

# **JB Watkins PTA General Membership Meeting**

June 5, 2018, 6:30pm

JB Watkins Elementary School Cafeteria  
501 Coalfield Rd, *Chesterfield, Virginia 23114*

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Vice President Amy Shutts called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. In attendance were:

## Officers:

Leila Ward, President (had to leave because she was ill)

Carla Hagen, Treasurer

Amy Shutts, VP Committees

Laura Kurichh, VP Ways & Means

Auburn Stovall, VP Programs

Debbie Weatherford, Principal

Karyn Andersen, Assistant Principal

Shawn Ondrish, Assistant Principal

## Committee Chairs & Guests

Mary Witt, Angie Trueblood, Christy Hall, Shannon Hoyland, Kathy Heath, Heather Fritz, Kat Kelly, Marian Millikan, Christan Martin, Kimberly Johnson, Erin Horansky, Lauren Colacurcio, Sara Sitkiewicz, Whitney Revell, Brandi Hidalgo, Mandy Bracey, Carrie Saunders, Adrienne Ho, Arielle Greene, Jennifer Marshall, David Marshall, Lara Jones, Lauren Sos, Emily Ligh, Tayseer Algalal, Jenny Youman, Erin Clippinger, Sarah Simmons, Kristen Beazley

## **Quorum Certification**

A quorum was established.

## **President's Welcome**

Amy Shutts welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Amy explained that Leila will not be here tonight because she is ill.

Amy explained the survey:

This goes along with the outline of questions given to him:

1. Mr. Sidiqi introduced himself. His kids attend James River High School and Robious Elementary. There will be a re-election next year. Most important issues are school safety, policing in schools, reengaging police departments in an agreement, technology, (our radio systems can't reach out to the police at this point if they're down), and mental health. Some don't think that mental health is something to be concerned about in school, but the board does. We are considering putting police in elementary schools, retired officers, SRO's, systems and buzzers for a line of sight. There are still some gaps. There are still things we can do better. Biggest thing we are doing is also putting school psychologist and social and emotional learning for students in place. It will be incorporated in the instructional program. All of these issues are big and will not be resolved overnight.
2. Additional staff. There has been an issue with clerical staff. Mrs Weatherford said, we received two support instructional assistants. These people will be here all next year. Itinerant teachers will be here full time next year. Request has been made for an additional person in the library, and a second 10 month employee in the office. Four more classrooms will be added to trailers for next year. The boundary lines will be announced soon for Old Hundred Elementary School. Watkins will be at a good place to talk about a new library with the new bond package. When Old Hundred Elementary is done, we should be able to get rid of the trailers.
3. Robious Elementary School is less than 100% capacity and Betty Weaver is almost 100% capacity. There is opportunity for growth at Robious. There will be a ripple effect with redistricting. They are removing islands from the redistricting. They are doing the best they can to get the districts right so every school is a little more comparable.
4. Midlothian Middle school is able to take on more students. They have the capacity. They also bought 80 acres at Old Hundred Elementary site to possibly build a new middle school.
5. There is enough space at the new Old Hundred Elementary School site that we could also possibly do a new high school.
6. He thinks the feeling of a school from the administration makes it feel like a small school. When kids don't feel connected to the school then there's a problem. It's not an actual number of students in the school or the class, but some of these environmental things that should inform the thinking surrounding the population.

7. He doesn't feel like world language is great the way it's done in our schools now. Some schools are piloting something next year with two languages, but he doesn't know if you can do it in an hour a week. He feels that STEAM could be used in the classroom more and the teachers could incorporate this. Mrs Weatherford announced that there will be one more year of Chinese and phasing STEAM program in. Every other week they will have Chinese/STEAM, located very close to one another. There will be a lot of collaboration. We are still finalizing logistics of this and looking for feedback.

Extra questions:

\*\*\*When is Bond Referendum? 2021 or 2022.

\*\*\*\*Will rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders have to go to Old Hundred? They are allowing kids to stay at Beulah that are in this same position. They have to provide their own transportation.

8. We are not thrilled with SOL testing either. But they are a necessary evil at this time. When there's a huge gap of learning in the classrooms, schools should have autonomy in handling this situation, we have to allow some autonomy for the school administrators. But we still need some way to hold teachers accountable. We are still too focused on SOL's, and there are still better ways to assess learning and classroom success. But I think it's going to take time.

\*\*\*Bus Driver shortage? We reduced the substitute pool and made them full time. Now we will have more drivers than routes and hopefully will be able to absorb these people. We hire subcontractor bus drivers for kids with disabilities and will have some standby, bonded drivers that are able to drive kids with special needs.

\*\*\* If there are plenty of drivers, why are there so many double backs? They run the routes using an old school method by hand. The county bought a new routing system, so the system should be more efficient from now on. They will be doing test runs with the new computerized routing system all summer to prepare for the fall. There's also a new transportation director that is being more thoughtful as far as morale goes.

