

# JB Watkins PTA General Membership Meeting

November 13, 2018, 7:00pm  
JB Watkins Elementary School Cafeteria  
501 Coalfield Rd, Midlothian, Virginia 23114

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President Leila Ward called the meeting to order at 7:09pm. A Be Smart parent program about the steps adults can take to help decrease child gun deaths took place from 6:30-7:00. In attendance were:

## **Officers:**

Leila Ward, President  
Sara Shuey, Treasurer  
Jenny Quarles, VP Committees  
Kat Kelly, VP Ways & Means  
Kim Johnson, VP Programs  
Sara Sitkiewicz, Secretary

Deborah Weatherford, Principal  
Shawn Ondrish, Assistant Principal

## **Committee Chairs & Guests:**

Arielle Green, Heather Fritz, Katie Sloan, Angie Trueblood, Julie Byer, Rebecca Williams, Laura Kurichh

All other committee chairs were absent.

## **Quorum Certification**

A quorum was established.

## **Approval of Minutes**

*See secretary report*

## **Officer Reports**

### **President's Report: Leila Ward**

Leila thanked those that attended the Be Smart program tonight. She thanked Rebecca Williams for the BEST Pumpkin Lighting. This year topped it with the photo booth and Kona ice.

Thanked Kim Johnson for handling the Theater IV scheduling changes and for taking on the reflections program all by herself.

Thanked all that came to the redistricting meeting with Dr. Sidiqqi. It was good to see everyone who came out to get more information.

Lastly, thanked Shannon Hoyland and Brandi Hildago for a successful WEP this fall.

### **Treasurer's Report: Sarah Shuey**

She did the treasurer's report different this month. There were lots of checks in the previous report from last year, which made things look over budget. Those checks were split out at the bottom.

She has filed an audit report with National PTA and filed the 990 tax return. All dues will be paid on time this week.

All bills for WEP, yearbook and spirit wear will be paid in November.

Apex happened and lots of collections which we'll get to later. It was very successful and succeeded our goal. Part of the money will roll over for next year to start the PTA with a bank balance of \$10,000.

### **Vice President – Committee's Report: Jenny Quarles**

We continue to have open committee positions. Don't want to call it a volunteer crisis but people are not showing up. We had lots of parents sign up but not show up at the pumpkin lighting event. Jenny is going to hold coffee chat for volunteers to get a better understanding of what might be holding people back. She wants to know why or why they don't volunteer and what are the barriers. Everybody can give an hour at some point to help out but why don't they.

Heather Fritz brought up the idea of giving incentives and it was discussed. Sometimes it's difficult to track volunteers and who and when they come in. Debbie Weatherford suggested a parking spot incentive. Volunteers could put their names in a box when they volunteer and then a name would be drawn to determine a winner. Gift cards could also be an incentive. Another idea is to spotlight volunteers in our newsletter and Facebook page.

Rebecca Williams added that it's okay to let some events not happen if no one steps up to run them. It might mean that an event doesn't get planned but it might cause more people to step forward and take over. Leila pointed out that is what happened with WEP last fall. It was missed so someone stepped up and made it happen in the spring.

It is unknown who is leaving from current committees and even the Board but we do know that a chair is needed for talent show, reflections program, pumpkin lighting and spring fling.

Jenny would like to reinstate a volunteer coordinator to track and be in tune to issues.

Katie Sloan raised the question of how do we make people feel involved and belong.

They listen to the same station of WIIFM (What's In It For Me?). Maybe people feel ex-

cluded and the board and other committees could work on being more inclusive. Sometimes people need to be asked.

**Vice President - Ways and Means Report: Kat Kelly**

Apex was amazing! Lots of great volunteers to help at the run and lots of parents donated money.

The kids had fun and we raised \$20,000 more than budgeted.

Just had spirit night at El Cerro Azul and waiting to hear back with amount raised. The Chik Fil A spirit night is coming up. More details to follow soon.

**Vice President – Program’s Report: Kim Johnson**

Kim asked for an increase of \$500 to her budget to secure an author that would visit for the entire school. There is not a date selected yet but she needs the money to secure the author first. A date will follow soon.

Rebecca Williams motioned to add \$500 dollars to the VP Program’s budget and Heather Fritz seconded it. Leila called for a vote and the motion was approved.

**Secretary’s Report: Sara Sitkiewicz**

The minutes from the October 9, 2018 PTA General Membership Meeting have been posted to the JBW PTA Facebook page and website. Hard copies of the minutes were offered at the sign in table. There were no corrections and the minutes stand as presented.

**Lunch Buddies: Sara Sitkiewicz**

November's lunch buddy sign up is posted I encouraged people to pass along the sign up.

**Committee Reports**

**Box Tops: Erin Clippinger/Katie Berkman (not present but submitted report)**

In October we collected 5,935 box tops. The next collection will be on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Our first check will arrive in January. It will include the May collection from 2018, as well as the first two collections from this year (September and October).

**Chesterfield County Council: Sara Saavedra**

*Not present and no report sent*

**Green Team: Arielle Green**

Got the recycling program off the ground. She thanked those that have helped in the lunchrooms. She was glad that many kids remembered what to do from last year.

Whitney Revell went into the kindergarten rooms to teach them how and what can be recycled in the lunchroom. Mr. Ondrish thanked Arielle and Whitney for their work on the project. He said that he hasn't heard a single negative comment about the program.

Katie Sloan added that it's sticking with kids and they are reminding the parents about recycling. Arielle said she wants to be a resource for people and likes how recycling is trickling into the community.

She mentioned that in the longer term she'd like to do outreach to parents about food waste and what's being thrown away. Angie Trueblood suggested she submit a blog post for the newsletter.

