

J.B. Watkins PTA General Membership Meeting

October 13, 2015 6:30 p.m.

J.B. Watkins Elementary School Cafeteria

President Kristen Beazley called the meeting to order at **6:31 p.m.** In attendance were:

Officers:

Kristen Beazley, President
Brittany Krebs, Vice President
Auburn Stovall, Secretary
Shelley Neofotistos, Treasurer

Kimberly Cousins, Principal
Karen Anderson, Assistant Principal
Karen Snidow, Administrative Assistant

Committee Chairs, General PTA Members and Guests:

Amy Shutts, Katie Berkman, Leila Ward, Amy Miller, Sidney Newton, Jessica Williamson, Annette Bashensky, Mandy Brucey, Tracey Malkie, Angie Miller, Erin Clippinger, Heather Fritz, Carrie Paris, Jessica Lehosit, Erin Brandenburg, Lesley Brocato, Amanda Shepley, Julia Trebour, Judy Long

Kristen thanked everyone for all of their time in the committees and she expressed how important and valued all of our volunteers are here at Watkins. She knows that hundreds of hours have been logged by so many volunteers that help the school. You are all so important and appreciated. Kristen also showed us many thank you notes that the PTA has received.

Kristen announced that the School Board voting is November 3, please vote.

Quorum Certification

A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September 15, 2015 General Membership Meeting were presented. There were no corrections and they will stand as presented.

Officer Reports

Treasurer's Report: Shelley Neofotistos

Shelley explained that there were votes taken at both Back to School nights on the budget and it was approved. The audit has been submitted to both the County Audit Office and the VA PTA. Shelley talked about teacher supply reimbursements and how teachers were given a form to fill out along with turning in their receipts for reimbursement from PTA funds. The form indicates the amount of reimbursement based on their position. If we get 100% participation from the teachers, Mrs. Cousins has agreed to match the \$100 supply reimbursements. Shelley explained that the reimbursement shown on our budget report is only

what she has received to date. She noted that there is quite a bit of difference from last month to this month because we are starting to see income, Notably, WEP, Chick-fil-A (not including the wheel \$ - that goes directly to the school), I9, Membership and Spiritwear.

Expenses appear lower because WEP checks have not been written to the Vendors yet and dues have not been sent for Membership - they are due on 12/1.

Vice President's Report: Brittany Krebs

Brittany had no report.

Secretary's Report: Auburn Stovall

Auburn stated that the minutes from the last meeting were posted and asked if there were any changes. There were no changes.

Committee Reports

Copy Room: Divya Raman/ Auburn Stovall

Kristen read from Divya Raman's note: PTA and parent volunteers have formed a committee to help teachers copy work sheets and other classroom materials so that the instructional aides may help with reading groups. We have enough volunteers and hours to fulfill all the current copy needs. I approached several companies in the area and Officemax has stepped up to donate four boxes of paper every month for our teacher's needs! The teachers were so grateful for this generous donation. To top it, when I stopped by Officemax to hand Elisa the Manager a thank you card, she further promised to give the school whatever donations she can in the form of pencils, erasers, folders, etc. The store gets updates from their corporate office what they can donate and Elise is willing to give it all to us. We are hoping that this added donation helps teachers with their supply needs.

Auburn asked that all copying more than 100 copies please be sourced out to Officemax to help save the life of the copiers that are left in the building. Committees can include this expense in their budget.

Student Directory: Kathleen Grattini/ Elizabeth Jernigan

Kristen spoke for Kathleen. If you have not submitted information to be included in the student directory, please send it soon. PTA members will receive a directory free of charge. There is still time to become a PTA member to take advantage of this. Kathleen plans to finish the directory as soon as possible.

Denim Drive: Tracey Malkie

Tracey presented the large poster check that she brought home from the Denim Drive. Watkins came in second in the Drive. Tracey encouraged people to support M3 and the Thrifty Quaker as they are both working with us to give denim. Tracey said the check from the Denim Drive will go directly to the school. Tracey said that Watkins will collect denim all year long.

Boxtops: Katie Berkman/ Erin Clippinger

Watkins submitted over 14,000 Boxtops at our last collection. Mrs. Nagy's class won the collection prize. \$1,404.40 will be earned from the first collection. This Thursday, October 15 is the next collection and the clip in is also Thursday morning.

Labels for Education: Divya Raman

Kristen read from Divya's note: After the first collection, our banked Labeled points exceeded 20,000 points. While Labels is not as big as a venture as Boxtops yet, we will be able to use these very valuable points to benefit our teachers. Starting November (which will also retroactively cover October), a member of the PTA and I will pick one teacher by raffle to receive a \$25 Visa card to be used for classroom supplies. Since the collections for Labels are not nearly as Boxtops, collections will not be a part of a competition or party. Maybe next year!

Chick-fil-A: Kim Young/ Sarah Orr

Kristen spoke for the committee that the total earnings from the last Chick-fil-A night was \$366.00.

Spiritwear: Kelly Kaze/ Sandy Sharp

Kristen read a note from Kelly: Prepaid Tiedyes will be delivered on the 20th of October. "Watkins Rocks" gray long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts will be available for the Pumpkin Lighting. Samples for navy blue staff shirts will be displayed in the teacher's lounge in the next couple of weeks.

Health & Safety: Erin Brandenburg/ Bianca Hawkins

Erin said there are twelve more spots to sign up for the Blood Drive and walk ins are welcome. The Turkey Trot is going to be worked on after the Blood Drive. Erin is looking for a co-chair to help with Turkey Trot. Bianca and Erin are working on putting service projects together: examples are making blankets, peanut butter and jelly drive, pair age groups up as an after school project, making placemats for Meals on Wheels, Ronald McDonald fundraiser to collect videos and games for donation. Erin and Bianca are open for ideas for service projects. Please email Erin with any ideas. She would like to do a service project once a month.

