

J.B. Watkins PTA General Membership Meeting

September 15, 2015 6:30 p.m.

J.B. Watkins Elementary School Cafeteria

President Kristen Beazley called the meeting to order at 6:34 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:

Erin Clippinger, Dana Gates, Katie Berkman, Kate Railsback, Jane Linton, Nicole Brown, Penny Johnson, Tracey Malkie, April Hord, Sidney Newton, Beth Losego, Christan Martin, Patrick Bray, Angie Saunton, Gretchen Burch, Sarah Simmons, Monica Morris, Jaya Baker, Kate Ashley, Heather Fritz, Korina Langlie, Erin Brandenburg, Jamie Marotta, Laura Kurichh, Julie Norris, Doug Norris, Annette Bashensky, Angie Miller, Shara Hamilton, Mary Patterson, Bianca Hawkins, Melissa Davis, Lesley Brocato, Sherry Tremper, Jo Woodlief, Amy Shutts

President Kristen Beazley opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing herself as our new PTA President. Kristen thanked Carla Hagen for doing a great job with the bulletin board, everyone that came out to help with packet stuffing, Karen Carps for all of her time and help with the PTA website, Kim Young for her coordination of Chick-Fil-A, and Dana Gates for all of her help with back to school PTA membership. Kristen also thanked Auburn Stovall for her help with the Facebook page and communications and Kelly Kaze for her work with the Spirit Wear committee and raising \$400 already for back to school sales.

Quorum Certification

A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the June 9, 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 our PTA was audited over the summer and she presented the report for approval. Shelley also explained that committees need to be aware of the budget numbers and if there are expenses that exceed \$300 of the budgeted amount they will need to be approved by the PTA board at a meeting prior to expensing and reimbursement. All committee chairs will be provided with their budgets and can obtain a real time status at any time by contacting the Treasurer.

Shelley submitted the 2015/2016 budget report for approval. She explained the handout of the budget and explained that the budget will be presented at back to school nights for approval and will need to be voted on as well. Shelley explained that the biggest change in the budget this year was that fundraising is more focused on income that we plan to get from APEX fundraiser. Shelley opened the floor for questions about the budget, there were no questions.

Shelley explained check requests and deposits and told committee chairs that this form is available on the PTA website and that the expense request needs to be turned in within 24 hours of the expense. She also explained that the tax exempt letter is available on the PTA website as well for any purchases made.

Vice President's Report: Brittany Krebs

Brittany introduced herself as the PTA Vice President. She talked about the scheduled Virginia Opera performance of Red Riding Hood coming in February.

Committee Reports

Bulletin Board and School Sign: Carla Hagan/ Erin Clippinger

Carla was not in attendance, but Kristen spoke and thanked Carla for all she has done. Erin Clippinger spoke about the school sign and how she took information from the website and calendar to do the sign out in front of the school once or twice a month.

Website: Karen Carps

Karen was not in attendance. Kristen talked about the tremendous amount of work Karen continues to put into our website.

Communications: Auburn Stovall

Auburn spoke about the new communication system that the PTA Board has set in place. All Facebook posts are done by Kristen or Auburn and once you have requested that something is posted on Facebook it will also go on the PTA website for the public. She explained the importance of communication and how the Board is trying to consolidate all communication to the PTA Facebook page and PTA website as our "go to place" for Watkins PTA communication to the parents.

Volunteer Coordinator: Kim McComb

Kim was not in attendance. She asked Kristen to relay that we are still looking for a Co-Chair for the Student Directory Committee and a Co-Chair for the Chess Club.

Student Directory: Kathleen Grattini

Kathleen was not in attendance. Kristen spoke with Kathleen ahead of time and she is ready to work on the student directory and is planning to have it completed by November.

Yearbook: Amy Shutts/Sherry Tremper

Amy and Sherry introduced themselves as the yearbook committee. Amy explained that the deadline for yearbook payments is December 18. She said that all class party pictures and any school events can be loaded on the PTA website under the Memory Book link to be added into the yearbook. Amy encouraged people to send in pictures.

Denim Drive: Tracey Malkie

Tracey introduced herself as the denim queen. She explained that the drive has been condensed this year into only two collection weekends, but that she will collect denim all year long. She delivered 225 pairs this past weekend. Tracey explained that they will take any kind of denim, old, ripped, adults and children sizes. Tracey also encouraged people to go to yard sales and get denim to help with this fundraiser.

Boxtops: Katie Berkman/Erin Clippinger

Erin and Katie introduced themselves and said that their Boxtops goal this year is 5,000. They explained that the class with the highest total this time will have a popcorn party and the class with the highest total at the end of the year will have an ice cream party. This Friday, September 18 from 9:30-11 will be a clip in in the cafeteria. Please bring scissors.

Labels for Education: Divya Raman

Katie Berkman spoke for Divya and let us know that the Labels for Education can be turned in with Box Tops in the office.

Candela's Night: Brittany Krebs

Candela's night will be October 19 and February 8. It is eat in or carry out.

Chick-Fil-A Night: Kim Young/Sarah Orr

Chick-Fil-A Nights at Westchester Commons will be sponsored by grade levels. The prize money from the wheel will be deposited directly to the school to be used towards school related items for the sponsored grade level.

Monkey Joe's: Laurie Valerio

There will be one event, March 10.

Spirit Wear: Kelly Kaze/Sandy Sharp

Kristen spoke for Kelly and told everyone that we are excited about the new spirit wear.

Skyzone: Katie Berkman

Katie spoke and told everyone that this was a new fundraiser that we would like to try this year. The event will be November 12, from 6-8. One hour jump passes will be available for purchase. Katie plans to send home a flyer the first week of November.

