



General Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2015 6:30PM
JB Watkins Elementary School Cafeteria

Meeting Minutes

The General Board Meeting of J. B. Watkins was called to order at 6:30 pm on May 12, 2015. The following people were present: Maggi Lewis, Brittany Krebs, Shelley Neofotistos, Kim McComb, Dana Gates, Amy Shutts, Mary Patterson, Beth Losego, , Auburn Stovall, Anne Counoupas, , Kris Perko, Laura Kurichh, Kristen Beazley, Christine Halpaus, Erin Clippinger, Annette Bashensky, Kathy Burnette, Kara Fetsko, Angela Barteer, Charmain Tremper, Melissa Davis, Michelle Quiram, Christy Davis and Kimberly Cousins.

CALL TO ORDER

Maggi Lewis, president, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

PTA ELECTIONS

Maggi Lewis, President, called for the elections of PTA President and Secretary for the 2015-2017 school years to begin. Amy Shutts, Chair of the Nominating Committee, introduced the slate of candidates. For President, Kristen Beazley. For Secretary, Auburn Stovall and Laura Kurichh. At this time, ballots were handed out to all PTA members in attendance and voters were given until 7:00 pm to turn in their ballot into the ballot box.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kim McComb made a motion to approve the March 2015 minutes. There were no changes and the minutes were approved as written.

Kim also read a very nice thank you note from Chuck Rhode, music teacher. He thanked the PTA for their support throughout his many years at JB Watkins.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Shelley Neofotistos, Treasurer, reported that the PTA account balance will be left in June with approximately the same amount of money that the PTA account began with in September.

All teacher wish list items have been purchased and already being used by the teachers.

Shelley mentioned that the Literacy Specialist, Mallory Smith, had asked if the PTA is willing to continue to pay half of the cost of RAZ kids and Accelerated reader program. Shelley asked Ms. Cousins to look into this and if this is what the school prefers, the PTA will continue to support these items for next year. Ms. Cousins will get back to Shelley with that information.

Shelley requested that ALL check requests be turned in by June 5, 2015. This is necessary to ensure that she can close out the books for this school year in a timely manner.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Maggi Lewis, president, stated that the Spring Carnival has been cancelled due to lack of availability of volunteers. The carnival planning committee that was assembled in September now only had 3 willing volunteers, which was not enough to lead the planning of the carnival. Any classrooms that have put together baskets for the silent auction were instructed to please continue to work on this. There will be a Family Fun Night on June 5 where any baskets will be auctioned off. If room parents have not put together a basket for their class they can, but do not have to. Information will be sent to room parents about this Fun Event to then send to the parents in their classrooms.

At this time there was discussion about the lack of communication from the PTA this year. A number of parents expressed concern about not knowing about events that were taking place. It was decided that the newly elected board will address these issues this summer and have new communication procedures set into place for next school year. For the remainder of this school year room parents will send out information and all parents are encouraged to attend PTA meetings, check Facebook and our JB Watkins website (jbwpta.com).

Maggi also discussed that the PTA Election date was changed from the original date of April 24, 2015 to the meeting on May 12, 2015. As explained by Maggi, this was due to some concerns by members of the Midlothian community that the elections were not following PTA guidelines. After this concern was brought to the PTA boards attention, Maggi and the Executive board decided it would be best to move the election to a general PTA meeting and to assure that all protocol was followed to provide for the most legitimate election possible.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION/STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Cousins, Principal, thanked the PTA for everything that was done for the teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. She also directly thanked Mary Patterson, Staff Appreciation Chair, for all of her work and stated she really enjoyed working with Mary this year.

SOL's are now taking place and the administration is working hard to keep the school atmosphere low-key and calm. Therefore, they are not allowing unscheduled visitors (including lunch visitors) into the school during SOL testing. She stated for parents to please know this is not to "Shut out" parents, but for the kids to have the best chances at doing their best.

Mrs. Losego, teacher, thanked the PTA for the Wish List items. She stated that the fifth grade teachers are already using their items.

Ms. Youman, Chinese teacher, proposed a request from the PTA to pay for 3 sessions of an international group to come perform for the students for the Chinese New Year during the 2015-2016 school year. These sessions are \$600 a piece, so this is a

request for \$1800. She asked if this could be decided by August 2015 in order to have time to schedule these performers.

Ms. Youman also requested that the PTA put \$200 into the next year's budget to help support the Chinese program.

PTA ELECTION RESULTS

All voting stopped at 7:00pm and then ballots were numbered and tallied by the Nominating Committee. A report was then handed to Maggi Lewis, president, with the results. The results were then read as follows:

For the office of President, Kristen Beazley received 19 votes and there were no write ins.

For the office of Secretary, Laura Kurichh received 7 votes and Auburn Stovall received 12 votes and there were no write ins.

Maggi Lewis, then congratulated the PTA's new President, Kristen Beazley and Secretary, Auburn Stovall.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Box Tops, Kris Perko, stated that Box Tops is not doing as well this year as in years past. She feels this is due to the fact that it is harder to get the communication out to parents. There will be one last collection on May 21. There will also be a Box Top clip-in on May 21 from 9:30am -10:30am in the cafeteria to collect Box Tops, clip them and count them. Anyone able to help out is welcome, bring scissors. The class winner of the last turn in will be announced on May 26 and will receive an ice cream party.

Yearbook, Amy Shutts, stated that yearbooks will be distributed on June 5th to 5th graders and June 10th to grades K-4. Looking for volunteers to help distribute. Please email Amy at amyleahyshutts@hotmail.com if able to help. In need of paper grocery bags with handles and wagons for distribution. Amy is also looking for someone interested in taking over yearbook for the 2016-2017 year to begin shadowing the chairs next year.

APEX Fun Run, Amy Shutts, announced that Watkins will have their first APEX Fun Run beginning September 28, 2015. She shared wonderful experiences from a PTA president whose school completed the Fun Run with outstanding results.

Chick Fil A Night, Kim McComb for Kim Young, announced that the last Chick Fil A night of the year will be on June 4 at the Westchester Commons Chick Fil A.

NEW BUSINESS/ OPEN FORUM

Angela Bartee, thanked all of the volunteers that work hard to make our school a better place for our students.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next PTA Meeting will be June 9, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.

_____ Minutes Approved as Written

_____ Minutes Not Approved

_____ Date _____