

JB Watkins PTA General Membership Meeting

September 26, 2017, 6:30pm
JB Watkins Elementary School Cafeteria
501 Coalfield Rd, *Chesterfield, Virginia 23114*

President Leila Ward called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. In attendance were:

Officers:

Leila Ward, President
Carla Hagen, Treasurer
Amy Shutts, VP Committees
Laura Kurichh, VP Ways & Means
Auburn Stovall, VP Programs
Didi Cohen, Secretary

Debbie Weatherford, Principal
Karyn Andersen, Assistant Principal

Committee Chairs & Guests:

Lisa Haynes, Jenny Quarles, Katie Berkman, Joan Bynum, Sara Sitkiewicz, Lauren Andelin, Emily Ligh, Sarah Simmons, Lauren Sos, Meredith Beadles, Beh Losego, Christina Whitney, Morgan M. Cheatham, Linda Eakin, Ann Marie Halstead, Kimberly Johnson, Kim Do, Brandi Hidalgo, Shannon Hoyland, Sarah Matthews, Heather Parrish, Paula Stocks, Heather Fritz, J. Youman, Jen Salley, Adrienne Haskins, Kristen Beazely, Ellen Mahloy, Kathy Burnette, Erin Clippinger, Rebecca Williams, Kristin Donofrio, Pamela Anderson

All other committee chairs were absent.

Quorum Certification

A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the June 13, 2017 PTA General Membership Meeting have been posted to the JBW PTA Facebook page and website. Hard copies of the minutes were offered. There were no corrections and the minutes stand as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Carla Hagen introduced herself as the new PTA treasurer. She presented the 2016-2017 audit for final approval. Printed copies were offered. A motion to approve the audit was made by Amy Shutts. Auburn Stovall seconded the motion. The 2016-2017 Audit was approved unanimously. A copy of the audit remains on the JBWPTA website. Leila Ward motioned to approve the 2017-2018 Budget. Amy Shutts seconded the motion. The budget was approved by unanimous vote and is posted on the JBWPTA website. It was presented and approved during all three of the Back to School Night events.

Officer Reports

President's Report: Leila Ward

President Leila Ward introduced herself as the new PTA president. She welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. She thanked former PTA President, Kristen Beazely, for all the help getting her up to speed in her new role. She thanked all the wonderful volunteers especially those who already signed up for a variety of volunteer opportunities. She promised not to steal all your time and encouraged people to volunteer as little or much as their schedule allows. All help is greatly appreciated and benefits all the students and teachers. Leila directed our attention to the table full of thank you notes from teachers and staff to the PTA.

Mrs McCormack needs help with PALS testing. One hour volunteer shifts needed to monitor students in the cafeteria so teachers can test the students. Activities will already be provided for the students. Sign up genius will be posted on Facebook page. Keep an eye out for an emails from your children's room moms. These emails will include links to sign up genius as well.

Vice President - Committees Report: Amy Shutts

Amy Shutts introduced herself and gave a brief summary of the important roles these committee chairs hold for our school and the benefits they provide to the students and school as a whole, whether it be through after school enrichment programs, beautifying the school, or helping raise money to support our teachers, and planning fun events. She thanked everyone for coming out and showed great appreciation for all the amazing people who help make Watkins such a great school. Committee chair positions are currently full but Amy asked for someone to take the lead for WEP (Watkins Enrichment Program), and after school program which allows opportunities for students to experience a variety of extra curricular activities. The PTA usually offers WEP classes in the FALL and in the SPRING. There wasn't enough volunteer support for this fall but we're hoping to be able to reinstate the WEP program this spring. Some of the classes offered may include cooking, martial arts, legos, drama, and music lesson. Volunteers are also needed to get the students safely to their proper WEP programs and properly

released upon WEP dismissal. Please contact Amy Shutts via her email which can be found on the website if you are interested or have any questions regarding WEP.

Vice President - Ways and Means Report: Laura Kurichh

Laura Kurichh introduced herself and explained that, since the APEX Fun Run was so successful last year we will only be doing that as a fund raiser every other year. This year we will be doing a direct donation fund raiser. If each family donates \$20 per child, we will have exceeded our goal. This fundraiser will provide school supply wish lists for teachers, promethean boards, help fund special events like author visits, Dances, Pumpkin Lighting, Spring Fling and many other fun events. She showed the monitors in the cafeteria and entryway as examples of ways the PTA donations help the school. The goal is to raise \$20,000. We have collected \$4,000 and are grateful to all the families who have generously given already. The direct donation fund raiser ends October, 12. Will be sending out a flyer next week as a reminder. Go to JBWPTA.com and click on donate. Any dollar amount is greatly appreciated and it benefits ALL students and teachers.

