

Inspired Families Association Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2016

7:15-8:15 PM

www.inspiredfamiliesassociation.org

<https://www.facebook.com/inspiredteachingIFA>

In these minutes, updates from/on:

Fundraising

Edgewood Field Renovation/Beautification

Strategic Planning

Traffic Safety

Head of School

Lower School Principal

Middle School Principal

YMCA Aftercare

Fundraising update:

The fundraising committee chairs reported that families have helped to raise \$12,050 for ITDPCS so far this school year. This is a great start to reaching our goal of \$95,000. Special thanks to White Apron and PK3 parent John Tipton – White Apron donated nearly \$2,000 to the school following their January weekend fundraiser.

The fundraising committee is gearing up for **Inspired Giving week, which will kick off on Thursday, May 5 and end with the Inspired Evening (adults only) at the Edgewood Arts Center (3415 8th St NE) on Saturday, May 14.** Tickets for the Inspired Evening will cost \$40-\$45; if the ticket price is a hardship for your family, please get in touch with Ms. Williams to request a free ticket. All (adults) are encouraged to attend – Inspired Evening is a fun evening and a great chance to celebrate our kids and their school.

- The Inspired Evening will include a live auction, with parents joining together to bid for shared classroom experiences.
- The online silent auction will begin in late March – the committee’s goal is to raise \$15,000 from the online auction this year. Donations big and small are welcome. Parents are encouraged to ask restaurants and other businesses who they patronize if they would be willing to support the school auction.
- Families (and others) can also make ongoing monthly contributions to the school through Razoo (<https://www.razoo.com/us/story/Inspiredteachingschool>). Ongoing support allows the school to have a more reliable ongoing funding stream.
- There will also be a raffle this year for “experience” activities. All students will receive one raffle ticket for free; additional tickets will be \$5. Stay tuned for more details.

This year’s fundraising campaign is “Give 5 to raise \$95” and will be used to support a variety of needs that the school leaders have identified, which may include: leveled readers, classroom sets of literature, buildout of the school library, computers for the library, buses for field trips, and more.

If you have questions or would like to help with fundraising, please contact fundraising@inspiredteachingschool.org

Beautification Committee update:

The next **Edgewood Field meeting will be Wednesday, March 16 at 7pm** in the ITDPCS multipurpose room. The architects will be presenting a concept plan for the field renovation, to include: a water feature, natural sod turf, an exercise loop, an 8,000-10,000 square foot recreation center with an indoor gym, a rooftop garden, and more. This will be the first chance for the community to weigh in on the proposed design – parents and students are encouraged to come to the meeting. We especially want to make sure that middle school voices are heard. The field renovation start date is proposed for Fall 2016 and the field will likely be under construction for about a year.

The beautification service project for February's chili cookoff included kids cleaning the walls in the back multipurpose room, and families picking up trash around the building. Thanks for all who helped. There will be a larger scale service project to kick off Family Fun Day, scheduled for May 7, 2016. Stay tuned!

Strategic Planning update:

John Leibowitz and Massie Ritsch presented an update from the strategic planning committee; the committee has been working all year to gather input from a variety of ITDPCS stakeholders and will be preparing a written strategic plan for the school over the next few months. They have focused on a number of questions/issue areas, including: program, community, administration/resources, and partnerships and public profile. The committee has interviewed school leaders and held roundtables with parents, middle school students, teachers, and fellows to gather information to inform the planning process.

The strategic planning team will release a written plan later this year to the Board of the school, and will provide a full update to the school community later in the spring.

Right now, there are not more roundtables planned for parent or family input; if you'd like to reach the committee or provide feedback/input, please email: strategicplanning@inspiredteachingschool.org

Traffic Safety update:

- There is an **ongoing crosstown traffic safety study**, which includes the school's neighborhood and portions east and west. Please weigh in on the study interactive map and consider attending the next public meeting in April. Date and location for the meeting have not yet been determined. More information is here: <http://www.dccrosstownstudy.com/getinvolved/>
- **Sign up for kiss n go if you can!** More volunteers are needed. If you have a flexible schedule (work from home, etc) even one morning per week (or every other week), kiss n go is a great way to give back to the school with only a 20-minute commitment. Sign up here: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/20F0944ABAE2DA1F85-kiss> Your kids can help with kiss n go (or you can drop them in the supervised cafeteria, where they can hang out until the start of school).

- Don't make u-turns in front of the school, on Douglas Road, on Lincoln Road, or on 3rd Street. They are dangerous to pedestrians, bikers, and other drivers.
- A parent asked if the yellow buses that park and idle in front of the school at pickup and dropoff could park anywhere else. At this time, there is no other designated place for the buses to park; however, the school is aware that this is an issue.