Membership: Dana Gates

Kristen read Dana's note: Our total membership as of October 9 is 646. We have 58 members out of a total possible of 85 faculty/staff members. Of those 27 faculty and staff not signed up yet as members, 10 are teachers. In other words, 35 of the 45 teachers have become members this year.

Chess Club: Lesley Brocato

Lesley said 66 students were at the first Chess Club meeting. The first meeting of the year also had the highest number of volunteers. The first meeting was great! They need volunteers for muffin table, doors, and playing chess. The next Chess Club meeting is November 6.

Reflections: Christan Martin/ Angie Miller

Angie will be collecting Reflections entries next Friday, October 23. Angie has done morning announcements and handouts to promote Reflections. They have volunteers for judges and the event is ready to go.

WEP: Kori Langlie/ Judy Long

Judy said that WEP is going well. Please email Judy if there are any other things that you would like to see offered. 137 kids signed up for WEP for the Fall. Tree climbing offering is

super popular. Maggi Lewis was a big help in getting the information to them. Kristen thanked Judy and Kori for all of their hard work in getting this going for this year!

Pumpkin Lighting: Annette Bashensky/ Katie Bozzo

Annette thanked everyone for all of their help with this event. We still need more desserts. Food trucks that are coming are Cheezilla, Smoking Pigs BBQ, Woods Pizza. We are still in need of a dessert truck. We have had a great response from volunteers from middle school and Watchdogs. Pumpkin Lighting tickets should go out Wednesday and Thursday, October 21 and 22. Wristbands will be sent home as well. There will be one last meeting on Monday, October 19 at 9:30 in the cafeteria.

Room Parent: Lara Jones/ Laura Kurichh/ Amy Shutts

Amy said thank you to all of the room parents. Amy talked about the room parent communication forms that have been sent home to all children. Teachers are not allowed to share that information, so room parents are creating spreadsheets to keep this information to be used as needed.

Yearbook: Amy Shutts

Amy said there are 264 orders for yearbooks so far. There are instructions to upload pictures for the yearbook on the website. December 18 is deadline to order yearbooks. Amy would love to have artwork from 5th grade artists. Please submit this artwork to Mrs. Matthews by October 23.

Talent Show: Divya Raman/Sidney Newton

Kristen read Divya's note: Sidney and I are very excited to organize the Talent Show this year. No talent is too big or small. We welcome all kids who are eager and interested to be on stage and dazzle us. Auditions will be held in December. NO ONE will be turned away. Please start telling friends, talk about it at the bus stop, in your Facebook posts and spread the word. We will have an email going out to all Room Moms by the end of November. The first Talent Show meeting will be at the Urban Farmhouse on Tuesday the 20th at 9:30. Any or all the help you can offer is greatly appreciated. Please consider volunteering to help us with decoration, planning and to be available at the night of the event to direct traffic, help kids assemble back stage, etc. This is a big task and we cannot do it alone.

School Representative Reports

Principal's Report: Kimberly Cousins

Kim thanked everyone for sharing information for the announcements on Blackboard. Please let them know if you have anything that you would like shared on the announcements in the future. She would love to have the kids read something on the announcements in the next week for the Pumpkin Lighting. Students that are reading should be in the office before 9:15. Kim was very excited about the Denim Drive and appreciative of all of Tracey's hard work.

Kim explained that Chuck Rhodes is retiring after this year. He would like to donate to the school a suspended projector in the cafeteria. Kim said that the school would be willing to help with the balance of this project to make it happen. She would love to see it installed before he leaves so that he can see and enjoy his donation.

Mrs. Cousins stated that the copy machines are dying and that they are looking to replace at least one of the main copiers soon. Parent night is next Tuesday night to discuss the new report cards. This meeting is planned to be held in the library, depending on size.

Program Report

APEX Fundraiser Summary: Kristen Beazley

Kristen explained that in the last five years Watkins has done several different fundraisers including Sally Foster which brought in ~\$13,500, Cherrydale (which included catalog sales and a volunteer run Holiday Shop) which netted ~\$17,267. The last three years of flat donations brought in an average of \$7,500 each year.

Kristen said that at this date, October 13, we have exceeded our \$25,000 goal of funds collected from the APEX Fun Run and are still collecting money. The first official deadline is 10/15 and we will be able to report a final number once all monies have been received and counted. At this time, the PTA thinks that the best way to determine whether or not to use this program again is to conduct a survey which will be live following the meeting. Based on responses of this survey, we will determine if a separate meeting will be needed in order to further discuss options or if we will be able to include discussion at the already scheduled November PTA meeting concerning future fundraising efforts.

New Business

Brainpop is an educational program that is used in the classroom from K-5 that is up for renewal again. The cost of renewal is \$2,300 at a high end estimate, we are trying to get a discount. Shelley asked for a vote from present PTA members. All members present approved funding Brainpop's renewal through the PTA. No one voted against.

Announcements

- October 14th Blood Drive
- October 15th, 9:30-11a Box Tops clip-in
- Mathnasium October 18th, Kristen mentioned the pizza party
- October 19th, 6-8p Candela's Night, next to Kroger on Midlothian
- October 20th, Parent Night
- October 23rd, 8:50-9:15a Reflections Submissions due
- October 23rd, 6-8:30p Pumpkin Lighting, please visit sign up genius
- October 23rd, 6-8:30p and 26th-30th Book Fair, 8:30-4 the week after
- November 6th, 8:05a Chess Club

Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm with a motion made by Amy Shutts with a unanimous vote.

_____ Minutes Approved as Written

_____ Minutes Not Approved

_____ Date _____