Vice President - Programs Report: Auburn Stovall

Auburn Stovall introduced herself as the new Vice President of Programs. She will be in charge of several Author Visits throughout the school year. The first one will be held on: October 2. Ann Marie Halstead will be there for students K-2 and there will be a Theater IV performance based on her book that same morning. Ann Marie is an author of the "Bucket Filling Fairy". Theater IV will be presenting a play based on the bucket filling books on that morning for K-2 in the cafeteria.

Nov 20 grade 3-5 Theater IV performance of Apollo.

Steven Smith is the Author visit for 3rd-5th graders. It's about Jamestown and 4th graders will be going on a field trip later this year to Jamestown which makes this author visit especially special.

April 9 K-2 Ugly Duckling including a Theater IV performance

April 24 K-2 Story Lady Ali Pfaltz will visit and read.

Recording Secretary's Report: Didi Cohen

Didi Cohen introduced herself as the new PTA secretary then got right back to typing.

Committee Reports

Box Tops: Katie Berkman/ Erin Clippinger

Katie and Erin introduced themselves as the Box Tops committee chairs. The next collection date is October 20th. 9000 have been collected so far, which is less than last year, so please keep clipping.

Chesterfield County Council: Kimberly Johnson

Monday October 9, 7-8:30pm Chesterfield County Council of PTAs is hosting a presentation entitled Safeguarding Our Youth. It's about building resiliency in our youth regarding mental health and depression. Our County Council representative will be there to talk about it. All are welcome. Details and location are on the Chesterfield County Council PTA website.

Chess Club: Lauren Sos/ Angie Scranton

Lauren Sos introduced herself as new chess club chair and invited all to bring their kids to chess club. Update will be given on Facebook and PTA webpage as reminder. It's a drop-off before school activity which begins at 8:05am usually on the second Friday of every month. Dates are posted on the PTA calendar. Some breakfast items are usually served. Costs \$2 per session. No commitment. No experience needed. All grades and all levels welcome. Trainer sets are available for beginners. Eighty-four kids are currently on the roster. We are hoping to recruit some grandparents or other adults who know chess to help teach the kids. Chess piece keychains will be given to kids who show up to at least 3 sessions. Chess club shirts are being made as well. October 13th is the first club meeting.

Pumpkin Lighting: Rebecca Williams

Our PTA sponsored Annual Fall event will be held October 20 5:30-8:00pm. This is a date change from the original calendar sent at the beginning of the year. It's a big festival. Last year we sold over 1,200 wrist bands for kids and over 2,000 for adults. There will be a cake walk, food trucks, carnival games, hay ride, Book Fair launch in the gym, and the very popular Silly String fight in the courtyard. We're hoping for just one hour of volunteer time from as many people as possible for that night. The first meeting will be tomorrow 10:00am in the cafeteria. If interested, please contact Rebecca Williams.

Katie Bozo's family no longer attends school here but her dad will still do the hay ride. She will be keeping the games because they actually belong to her and she needs to use them for an event at Walton Park instead. Rebecca requested money to make new games for the Pumpkin Lighting this year. She wants to make games like Plinko, Bean bag tosses, sound system needed with a light for groovy ghost disco dance party. Asking for total \$360. Vote was motioned by Ann Marie. Amy Shutts seconded. PTA members voted in favor of the budget change. Approved \$360 for Pumpkin Lighting budget increase for this year to make new carnival games and buy disco light.

Reflections: Rita Bond/ Kimberly Johnson

The Reflections Program is an Art competition. This year's theme is Within Reach. All students encouraged to participate. Entry forms due Oct.10 and can be submitted in the JBW front office. Entry forms are provided in the front office and online. There will be an award banquet for all participants on November 3rd. Contact Rita Bond or Kimberly Johnson for more information.

Spirit Nights: Heather Fritz

The first K-2 Chick-fil-A Spirit Night is Thursday October 12 from 5:30-8pm. Heather apologized for it being during the same week as Papa Johns delivery. It was not intentional and

we hope you will still come out. We are combining grade levels this year for each night so there are not as many Chick-Fil-A Spirit Nights as before; so please come out and support your grade level. All grade levels are welcome to come to all the Chick-Fil-A Spirit Nights. Remember to mention you are part of the JB Watkins Spirit Night and percentage dollar amount of food purchases goes to the PTA. All money donated while the teacher is at The Prize Wheel is donated to that grade level.

Mark your calendars for November 13 Candelas Spirit Night. Students, families, friends and staff of all grades are welcome

Staff Appreciation: Kat Kelly/ Divya Raman

Teachers are very grateful to Kat Kelly and Divya Raman who renovated the teacher lounge and welcomed teachers back to school with coffee and cake. The Staff Appreciation Committee loves to shower our fantastic teachers and staff with love and treats throughout the year as a special thanks to all the wonderful work they do for our children and the Watkins community. Be on the lookout for opportunities when you can support them. The teachers truly appreciate the support and surprises throughout the year.

