



General Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2015 6:30PM
JB Watkins Elementary School Cafeteria

Meeting Minutes

The General Board Meeting of J. B. Watkins was called to order at 6:33 pm on January 20, 2015. The following people were present: Maggi Lewis, Brittany Krebs, Kim McComb, Shelley Neofotistos, Karyn Andersen, Kris Perko, Debbi Roberts, Joyce Wilson, Christan Martin, Mary Patterson, Sherry Tremper, Amy Shutts, Tracey Malkie, Guspree Ceill, Julie Trebour, Kate Ashley, Kimberly Cousins.

CALL TO ORDER

Maggi Lewis, president, called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kim McComb, secretary, asked for any changes to the minutes from the November 2014 meeting. There were no changes and the minutes were approved as written.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Shelley Neofotistos, treasurer, gave a brief overview of the PTA budget as it stands in January. She also discussed that there are some new PTA guidelines that we are learning about that will change how we proceed with some issues in the future.

COMMUNICATIONS

Kim McComb shared that the PTA has received many thank you notes from teachers and staff for Birthday cupcakes, luncheons and teacher reimbursement checks.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Brittany Krebs, Vice President, updated the membership that she has been unable to secure an author to visit that is appropriate for ALL grade levels. Ms. Cousins mentioned that she would reach out to both Ms. Jester, the school librarian, and Mr. Rhodes, the school music teacher, to try to find a cultural program that would be appropriate for the entire school. Julia Trebour, a parent, mentioned that she may have some information on possible authors. She will research this and send the contact information to Ms. Jester and Brittany Krebs.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Maggi Lewis, president, thanked everyone for being cooperative with the need to cancel the meeting last week on January 13, 2015 due to impending weather and other issues that arose. She thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Reflections**, Shelley Neofotistos, spoke on behalf of Reflections committee. She shared that we had 7 first place winners that proceeded to the county level. These students will be recognized at a County Ceremony on January 7 from 2-4 at James River High School. Maggi Lewis and Ms. Cousins were also invited to attend this.
- **Yearbook**, Amy Shutts, spoke about the yearbook.

At this point there have been 692 yearbooks ordered. Cover art submitted by fifth graders has been selected and several pieces have been used in the cover design. The selected artists will be announced soon on the morning announcements. The Yearbook committee members are in the process of taking the casual class photos for the individual class pages of the yearbook. Committee members will contact teachers to plan possible times to take photos.

The parent volunteers on the yearbook committee have been hard at work making sure that all students are well represented in the yearbook. You are encouraged to submit your pictures for possible inclusion.

To upload your photos:

 - Go to: <https://images.memoryebooks.com/login> If it does not automatically log you into the site, enter username: 401854159
 - Browse to select the photo(s) you wish to upload.
 - Enter details about the photo and provide contact information in case the committee needs additional info.
 - Click "Save Details".
 - Enter information about the photo and provide contact information in case the committee needs additional information.
 - Click "Save Details". (The last day to submit photos is 03/01/2015).

This information has also been placed on JBWPTA.com under the yearbook tab. Yearbooks will be distributed in June.
- **Box Tops**, Kris Perko, mentioned that the next class collection is Friday, January 23. Kris Perko also announced that she and Robyn Bartholomew will not be heading Box Tops next year. So, the PTA is in need of volunteers to coordinate this, collect, clip and count out Box Tops. Many of these volunteers could be parents that work full time who could work on this at home. The board thanked Kris and Robyn for all of their work and effort for the great job they have done with Box Tops over the last 4 years.
- **Watkins Wiggle**, Tracey Malkie and Kelly Madures, announced that the Watkins Wiggle will be held on February 20 with a snow date for February 27 from 7-9pm. Fliers are printed and ready to go home. There will be a sign up genius for donations, and volunteer time slots. They are also very open to having middle school students volunteer to help. Watch Dogs have been contacted to help man the outside doors to keep all students inside. Ms. Cousins said that there is not a need for County Police to be in attendance, this is due to the fact that there will not be any money on the premises. It was also stated that this is NOT a drop off event, parents MUST stay with their children at the event.

