

Inspired Families Association Meeting Minutes September 10, 2015

1. Introduction of Inspired Teaching School Staff

Staff members briefly introduced themselves (names, role at the school) to families.

2. Introduction of new ITS Board members, parent representatives Anika Simpson and John Liebovitz

The parent representatives introduced themselves and described their role on the ITS Board, which is the governing body for the Inspired Teaching School. Anika is mom to Basil (3rd) and Sabine (1st) and John is dad to Julian (K). In addition to their roles as parent representatives on the Board, Anika and John will serve on the Strategic Planning Committee, which is charged with developing a strategic plan for ITS for the next five years. The Committee includes teachers, parents, ITS Staff and ITS Board members and will be reaching out to families in various ways this school year – via surveys, meetings, interviews, and more – to help develop a strategic plan for the school’s next five years. Other parents on the committee are Massie Ritsch and Adam Strasburg.

3. IFA Presentation, Lucy Newton, IFA President

Lucy Newton delivered a presentation outlining the purpose and goals of the IFA and IFA Board members who were present introduced themselves:

Lucy Newton, President
Carmen Rottenberg, Vice President
Stephen Sipos, Treasurer
Mary Pitts, Secretary
Sandrine Chebou-Webb, At-Large
Johanna Olexy, At-Large
Ana Rodriguez, At-Large
Sherrita Rogers, At-Large

Lucy also noted that Yashika Okon is an at-large Board member who was unable to be at the meeting.

Board representatives/committee chairs for each of the IFA Committees introduced the IFA committees and described the committee activities and plans for the year. **The IFA encourages families to get involved by volunteering. The link to the 2015-16 IFA volunteer survey is:**

<http://bit.ly/IFAVolunteer201516>

- **Campus Beautification:** Stephen Sipos is a chair. Will be developing plans for the school grounds, including plants, landscaping, maintenance, etc. First committee meeting is tentatively planned for 10/4 at the Shaw Library. Contact Stephen

Stephen.sipos@gmail.com) with any questions or fill out the volunteer survey to get involved.

- **Fundraising:** Lucy Newton and Merry Alderman Ritsch will be co-chairing the IFA's fundraising efforts this year. The IFA raises money both for the school and for IFA events and operations, such as food and childcare at meetings, social events, etc. Last year, IFA fundraising efforts for the school raised more than \$80,000 and funded the music teacher/program that has brought music class to every ITS student this year. ITS is also part of the Combined Federal Campaign this year, so federal employees can give directly to the school through their paycheck. The CFC number is **73758**. For more information or to get involved, contact Merry (merryalderman@gmail.com) or fill out the volunteer survey.
- **Recruitment:** Johanna Olexy and Mary Pitts will be co-chairing the committee, and they are seeking a third co-chair who represents older grades or middle school to help with recruitment efforts. The recruitment committee supports the school by providing parent volunteers to open houses and events such as EdFest. The committee also works on outreach efforts for the school throughout DC, and is hoping to have Ward representation from families who live (or work) in each of DC's Wards to assist in outreach efforts. Contact Johanna (joebner@gmail.com) or Mary (marymessick@gmail.com) with questions or fill out the volunteer survey to get involved.
- **Social Committee:** Carmen Rottenberg and Ana Rodriguez will be co-chairing the social committee, including the Fall Festival (coming up SOON on October 24). They are seeking volunteers who want to help plan the Fall Festival, which will include the Edgewood Field, events with pumpkins, and relay races and other fun outdoor activities. The committee is also working to plan events that will appeal to ITS kids of all ages, including middle schoolers. Contact Carmen (carmen.rottenberg@gmail.com) or Ana (jamaan930297@aol.com) with questions or fill out the volunteer survey to get involved.
- **Staff Appreciation:** Sherrita Rogers, Hannah Mullen, and Kalena Clarke will be co-chairing this committee, which takes care of ITS staff throughout the year, not just during Staff Appreciation Week in the spring. Activities include soliciting donations from local restaurants, coordinating parent-provided meals, and thinking of creative ways to let ITS staff know how much we appreciate them.
- **Other Items:**
 - Courtney Marie Long has volunteered to take over Kiss and Go coordination. Many thanks to Gayle Wald for her several years of Kiss and Go devotion, and please watch for emails from Courtney about Kiss and Go volunteer opportunities. There are still some slots in September that need volunteers – if you use Kiss and Go, please consider volunteering one day per week or one day per month to help make sure the service has enough parent volunteers.

- The IFA is seeking a volunteer to administer small fundraising efforts such as: Box Tops for Education, Amazon links, Safeway and Target rewards, etc. This is a fairly low commitment effort and can be done during non-school hours, but is important because it 1) can raise significant money for the school and 2) is an easy way for families to support the school through activities they're already doing.

4. Next Meeting, November 4

The next IFA Meeting will be the evening of November 4, in conjunction with an ITS Parent Education Night, topic TBD. Childcare will be provided.

Submitted by Mary Pitts, Secretary and adopted by the IFA Board, 9/14/2015.