W.H.O. : Kristen Beazley/ Erin Bradenburg

W.H.O. (Watkins Helpers Organization) had it's first meeting about how to handle choking situations. See school calendar or JBWPTA.com for upcoming WHO meetings. About 16 families came. Patient First donated first aid kits. Staff officer taught students how to handle emergency situations and dial 911. There was interest in doing it again perhaps in the spring. Next W.H.O. meeting we will be making placemats the Giving Heart for a Thanksgiving feast for the community . There will be a food item and toiletry collection. Next meeting is October 23 from 6:30-8pm. The January meeting will include making Valentines bags for senior citizens. Please come out and give back.

Membership: Melissa French (Amy Shutts filled in)

Currently 557 members of the PTA. Save \$1 by signing up online. You will also get a discount on Spirit Wear.

Yearbooks: Divya Raman/ Sara Armstrong

We've sold 650 yearbooks so far. Price goes up soon and sales close in a few months so don't delay. You can purchase them on the JBWPTA.com website

Denim Drive:

We have collected 379 pieces of denim. Principal Weatherford confirmed that Watkins has won something for the amount of denim we have donated. Way to go Watkins!

Spirit Wear: Auburn Stovall/Kristen Beazley

Discounts provided for **PTA members** who buy spirit wear. Spirit Wear is selling fast and the shirts are currently sold out. Spirit Wear team is looking to restock T-shirt inventory so stay

tuned. Some Spirit Wear is still available and the new items will be available online and during special events. Auburn asked if there is an interest in hoodies. More than half of the members present raised their hands in interest. They would cost about \$35 for adults. They come with a place in the tag for writing name in it. Remaining inventory and sizes will be on the website.

Digital Safety:

They are very excited about this new committee. They have met with the school counselors and will be working together on three main goals: 1. A parent meeting and panel discussion in the spring. 2. Digital Safety Resource page on the PTA website. 3. A monthly Digital Safety Corner message to parents that coincides with topics and materials the counsellors are covering with the students in class.

Representative Reports

Principal's Report: Ms. Debbie Weatherford

Principal introduced herself and thanked all for welcoming her and coming. Hopes to talk to people personally. Dismissal is getting smoother. All transportation has permanent drivers now. On time buses are improving. Still a work in progress. Tell her or administration if you have any problems with your transportation.

Miners Diner. Come out to experience lunch in the new Miners Diner. Miner's Diner has lower ceilings so it is loud. Acoustical tiles are being ordered to improve that. It's a different process to improve trailers than it is for other school related improvements because the trailers are leased. But it is in the works and Ms. Weatherford thanks everyone for their continued patience. The kids are doing great. Some enhancements Mrs Weatherford is working forward with are a snack kiosk to provide a separate purchasing area for high volume food items such as chips, snacks and ice cream, so the hot food line doesn't get backed up. She would like to have another staff member to help with checkout too. Principal Weatherford hopes to purchase more cafeteria equipment to help improve the efficiency of the serving line so kids can get their food faster. She appreciates the feedback from parents about how things are going currently so she can continue to make improvements as necessary. She thanked the PTA committee chairs for their communication. Be on the look out for the Sunday messages. Committee chairs need to get any information to her by Friday lunchtime if you would like it to be included in the Sunday message.

Denim Drive Oct10th presentation...we will be winning something. Debbie Weatherford will be there. Mrs Andersen and Mr Ondrish will be at the next PTA meeting.

Assistant Principal's Report: Karyn Andersen

Papa John's orders are doing well. So well that they need help with driving our teachers to deliver the pizza. 20% of all money collected and 100% of tips come back to the school.

If interested in helping drive meet at the Ivymont Papa John's_at 4:15-4:30pm. Hoping to finish by 7:30pm. Check your email for the sign up genius to volunteer as a driver.

Teacher Representative Report:

Mrs. Stocks thanked PTA for the new lounge and the support from the PTA. The teachers are so grateful for the love and support the PTA has shown them.

Mrs. Losego loved the flowers that the green team provided for the courtyard. She suggested getting some picnic tables for that outside area too.

New Business

Sara Sitkiewicz: needs more Lunch Buddies support. Please spread the word to volunteer. Shifts are about an hour each. Grandparents and husbands welcome too. We need all the help we can get. Just fill out a volunteer form at the front office. She will put you on the list for the automatic email reminder and sign up genius.

Announcements

- October 6 - 3 hour early release
- October 10 - Reflections Entries due
- October 10 - PTA Meeting 6:30pm
- October 12- Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night (K-2nd) 5:30-8:00pm Westchester Commons
- October 13- Chess Club 8:05 am
- October 18- Fall Pictures
- October 20 - Pumpkin Lighting 5:30-8:00pm. (**NEW DATE!**)
- October 23 WHO Meeting

Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was motioned to adjourn by Amy Shutts and Carla Hagen seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Authentication of the Minutes

Respectfully submitted to the Board for approval this October 2, 2017 by Didi Cohen.