ii. Outline / plan for the evenings
- iii. any needs from IPAT to ensure recruitment success?
- iv. Needs:
  - 1. basic training for student volunteers
  - 2. update recruitment video
  - 3. present information at PTO meetings in area elementary schools
  - 4. teachers need to be at open houses
  - 5. need to showcase music and arts at open house
- c. ISAAC Student Government review
  - i. Role of faculty advisor – Mike K. – met with students already
  - ii. What is goal / mission of student government
    - 1. Voice of the students: issues, concerns
    - 2. Organize student activities
  - iii. any feedback from parents / students
- d. Curriculum Questions and Review
  - i. Status of improvements to education curriculum
  - ii. comments regarding high school preparation
    - 1. Parent Concern – are ISAAC students well prepared for high school – areas of concern: level of homework, research papers, math, Spanish
    - 2. Parent Concerns expressed regarding Spanish curriculum – Mrs. Fafard reported ISAAC is looking into new curriculum
    - 3. Parents to email/contact teachers with concerns regarding their student
  - iii. any other questions
- e. Transportation Challenges to schools of choice [NOT DISCUSSED. MOVE TO NEXT MEETING.]
- f. Teacher representative to IPAT [NOT DISCUSSED. MOVE TO NEXT MEETING.]

## 7. Announcements & Upcoming Events

- a. State of CT Education Cost Sharing Task Force meeting 5pm 10/25/11 at Clark Lane Middle School, Waterford. Call for parents to testify regarding education finance reform needed, in particular for schools for choice. (Refer to information provided by Jo Lutz)
- b. School Picture Day 10/28/11
- c. ACE Fundraising Gala to benefit ISAAC 11/04/11
- d. No school 11/08, 11/11, 11/25, 12/02
- e. Parent/ Teacher Conferences 12/02

## 8. Upcoming IPAT Meeting Dates

- a. November 14, 2011
  - b. December 12, 2011
  - c. PROPOSED: January 9, 2012
  - d. PROPOSED: February 13, 2012
  - e. PROPOSED: March 12, 2012
  - f. PROPOSED: April 16, 2012
  - g. PROPOSED: May 14, 2012
  - h. PROPOSED: June 11, 2012 - Invite new parents, informal gathering, elect officers for 2012-2013 school year
- ACTION:** All proposed dates were approved. Corrina requested updating the ISAAC website to reflect upcoming date.

## 9. Adjournment: 7:15pm