

# Inspired Families Association

*2017-18 First All Families Meeting*

*September 12, 2017*

The meeting was held at 8:00 PM after Back to School Night in the all purpose room. Mary Pitts, president, led the meeting. Presentation slides can be viewed here: [bit.ly/IFANotes2017\\_09\\_12](http://bit.ly/IFANotes2017_09_12)

## IFA Purpose

The Inspired Families Association (IFA) is dedicated to supporting education of the children at the Inspired Teaching Demonstration Public Charter School

There are no dues or fees to join the IFA. All caregivers of students at the Inspired Teaching School are members.

## IFA Goals

- Raise and expend funds to meet needs identified by the school
- Develop and maintain community relationships in and near the school
- Support student recruitment efforts
- Support the needs of our teachers and staff
- Support school and family social interactions
- Provide an open forum for sharing information that impacts students and families

## IFA Board

- President - Mary Pitts (Hatcher and Lavinia (2nd))
- Vice President - Clifton Durant (Cameron (5th) and Avery (1st))
- Treasurer - Emma Cummings (Lucy (4th) and Phoebe (2nd))
- Secretary - Linda Wilson (Dori (4th) and Simona (1st))

Members at Large -

- Charmaine Brandon (Emma (3rd))
- Shaun Cross (Hazel (5th), Anderson (2nd), and Milo (PK4))
- Charles Montgomery (Maria (5th), Charlie (1st), and Gabrielle (PK4))
- Jessica Perlmutter (Abby (2nd) and Hannah (PK3))
- Erica Skolnik (Julian (2nd))

## Communications

Contact: Shaun Cross or Linda Wilson

Activities Include:

- IFA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/inspiredteachingIFA>
- Information-sharing via Google group and room parents
- IFA web site, <http://www.inspiredfamiliesassociation.org/>
- Bloomz parent to parent tech support (new for this year!)
- Fliers on doors and in orange folders for IFA events
- Inspired Families Google group

## Social Events

Contact: Erica Skolnik or SEEKING CO-CHAIR

Activities Include:

- Festivals (Chili Cookoff - February, International Festival - Spring, Fall)
- Summer grade level play dates (August)
- Back to school picnic and baseball game (September)
- Third Thursday coffees – 1st Third Thursday is September 21
- And more...

The fall festival will now be a literacy night. Help and ideas are needed. Email Erica, and/or fill out the volunteer survey!

[erica.skolnik@gmail](mailto:erica.skolnik@gmail.com)

<http://bit.ly/IFAVolunteer2017>

## Staff Appreciation

Contact: Kalena Clarke or Charmaine Brandon or SEEKING CO-CHAIR

Activities Include:

- Professional Development Days – Provide meal or snack
- Teacher Conference Days – Organize healthy snacks
- Organize Teacher and Staff Appreciation Events
- Assist with promoting the school's Amazon wishlist

## Fundraising

Contact: Melissa Cross, Nicole Hamam, Amanda Hoffman

[cross.meliss@gmail.com](mailto:cross.meliss@gmail.com), [nicole@hamamdesign.com](mailto:nicole@hamamdesign.com)

Activities Include:

- Online auction (February) for camps, services, gift cards, classes, experiences, and more
- All-school raffle (winter, at Chili cook-off) for staff-donated "experiences"
- Spring Inspired Giving fundraising drive (April 13-21)
- Inspired Evening party (April 21)
- Silent auction of student art

- Live auction of class experiences (theater, sports, games, etc)
- Restaurant and food delivery give-back nights
- Rewards and loyalty programs (Boxtops, Giant, etc.)

Last year we raised \$150,000. The “100+ Campaign” means that we are working toward 100% participation. All kinds of participation are valued including “dollar days,” helping to establish vendor partnerships, all the way up to donations of any size. Our biggest fundraising push is in April. It culminates in the Inspired Evening gala event which is April 21<sup>st</sup>.

The money raised is for the school. It is not kept for IFA operating expenses. The school administration decides how to use the money based on need. In the past, the school has used the money for the music program, clubs, field trips, new recess equipment, establishing a media center, increasing the number of Chromebooks to establish 1:1 for students in grades 3 and up, a math instructional coach, and to maintain healthcare costs at no increase for teachers.

## Recruitment Committee

Contact: Charles Montgomery or Jennifer Frewer

Activities Include:

- Volunteer support for Inspired Teaching open houses
- Volunteer support for city-wide EdFest (December 9)
- New Family Outreach

## Beautification

Contact: Emma Cummings

Activities Include:

- Plan service/beautification activities at all-school social events
- Help with interior and exterior beautification projects, including garden plots
- Keep ITS families informed about Edgewood Field renovation

If you are interested in this committee, you may also be interested in advocacy for the Edgewood field which is scheduled for a significant renovation. The timeline is unsure, but they hold community meetings periodically for input.

## Other ways to volunteer

Activities Include:

- Kiss and Go – 20-minute commitment at drop-off every day starting at 8:20. Sign up for one, weekly, or occasional time slots at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0944ABAE2DA1F85-kiss3>
- Merchandise – organize, order, and sell ITS t-shirts, water bottles, magnets, and more (looking for help here.)
- School photos – volunteer to help on school picture days (Oct. 3 is family portrait day and October 16 is school picture day)

- IFA meeting/family education night setup – help with food procurement and childcare sign-in (Oct. 18, Feb. 1, April 10, May 14)
- Pitch-in: join our list of volunteers we call on when we have a particular need to meet

<http://bit.ly/IFAVolunteer2017> to sign up to volunteer!

## Last Year's Financial Summary

We spent less than \$12,000 last year. We have about an \$8,000 operating budget which we earn from donations, school pictures, and small profits on merchandise. There are no dues to join the IFA.

### 2016-17 Spending

Staff Appreciation	\$2,000
Social Events	\$2,000
Child Care	\$1,600
Merchandise	\$1,100
Office and Administrative	\$1,000
Meeting Food	\$500
Beautification/Gardens	\$3,600
Total	\$11,800

### 2016-17 Income

Donations	\$3,500
Merchandise	\$2,000
Photos	\$1,700
Social Events	\$800
Total	\$8,000
RESERVE	\$32,500

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- September 21, 8-9 am: Third Thursday coffee – adult social gathering at drop-off.
- October 3, 3:30-6:30 pm: Family Portrait fundraiser
- October 16: School and class pictures (during school day)
- October 18: Family Education Night and IFA All Families meeting, 6-8 pm

## Continuing Options Committee

Lucy Newton presented.

Following up on one of the recommendations of the strategic plan, the ITDS Board has authorized the creation of a special committee focused on high school pathways for ITDS students. A main focus of the Committee will be to explore the hypothesis of partnering with other likeminded charter schools to feed into new or existing high school(s) who share our pedagogical values. However, the Committee may prioritize other ideas that bubble up in the exploratory process.

- John Leibovitz, Parent & Board Member
- Eshauna Smith, Parent & Board Member
- Lucy Newton, Parent, Board Member & Former IFA President
- Latisha Coleman, Middle School Principal
- Melissa Werner, Parent
- Lynette Pelzer, Parent

## Contact information

[www.inspiredfamiliesassociation.org](http://www.inspiredfamiliesassociation.org)

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

<http://bit.ly/IFAVolunteer2017> to sign up to volunteer!