\*\*\*Why didn't the county choose the two tiered model for start times? We didn't go with that because drivers wouldn't have benefits because hours would have to be cut

\*\*\*Finished at 7:30

**Amy gave a BIG thank you to all of the committee chairs to all that everyone has done this year and for their hard work.**

### **Treasurer's Report**

**Carla Hagen**

Copies of the treasurer's report are available online. If anyone has questions, feel free to contact Carla. The monthly budgets are posted on the PTA website and Facebook page. PTA was able to offer another reimbursement of \$100 each to the teachers this spring.

## **Officer Reports**

### Vice President - Committees Report: Amy Shutts

Jenny Quarles is the next VP of Committees. She announced we still need a county council representative. Your commitment entails attending one meeting a month with the Chesterfield County Council PTA meetings, and then report important information from it at our JB Watkins PTA meeting every month.

Have several people interested in Reflections but we are still looking for a chair. All the work is done the first half of the school year.

### Vice President - Ways and Means Report: Laura Kurichh

Laura Kurichh reported that the Goodwill drop off was as success. We got \$195 from Good Will. Our major fund raiser for next year will be the APEX fun run.

### Vice President - Programs Report: Auburn Stovall

We've concluded all of the Author Visits for the year and there is nothing new to report.

### Secretary's Reports — Didi Cohen

The minutes from May were approved and no changes were made. They are posted on the JBWPTA Facebook page and website.

Minutes are passed as written

## **Committee Reports**

### **Box Tops: Katie Berkman/ Erin Clippinger**

May 30 was our final Box Top collection. We collected a little over 7,000 box tops. We collected 35,000 box tops overall this year. That's \$350 for our school. We will be collecting again in September so keep clipping over the summer!

### **Chess Club: Lauren Sos/ Angie Scranton**

Lauren Sos reported that there will be our final chess club this Friday. Don't have to know how to play. The last round of the end of the year tournament is finishing during this Friday chess club too. It's from 8-9am. The cost is \$2 and includes breakfast, big muffins from Costco. We're buying new chess boards for next year!

### **Green Team: Sarah Simmons/Whitney Revell**

Almost to the end of the year but we still need some more help during lunch time. Both lunch rooms are recycling.

## **Representative Reports**

### **Principal's Report: Ms. Debbie Weatherford**

Such a great first year back! To the board members, thank you and thank you to parents. Busy time of the year. 2018-2019 was a very generous school year. We were able to purchase more Promethean boards. We were able to purchase 18 Promethean boards this year in collaboration with PTA.

There will be two days of professional development the first two days of the summer vacation for teachers, big training. The teachers are really excited about this.

Roll out of Chinese and steam combination for next year. More info in September.

Mrs Anderson will be leaving us next year and we wish her the warmest goodbye and thank you for your service to our students and families. You will be missed.

### **Teacher Representative Report:**

Mrs Haskins said a big thank you to PTA for the support of the last reimbursement and Promethean Boards.

## **New Business**

1. 2017-18 Rookie of the Year Award goes to Jenny Quarles!
2. 2017-18 Volunteer of the Year Award Kat Kelly! Carla Hagen gave a speech.

3. **\*\*Secret Presentation\*\* VOLUNTEER SPIRIT AWARD** — Amy Shutts has been a member of the J.B. Watkins community and PTA for over ten years. During the time when her three children have attended Watkins, Amy has been the epitome of an outstanding volunteer! She is always the first to lend a helping hand and brings a smile and a positive attitude to every school event. She welcomes new families to Watkins with her outgoing personality and kind words. She believes in including all families and encourages others to share ideas to improve our school community. Over the past 10 years, Amy has served on the PTA board as the Vice President of Committees. She has also served as the head of several committees, including Room Parent Liaison, Fifth Grade Promotion, Volunteer Coordinator, Yearbook, and the PTA Nominating Committee. While serving as a PTA board member and committee chair, Amy supported other committee chairs by volunteering to help them run successful events. She has donated countless hours to our Box Tops committee, Lunch Buddies program, Chick Fil-A, Candela's and Skyzone nights, the Spring Fling/50 th Anniversary of J.B. Watkins, the Talent Show, Watkins Enrichment Program, the Pumpkin Lighting, Watkins Helping Others, and the Staff Appreciation committee. Amy has been an asset to our PTA and our school community and a model of volunteerism!

4. 2017-18 PTA Video

### **Announcements**

- June 8 - Final Chess Club Tournament 8:05am
- June 14 - Full Day of School
- June 15 - Last Day of School **3 Hour Early Release**
- **HAVE A RELAXING SUMMER!**

### **Adjournment**

With no further business the meeting was motioned to adjourn by Amy Shutts and seconded by Laura Kurichh. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

### **Authentication of the Minutes**

Respectfully submitted to the Board for approval this June 15 , 2018 by Didi Cohen.