County Council: Kristen Beazley/Auburn Stovall

Auburn and Kristen attended the County Council meeting on September 14. The main focus of the meeting was the upcoming County Board vote for new safety cameras on buses and the new report cards for this year.

Health and Safety: Erin Brandenburg

Erin introduced herself and talked about a planned blood drive for October 14, from 3-7. Erin will check with Kim Cousins to make sure the building is available. Erin is also working on other service projects, SKIP is a possibility. Kim Cousins also said that Mr. C is willing to do the Turkey Trot.

Membership: Dana Gates

Dana introduced herself and explained that the cost of membership went up last year to \$8 for one and 2 for \$15. We can accept cash, check or payment on the website. Dana said that we are over half way our goal with 558 memberships so far. Robin Bartholomew won the drawing for a \$10 Target card.

Ways and Means: Kristen Beazley

Kristen explained to everyone that if you link you cards to school we can get money back to the school from your total purchases. She gave examples of programs like Martin's, Target and Amazon Smile. We could get 5% from Amazon Smile, go to smile.amazon.com. The code for the Martin's card is 22983.

Chess Club: Lesley Brocato

Lesley introduced herself and said that Chess Club is usually the first Friday of the month and is open to all levels. October 2 is the first Chess Club meeting.

Reflections: Christan Martin/Angie Miller

Angie introduced herself and talked about the different categories of the Reflections program. "Let your imagination fly" is the theme for this year. Rules are on the PTA website. The committee is looking for judges in the different categories. Every student that participates this year will go into a prize drawing. The turn in date for all projects is October 23.

S.T.E.A.M. Night: Sanjay Kurichh/Price Beazley

Kristen spoke for Price and said that the event will be in the Spring and planning will start closer to time.

WEP: Kori Langlie/Judy Long

Kori introduced herself. She explained that the committee is still lining up vendors and something should go out to parents Monday, September 21. They are looking for new offerings like James River Outfitters, School of Rock, new cooking education, etc. They would like to set up online payments through the PTA website if that is possible. Kori is waiting on the vendor list from Maggi. She is also setting a meeting with Kim Cousins to verify dates for building use.

Carnival: Kristen Beazley/Laura Kurichh

The Carnival committee is still looking for a co-chair. The committee would like to see food trucks and more of a farmer's market feeling this year. Sydney Newton suggested co-op extensions with Master Gardner's and said that she could reach out to that community if we needed extra help with it.

Pumpkin Lighting: Annette Bashensky/Katie Bozzo

Annette introduced herself and spoke about the change of having food trucks this year for the event. The event will take place October 23 from 6-8:30. There is a planning meeting for this event next Wednesday, September 23 at 9:45. Sign-up genius will go out soon for volunteer sign-ups for this event.

Talent Show: Sidney Newton/Divya Raman

Sydney introduced herself and spoke about the event and the fact that they had lots of student volunteers last year and would like to do that again. The committee would like to run auditions before the Winter break and then do the show right after the break. This scheduling would hopefully make it easier for children to prepare for the show and feel more comfortable.

Watkins Wiggle: Tracey Malkie/Mandy Bracey

Tracey introduced herself and Mandy. The committee is looking at different DJ's that work with Elementary schools. Silent auction baskets will be done during this event this year versus the Spring Carnival as in the past. The date for the Wiggle is February 26 with a snow date of March 4. Silent auction basket information will be given out once all Room Moms are picked for individual classes.

Lunch Buddies: Carla Hagan

Sign-ups for lunch buddies is on the PTA website. This is a great way to volunteer.

Room Parent Liaison: Lara Jones/Laura Kurichh/Amy Shutts

Amy spoke about the upcoming room mom meeting on October 6 at 9:30. Sign-ups for room moms will be at Back to School Nights.

Staff Appreciation: Leila Ward/Lindsay Spears

Kristen read an email from Leila. The email stated that the committee set up a table for teachers with goodies for back to school. The first luncheon including sandwiches and sides is Wednesday, November 18. This will be sponsored by K-2nd grade. The committee is looking for volunteers for this event. The second luncheon including Soups and sides is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17 and this is sponsored by 3rd-5th grade. They will also have a Staff Appreciation lunch and ice cream party sponsored by the PTA the week of May 2. The committee plans to deliver treats for the faculty and staff throughout the year.

School Representative Reports

Principal's Report: Kimberly Cousins

Kimberly Cousins said that the beginning of the school year went very smoothly due to the parent volunteers and all of the extra help. Back to school nights will be Monday, September 21 and Tuesday, September 29. Parents will meet in the cafeteria first for general information and then go to sessions in the classrooms. There will be two breakout sessions in the classrooms for parents with multiple children. There will be information about the new report

cards at Back to School Night. The administration is currently getting ready for the APEX fundraiser.

Program Report

APEX Fundraiser: Don Goding

Don introduced himself and said he would be open for individual questions at the end of the meeting. September 29 is the date for the Pep Rally. The theme of the fundraiser is "Dream Team". Don is working with Karen Snidow for scheduling time in the classrooms. Don explained that this program is based around positive role models and empowering the students. Everyone can participate in the program. October 8 is the date scheduled for the race. Parents are encouraged to come and have fun. Parent volunteers will only be needed the day of the race.

New Business

Kristen asked that all new business be submitted to her before the next meeting. Please submit all new business to President@jwpta.com. AR was brought up briefly. Kim Cousins said that AR will continue this year the only difference is that students are not able to take tests at home.

Announcements

- Chick-Fil-A night hosted by Kindergarten Thursday, September 17 5:30-8
- Box Tops clip in Friday, September 18 9:30-11, bring scissors
- Back to School Nights September 21 and September 29 both 6:00-8
- APEX begins September 28
- Next PTA meeting is October 13

Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm with a motion made by Shelley Neofotistos with a unanimous vote.