**Chess Club: Lauren Sos (not present but submitted report)**

We had 62 students attend the November 2 Chess Club. We had a great showing of volunteers. The next Chess Club is December 7.

**Reflections: Kimberly Johnson**

Had 14 entries this year which was half of last year but all who participated had fun. Could have been less since we missed one of the back to school nights and there was no spring fling to promote it. Five children's entries were sent onto the county.

**Staff Appreciation: Heather Fritz**

The first staff appreciation lunch is tomorrow and will be catered by Jimmy John's. This was sponsored by kindergarten -2<sup>nd</sup> grade. It pulled in plenty of money and all paid for. 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> sponsored lunch will be in February. She was appreciative of the promotion in the PTA newsletter and Debbie Weatherford's messages.

**Reindeer Run: Laura Kurichh**

The Reindeer Run will be on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 1pm. The cost will be \$5.50 a person and that includes a medal. The race will consist of a 5k and a 1 mile run. Info goes out tomorrow. She needs volunteers for coverage around the course and encourages everyone to dress tacky and holiday themed.

Leila thanked her for working with the county to get the gate installed.

**Talent Show: Jenny Quarles**

Normally tryouts occur in the fall but this year they have been moved to January so to avoid an excess of holiday skits. She would like to work on promoting the talent show to the kids. The newsletter really only gets to the parents and hopes they share it with the kids.

She asked if anyone is affiliated with places like dance studios, karate, etc that has Watkins kids then please encourage them to try out.

**WEP (Watkins Enrichment Programs): Shannon Hoyland/ Brandi Hildago**

Thank you to all of our volunteers for the help. We couldn't do it without you! Our next session will begin in February so please consider helping out again. If you are interested in taking a planning role in WEP, please contact us anytime.

**W.H.O. : Kristen Beazley/ Erin Brandenburg (not present but submitted report)**

Our first WHO meeting and blood drive was very successful and we are looking forward to our second meeting tomorrow. We will be making placemats for The Giving Heart community Thanksgiving Feast. Annually this program provides Thanksgiving Dinner for families in need. All are welcome! The time is 6:30pm-8pm in the cafeteria.

## Representative Reports

### Principal's Report: Deborah Weatherford

Thank you to all for support of the Papa John's pizza fundraiser. We exceeded our goal but didn't beat Winterpock.

Can't believe were already in the 2nd marking period. Report cards come out on Friday. The report card is a standard template from the county. STEAM and Chinese will be marked "NA" because there's no grade given. She asked that we please get the word out regarding that. There is no grade given for STEAM and Chinese.

Positive referrals are coming in droves. Bus drivers are also participating. The goal is for every student to get one positive referral this year.

Mr. Ondrish wanted to make it clear that it shouldn't be viewed as participation award. He is sending a friendly reminder to teachers that every child does something good to deserve a positive referral.

There will be another community meeting soon about redistricting and the changes to come.

After the winter break conversations can take place about what it's going to look like for those staying at Watkins after staff, students and parents leave. She added that we're going to lose people but we'll get through it.

Katie Sloan asked her about the rules around waivers and Debbie said in the past 5th graders have been aloud to stay at a school as long as the parents provides transportation. However, that does not include siblings. She said she is not sure what it will look like this year.

### Teacher Representative Report:

Ms. Byers thanked the PTA for being amazing and what they do for the teachers.

No other teacher reports.

Leila took a moment to reiterate the APEX fundraiser...

- \$50k was raised from APEX
- \$10k will roll over for next year
- Some will be used to pay what we need this year
- Each grade level plus resource will get \$3,000. Preschool will get \$375 and SPED will receive \$750
- She is asking that the team leads get a wish list together by 12/19 with links
- Amazon is preferred but websites like Teacher to Teacher can be used. Shipping is part of amount
- Items will be ordered over winter break and ready for pick up at January's PTA meeting All items purchased stay at Watkins

Then Leila presented a tiny check in a big amount of \$15,000 to Debbie Weatherford.

## **New Business**

### Power Plate Program

Virginia PTA Power Plates Program is designed to encourage students to practice healthy eating habits by submitting their recipes. It is open to students from grade pre-kindergarten through grade 12. The program is administered by the Virginia PTA Health and Safety Committee.

Students can enter their original, healthy recipes in three easy steps: write down the recipe, fill out the Student Entry Form, and take a picture of the dish.

Entries are reviewed by judges appointed by the Health and Safety Committee. The deadline is February 4<sup>th</sup>. Great for kids who like to cook.

### Citizenship Essay Project

Virginia PTA is committed to promoting a sense of citizenship and responsibility in the lives of our children – tomorrow's leaders. To demonstrate the value that Virginia PTA places on good citizenship, we are proud to sponsor, support, and encourage Virginia students to write an essay for the annual Citizenship Essay Contest. The 2019 selected theme is "What Do I Stand For?"

All Virginia students in grades K – 12 presently enrolled in schools with active PTA/PTSA units in Good Standing can enter. The Special Writer Division is non-graded and limited to students whose physical, cognitive, or mental health challenges meet ADA guidelines. Qualifying students entering this division create their own essay but may receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult. Deadline is February 1, 2019

Rebecca Williams asked if the Be Smart presentation will be sent to parents. Angie is going to try to post the link on our website.

## **Announcements**

No

## **Adjournment**

With no further business the meeting was motioned to adjourn by Kat Kelly and seconded by Heather Fritz. Meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm.

## **Authentication of the Minutes**

Respectfully submitted to the Board for approval this November 14, 2018 by Sara Sitkiewicz.