



Incline High School Boosters Club

'Serving more than one student for more than one year'

2019-2020 INCLINE HIGH SCHOOL BOOSTERS ANNUAL LETTER

We Boosters had a productive school year, both before and during the pandemic, and we would like to highlight below our key accomplishments.

MEMBERSHIP & MEETINGS

Debra Ornelas led the charge with membership last fall. We were in force at football and basketball games to manage the gate and sign up new members. We also introduced the option to sign-up for membership on-line through our updated website. Jill Minkle oversaw banner fabrication and hanging before the basketball season began, and our family banner wall was full again this year. Our club is about 184 members strong.

With the pandemic lockdown in March we pivoted to online Board and Member meetings and saw a 5-fold increase in member meeting participation. We responded to the increased demand for connection and IHS information by moving from a monthly to a semi-monthly member meeting schedule, featuring a "Talks with Yox" format to increase engagement between parents and IHS admin.

SCHOOL PRIDE & HOSPITALITY

Holly Racich led our hospitality efforts this year. We kicked it off by hosting the new student lunch and back-to-school night event. We also supported the student resource fair, where we met every student who was at school that day and handed out school swag to build spirit. In January we helped promote the Seniors' throw-back Adult Prom fundraiser, which was a major hit. Our in-person social season ended with a fun and successful Cowboy Crab Feed in early March. In May we presented all our IHS staff with care packages for Teacher Appreciation Week.

As of this writing graduation plans are in flux. We coordinated with the IHS Administration to form a committee of parents, students, teachers, and administration to brainstorm, coordinate and plan ways to help our seniors celebrate, and have been hosting the committee's weekly meetings.

CONCESSIONS & MERCHANDISE

Alma Brubaker spearheaded concessions again this year, and student organizations once again helped staff the concessions booth as a fundraiser. Next year the Boosters will transition concessions responsibilities to the Student Leadership class.

Lisa Hoopes once again oversaw merchandise sales at games, keeping our kids and parents in IHS logo wear. She and Joy also patiently taught all of us at the gate how to use the square tools, so we could lend a hand. Next year we'll have some new gear to sell, and we hope to have this available for online purchasing too.

FUNDRAISING

A new twist of our annual Crab Feed was a cowboy-theme, and the resounding feedback is that the event was great deal of fun. It was also a big financial success, grossing north of \$200K, and quite fortuitously beating the COVID-19 shut-down by two weeks. Tom Millhoff led the Crab Feed committee, with Kristy Watrud and Holly Beaulac supporting auctions and Tricia Tong driving the programming. The committee kept the VIP reception and student involvement in "Crab Pot" fundraising introduced last year. They also introduced corporate sponsorships and implemented a new back-end software package to aid with ticketing, seating, auction item tracking and packaging, and, if needed, online auction management for next year.



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The "Fund-A-Need" (FAN) component of the Crab Feed raised money to support school technology, including new 1:1 program student computers, teacher computer upgrades, Naviance college and career readiness software, an iPod studio, and the A/V system for the renovated theater. The funding has been deployed, and all of these initiatives are underway. This funding also enabled IHS to apply for a matching technology grant which, if awarded, will be used by IHS to purchase the additional laptops needed for the 1:1 program in 21-22.

Joy Strotz created a seat dedication program to help fund the theater renovation project; to date we've raised total seat dedication funds of \$28,450. This May Joy secured an additional \$105,000 in funding from the Dave and Cheryl Duffield Foundation to fully fund the project. We are very grateful to the Duffield Foundation and all of our contributors!

SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION

Denise Menzies continued to lead the school beautification in 19-20. The new stand-up desks are particularly popular. We've procured and installed new trash and recycling bins throughout the school. The counseling center is outfitted with new furniture. Denise's designs encourage collaborative learning, with additional furnishings in the atriums, library, career center, and cafeteria. We'll complete bulletin board upgrades over the summer. Students and staff love these thoughtful beautifications and consistently comment on the improved comfort and usability of spaces throughout the school.

THEATER RENOVATION

Joy Strotz continues to drive the theater renovation project, which "broke ground" over winter break. The project is now fully funded, and on track for completion by June 15.

Of note, part of this year's FAN included A/V technology for the theater. This new tech may prove extra useful in face of social distancing restrictions, as it can allow teachers and students to produce video content and allow the school to engage with speakers outside of the school.

Joy is now actively working on donor recognition aspects of the project, including a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the theater's completion.

BEST PRACTICES

This year we made significant improvements to our infrastructure.

Our long-term volunteer bookkeeper retired last year. Our incoming treasurer, Kevin Reeth, worked with our outgoing treasurer, Jill Minkle, to successfully transition our financial tracking to QuickBooks Online and establish a new relationship with a local bookkeeping firm. Gone are duplicate entry processes, manual budget tracking in separate spread sheets, and weeks lag times for monthly reporting. We now have direct access to cloud-based data entry and financial reporting, and the transition was completed at a fraction of the budgeted cost due to Kevin's financial prowess and Jill and Kevin's hard work.

To ensure Boosters' program resilience in the face of new and increased pandemic-driven needs, Kevin has updated our budget and structured conservative fiscal policies that ensure adequate operating funds of 2+years in the event we cannot conduct the large fundraising events that traditionally make up 80% of our revenue.



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Tom Millhoff spearheaded the effort to improve our social media outreach and technology tools. We now have a strong web presence to better connect with our members, and a platform to house and share documents among board members. Tom identified a local graphic artist to work with our board to develop a new logo that better reflects the mission of our organization. He also set-up Google Suite team collaboration tools, including drive/document sharing and domain email hosting, so the club's history will more fully transition to new board officers each year. Tom also did his best to "teach old dogs new tricks" by hosting how-to sessions with board members, to enable adoption of these new tools. We're not perfect with these new tools, but we're improving. We are sincerely grateful for these new tools which have proven even more valuable than expected, enabling our board to effectively communicate and engage with each other and with our membership during this spring's social distancing.

Tom also researched fundraising software options to improve the administration processes of Crab Feed, ultimately leading us to license OneCause. He learned the software personally, trained a few other volunteers, and developed a new process for managing the event. This year we also leveraged the platform for the Adult Prom fundraiser hosted by the IHS Class of 2020 and our Theater Renovation Seat Sales.

This spring we found a way to squeeze lemonade out of the sour COVID-19 lemon - hosting general meetings via video conferencing. We hope to continue to engage a larger membership base through video conferencing, even once school is again in session and social-distancing requirements relax. Leveraged with the tech capabilities in the renovated theater, we expect to host a hybrid meeting with in-person as well as on-line meeting attendance in the future.

Finally, we're creating Officer and Committee Chair transition documents to capture institutional knowledge, facilitate role transitions and build resilience. With your continued support, the Boosters are well positioned to serve our students for future years to come: will you join us?

At your service,

The '19-'20 Incline High School Boosters Club Board

Tricia Tong – President
Tom Millhoff – Vice President
Kevin Reeth – Treasurer
Christie Stranzl – Secretary
Alma Brubaker
Dawn Bursell
Jill Minkle
Khal Pluckhan
Tia Rancourt
Holly Racich
Joy Strotz
Nicolle Larson, IHS Administrative rep
May Danahay/Sharon Shrage, IEF rep