Head of School update:

- **Lower school principal search:** The search committee has identified three finalists, all of whom are spending a full day at the school as part of the selection process. Ms. Williams is hoping to be able to make a selection announcement within the next month, and the start date for the new lower school principal will be July 2016.
 - **Finalists spend a full day, from 11 am – 6 pm at the school, including:** presenting a demonstration lesson, observing a class and offering written/verbal sample feedback, data analysis, lunch with the selection advisory committee, presenting a professional development workshop for staff, and meeting with parents and families in afternoon roundtables.
 - **Finalist** names were not shared publicly until the day before their visit to the school. The three finalists are: Sara Schnorr, current assistant principal of Skyland Elementary in Greenville, SC; Suriya Douglas Williams, current principal of Kimball Elementary in DC; and Elmira Young, current staff development leader of Joann Leleck Elementary in Montgomery County.
 - If you would like to provide feedback on the lower school principal candidates, please provide feedback via email to Deborah, deborah.williams@inspiredteachingschool.org, or to Kate Keplinger, our COO kate.keplinger@inspiredteachingschool.org.
- **Basement buildout:** As of now, the school and Lee Montessori are moving forward with permitting and design of the basement buildout, which Lee plans to occupy for the next school year (2016-17). We should know within a month if the basement buildout is confirmed, but are proceeding as if it is happening so that we can be ready. It is ultimately Lee's decision to make about whether or not the buildout of the basement moves forward for them next year. Regardless of Lee's decision, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Floors of the Shaed building will be occupied by Inspired next school year (2016-17).
- **Recruitment update:** We received more than 1,400 applications through the lottery this year, including more than one full class (note: each of our two PK3 classes has 22 students) of PK3 siblings for next year. Middle school applications were also strong this year.

Lower school principal update, Zoe Duskin

- **Intersession is coming up March 22-25.** The YMCA will be supporting some intersession groups, and the school is excited about the partnership. We will also be welcoming the Washington Concert Opera, who will be supporting an intersession.
- **Y-led field trips in April:** Many lower school students will be participating in a field trip to Anthon Bowen YMCA in April. Details are still being confirmed. Stay tuned.
- **Kids and politics:** Our children are hearing lots of things at home, on the news and in other venues, that they are not understanding, and they are bringing those messages and questions to

school. Please be mindful of what kinds of messages your kids are hearing and of the fact that there is likely a gap between what you understand when you watch CNN or listen to the news and what your children take from the same programming.

Middle school principal update, Latisha Coleman

- Middle schoolers are working on **social justice science projects**.
- If you'd like to get input on kid-friendly ways to talk about what is going on in **politics and the news right now**, talk to an ITS middle schooler. The 6th graders watch CNN Student News daily and it is a free source of age-appropriate news.
- **Upcoming middle school field trips include:** camping, skiing, and ice skating. Please bear with the bus disruptions that come along with kids coming and going on field trips.
- **Lacrosse** is underway – there are two coaches; if you have lacrosse experience and would be interested in helping out, contact Ms. Coleman.
- **Don't forget to re-enroll** your middle schooler for next year. Middle school has a waiting list for the 2016-17 school year and current students need to re-enroll to guarantee their spot.

YMCA, John DeGout, john.degout@ymcadc.org

- John is the Vice President of Leadership Development and Interim Executive Director for the Anthony Bowen YMCA. Several months ago, he took over leadership of the school's aftercare program.
- The Y has done an audit of the aftercare program and is implementing some changes as a result of their findings, including ensuring that aftercare staff have nametags and uniforms, purchasing more craft/art supplies, etc. In addition, the Y believes that the aftercare program needs more staff and is hiring 3-5 more staff members to help support the program. These additional staff should also be able to help support some additional programming that the Y hopes to add at the school, including clubs, regular outings to Anthony Bowen, and more. Brittany Jiles (Brittany.Jiles@ymcadc.org) has been hired and will be leading the aftercare program on-site, along with Grace (Grace.Bolomope@ymcadc.org).
- John is present on site at the school at least one day a week during aftercare hours; please speak with him if you have suggestions or questions about Y operations or you can reach him at 202-23BOWEN.
- The Y will be operating spring break school days out camp at ITS. Grace and Brittany will be coordinating activities during spring break camp. It is free/included for full-time aftercare participants, and \$55/day for others.
- The Y does not know yet if they will have summer camp on site at ITS. It depends on whether or not the building is under construction for the basement renovation this summer. A decision should be forthcoming in a few weeks.