

J.B. Watkins PTA General Membership Meeting

May 16, 2017

J.B. Watkins Elementary School Cafeteria

President Kristen Beazley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were:

Officers:

Kristen Beazley, President
Auburn Stovall, Secretary
Emily Stein, Treasurer
Divya Raman, Vice President of Programs
Amy Shutts, Vice President of Committees
Laura Kurichh, Vice President of Ways and Means

Kimberly Cousins, Principal
Karyn Andersen, Assistant Principal
Laura Marshall, Administrative Assistant

Committee Chairs, General PTA Members and Guests:

Leila Ward, Sarah Simmons, Katie Berkman, Jennifer Miranowicz, Rachael Goodrich, Lisa Falvo, Erin Clippinger, Didi Cohen, Taylor Vielo, Vanessa Duyle, Emily Ligh, Whitney Revell, Lauren Kern, Jaya Baker, Carla Hagan, Amanda Bracey, Shannon Hoyland, Kelley Marlin, Kathy Burnette, Jennifer Salley, Kate Railsback, Heather Parrish, Irene Delcamp, Michele Tiller, Lesley Brocato, Kimberly Johnson, Katie and Eric Longo, Carolyn and Alfred Cobbs, Dr. James Lane, Tim Bullis, Dr. Rachel Foglesong, Nita Mensa-Joseph, Todd Marshall, Javaid Siddiqi

Kristen welcomed everyone including Channel 12 and the Chesterfield Observer. She thanked Ms. Mensia-Joseph, Drs. Lane and Siddiqi, Ms. Cousins and Mrs. Kurichh for all of their hard work to get us to today to discuss the trailers. Kristen and Laura have partnered with this team since October to discuss the best solution for overcrowding in our schools and have been appreciated and listened to. The PTA board looks forward to hearing about solutions for the future and how the PTA can continue to help and be part of a solution.

Quorum Certification

A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 14, 2017 General Membership Meeting were presented. There were no corrections and they will stand as presented.

Officer Reports

Treasurer's Report: Emily Stein

Emily noted that the net income to date is \$37,799.64 and the cash on hand is \$51, 826.37. She asked for a vote to increase the wish list and school improvement budget from \$10,000 to \$13,000. All PTA members present voted to approve the increase. The Spirit Wear income budget was originally \$5,000

and Emily asked for a vote to increase this income to \$6,300. All PTA members present voted for the increase in income.

Vice President's Report: Amy Shutts

Amy Shutts thanked all of the committee chairs for all that they have done this year. We are in need of a new CCPTA Representative, a Co-Chair for the Wiggle committee, and a Co-Chair for WEP (Watkins Enrichment Program). If you are interested in any of the mentioned positions please email Amy at vpcommittees@jbwpta.com.

Vice President's Report: Laura Kurichh

Laura reported that we continue to spend money from the APEX fundraiser. We recently purchased 8 portable tables and 50 chairs that we can use for events. She is still looking into the carpool system and she is waiting on the County for approval of the system. The carpool system is an electronic, drive-thru system.

Price Beazley spoke to the audience about the proposed flat panel displays for the cafeteria that would be used to augment performances. He has gotten multiple quotes and has now included Chesterfield County's Building Operations and Construction Management and is now waiting for their guidance to move forward.

Committee Reports

Hospitality Committee: Leila Ward

Leila thanked everyone that helped with the past Teacher's Luncheon and for making Teacher Appreciation week a success. Lunch was catered by Baja Bean. The next event is in June, the end of the year teacher's breakfast.

Spring Fling/50th Anniversary Celebration: Jaya Baker and Irene Delcamp

Jaya said that the Spring Fling is May 19 and there are 400 tickets sold at this time. You can still purchase tickets at the door. There will be food trucks, bouncy houses, and fundraiser booths including one with proceeds going to Noah's Family in honor of Beckett Wyatt. The event is a 60's theme and we still need volunteers. There will also be a planting station near the new courtyard that was graciously donated by Watkins Nursery. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for this area and a thank you gift given to the Nursery. An edible arrangement was also sent to Watkins Nursery thanking them for their generous donation.

School Representative Reports

Dr. James Lane

Dr. Lane announced Watkins new Principal, Debbie Weatherford. Debbie said she is thrilled to be here and can't wait to get started. Dr. Lane said that there will be another night where Watkins families can meet Mrs. Weatherford. Mrs. Weatherford was previously an Assistant Principal under Dr. Scott. She will be spending time in the school for the next couple of weeks. Dr. Lane also thanked Ms. Cousins for all of her hard work for the past several years and for her help with this transition.

Dr. Lane said that Watkins is a very special place and that his goal for the evening was to talk about the next couple of years' transition to accommodate the higher volume of students until the new school on Old Hundred is built. If you look at the past 18 months, the team has expedited construction of the new school and has worked as a team to put the "best of the not so great options" together. Dr. Lane thanked Laura Kurichh and Kristen Beazley for helping with planning and being the voice of the PTA in the team

meetings. The team wants to be as accommodating as possible. They would like to go through some slides and then have time for Q&A.