NEW BUSINESS/ OPEN FORUM

- **Spending of the Misc School Fund/Wish List**

Shelley Neofotistos, Treasurer, stated that we have \$2500 set aside to purchase item(s) for the school that the teachers/staff would like. She asked Ms. Cousins to put together a list of wish list items and the board will determine what fits into our budget. Ms. Cousins said she would work on that and provide that list for the board. Ms. Cousins, then presented a proposal asking the PTA to help purchase 1 cart of 30 chromebooks for classroom use. She stated that the teachers are being asked to integrate technology into their lessons, but are lacking the most current machines to make this happen. These would be used in the upper grades to help transition those students who will be moving into Middle school sooner where they already have a 1:1 ratio of students to chromebooks. Maggi Lewis and Shelley Neofotistos explained that the county PTA organization had warned PTA's to stay away from purchasing technology for the schools due to a disparity between the ability of the different PTA's across the county. Shelley stated she would get a definitive answer on this. Ms. Cousins said she would also look into this, because she was told that two other schools were being assisted by their PTAs. There was also discussion that if the PTA was going to assist with this there would need to be a fundraiser for this initiative, due to the lack of funds at this time. The answers to the questions will be sought out and it will be re-visited.

- **Need for Nominating Committee for PTA board openings for 2015-2016**, Maggi Lewis mentioned that we are in need of volunteers to find candidates for the open board positions for the 2015-2016 school year. Positions last for 2 years, and we will have the positions of President and Secretary open.

- **WEP chairpersons** , Maggi Lewis, mentioned that WEP is supposed to begin on February 4 through March 18th. She is need of volunteers to oversee the WEP program the day of on each Wednesday. The hours will be from 3:30 – 5:00. These volunteers will be given directions on exactly what they will need to do. Volunteers can sign up for just one Wednesday. She then asked administration if they will be able to supervise any students that are not picked up by 5:00pm. They agreed to this. If these volunteers are not secured, WEP will not be able to take place.

- **WOW Wednesdays**, Maggi Lewis, stated that WOW Wednesdays will not be taking place this semester on the early release days.

- **Entertainment Books**, Maggi Lewis , stated that Entertainment Book fliers will be going home soon. These are just for purchase as an easy, no-commitment fundraiser for the PTA.

- **Returning Committee Chairs for next year**, Shelley Neofotistos mentioned that the Board is trying to get an early idea of PTA positions that we will need to fill for next year. Many were not filled this year, and we are trying to work on this sooner to make sure we have volunteers for all positions before we leave for summer. So, this begins with current chairs...please see the list next to the sign in

sheet. If you know you are returning (THANK YOU) and check yes, maybe if not sure, and no. This will help us in knowing and filling our needs.

- **PTA County Council Dinner**, This dinner was announced and shared with Ms. Cousins and Ms. Andersen.
- **Spring Carnival**, Maggi Lewis, stated that she is looking at the dates of either May 16 or May 23 for the Spring Carnival. Amy Shutts, asked if a meeting would be coming up soon to begin working on this. Maggi stated that a meeting will be following soon.
- **MAA Partnership**, Maggi Lewis, mentioned that the PTA has a community partnership with Midlothian Athletic Association (MAA) and will assist them with recruitment, displaying trophies, etc...

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION/STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Cousins thanked everyone for coming and all that the PTA does to support the school and its staff. She mentioned that if the PTA would like to announce events on the morning announcements they are welcome to use this. Please provide the front office your announcement 24 hours in advance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next PTA Meeting will be February 10, 2015 at 6:30 pm.
- Kim McComb, announced that Sidney Newton will be chairing the Talent Show. It will on April 24, try outs will be April 17 and the rehearsal will be April 22.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.