There will be a community meeting on May 31 at Good Shepherd that will have exciting info about the new Old Hundred Elementary due to open Fall of 2019. The voted architectural design will be revealed and other details about the new school will be discussed at the meeting on May 31st.

Dr. Lane began by talking about the current stats of Watkins. The current student enrollment is 1,152 with a projected 1,231 in 2017-2018. The functional capacity of Watkins is 999 students. In order to support enrollment growth at Watkins we are adding a mobile learning center of eight classrooms and a multipurpose facility. With the additional outside classrooms, the school will also have a cafeteria trailer that can also transform into a multipurpose room. All food will be cooked in the main kitchen in the main building and will be transported out to the cafeteria trailer. The mobile learning centers will house most of the 4th grade classrooms and the majority of 5th grade. A single class will not be separated from the rest of a grade.

Dr. Lane showed a map showing the location of the trailers which is in the field next to the baseball field on the large playground side. The new trailers will be stacked back to back with a sidewalk leading inside. They are scheduled to be installed this summer by teacher workweek.

Waiver windows are still open only for Watkins students. This will allow Watkins families to waiver into a school that is not over crowded and where the selected waived grade is not over crowded. Waivered families must provide transportation unless the waived student already has a sibling that currently has transportation to that school. Waivers will be accepted from May 22-26 with the final deadline of 4:00 p.m. on May 26. Waiver letters must include the child's name, upcoming grade level and the requested school. Waiver approval is on a first come, first served basis.

Dr. Lane then discussed what options they have considered in this difficult process. They have always considered redistricting and the County realizes that redistricting is going to be necessary in the near future. However, they do not want to redistrict students more than once in their elementary school career. The County plans to redistrict when the new Old Hundred school opens. The use of the Watkins Annex was also considered, but the County did not feel that this was a viable option. The Annex is currently used by a senior citizens center and they didn't feel it was in our best interest to take the building away from this group. There was also a considerable amount of feedback from the Watkins community that we wished to keep our Watkins students together on the Watkins property. Fifth grade and fourth grade were picked to be in the trailers due to the fact that they are typically more reliable and their adaptability to transitions is usually better.

The County will take security of the trailers seriously with a Security Manager visiting on a regular basis and a thorough review before the students are here in the Fall. They will also consider housing a school administrator in one of the trailer units. Covered walkways were also considered but were ultimately vetoed due to a couple of issues; namely high costs allocated to a temporary structure and the visual disparity it will have with other schools in a similar situation. The cost would be temporary and far exceeding the project budget. Paved walkways have been approved going from the new trailers to the main school building. Existing walkways will be widened to better accommodate traffic flow. Hopefully there will be minimal impact on the playgrounds, if there is, there will be accommodations made on the playgrounds as well.

Dr. Javaid Siddiqi: Q&A

Dr. Siddiqi took over for Dr. Lane so that he could go to another school related event. Javaid opened the floor for questions and answers. The following points were discussed.

- Busses will be monitored and busses will be added if needed.
- There will be a new key fob lock system in place for students to come and go from the trailers to the main building.
- The question was asked if there could be another school nurse in the trailer. There is not a plan for a nurse to be in the trailers at this time.
- There will be serving lines in the cafeteria trailer. Proper food temps will be maintained and monitored closely. 4th and 5th grade will most likely be served in the trailer and visitors will still be welcome.
- More classrooms do not mean that class sizes will get smaller. Class sizes should stay the same as right now and not get larger.
- There will be the evacuation drills for the outdoor units for high wind events. Students will be moved to large common areas of safety.
- Administration is making sure that the Resource department is taken into consideration. There has been a confirmed increase in Art instruction next year.
- There is currently no new Middle School construction scheduled in the near future. The County realizes that there is a need, they are thinking about this issue and are working on it.
- Mrs. Salley brought up that she taught in a mega trailer for five years and she said that at times it was actually easier to function in a trailer than in a main building. She was very positive about her experience.
- Mrs. Burnette brought up the concern that the County should hire Instructional Aides based on the population of the school, not the same amount for each school. Javaid said that they are currently working on this issue.
- Ms. Mensia-Joseph said that she would look into the long term amount of years that the trailers are able to be used.

Announcements

- May 19th- Chess Club Open Play and Tournament, 8:05-9:15 am
- May 19th- Box Tops due date and Clip In, 9:30-11 am
- May 19th- Spring Fling and 50th Anniversary Celebration, 5:30-8 pm
- May 29th- Memorial Day Holiday, No School
- June 8th- Candela's Night, 6-8 pm
- June 13th- Last PTA Meeting of the year, 6:30 pm

Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 with a motion made by Amy SHutts with a unanimous vote.

_____ Minutes Approved as Written

_____ Minutes Not Approved

_____ Date _____