

JB Watkins PTA General Membership Meeting

October 15, 2019, 6:30pm
JB Watkins Elementary School Cafeteria
501 Coalfield Rd, Midlothian, Virginia 23114

President Kat Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

In attendance were:

Officers:

Kat Kelly, President
Lacey Knoll, Treasurer
Becky Hoang, VP Ways and Means
Sara Sitkiewicz, Secretary

Debbie Weatherford, Principal

Committee Chairs & Guests:

Angie West, David West, Laura Chaffe, Ron Hayes, Laura Burke, Whitney Revell, Trupti Yates, Brandi Hidalgo, Erin Rich, Jean Patton, Leila Ward, Julie Byers, Susan Wilson, Glenda MacNeil, Lynne Owen, Michele McMullen, Missy Hill, Katie Longo

All other committee chairs were absent.

Quorum Certification

A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

See secretary report

Officer Reports

President's Report: Kat Kelly

Kat welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending tonight.

Treasurer's Report: Lacey Knoll

Lacey reported that we have been raising money through WEP and APEX and that the balance of our account on 9/30/19 was \$35,298.

Midlothian District School Board Representative: Javaid Siddiqi

Kat then introduced our guest, Javaid Siddiqi, who is the current Midlothian District School Board Representative.

Javaid wanted to give an update of things going on in community such as the following...

Transportation - We have been receiving emails and we are working on it. Transportation issues are getting better. Watkins and Greenfield are still having issues but we continue to work. There is a bigger issue around the staffing shortage. We are trying to optimize the routes but have issues with communication. Much has been resolved.

Legionella - Another issue is legionella and I have learned more than I ever have. We found out in July when we had 5 HVAC systems to fail. After it was discovered we cleaned all the towers, even the ones not concerned. We still have 50 million dollars of critical maintenance to perform.

Mold at Midlothian Middle School - After receiving a Facebook message I met with the superintendent the next day. After some testing the air was deemed good inside. Concerns about a smell and what kids smelled like from school continued to be an issue. After hearing more concerns I brought the PTO to the table and they were given the chance to submit questions they wanted asked on their behalf. We have blitzed the building by bringing in a maintenance crew and making a record of needed projects. The next step is to get the materials and fix the building.

Development - Old Hundred Elementary could have trailers next year. Javaid talked about the time he had been on the School Board only 6 weeks when they got Old Hundred school moved from being built 2022 to 2019. The school was desperately needed so they moved up the timeline. Still more schools are needed to keep up with the growth. Trailers and modulars will most likely come back to Watkins again. He said there is not enough focus on issues that will have a greater impact on our future.

He answered a few questions from the audience...

A parent asked when he planned on meeting with the parents of Midlothian Middle and said that they have been asking for a meeting with him. Javaid has reached out to the school and suggested the parent reach out to the PTO president to schedule something.

Someone wanted to know if the blitz was done by a private company. He answered that it was done by teachers making list, principles, building operations supervisors, and trade folks who walked the facility and added to the list. Not a 3rd party.

When is Watkins on a list to get some projects tackled? Not anytime soon.

Is there a certain age that a building can be used to? There is no general county plan, they are fixed as money is available.

How can a parent do in regards to getting serious about planning for futures? Mr. Saddiqi said that to hope a meals tax will come on the ballet. That would help but would be years away. Teacher positions have been protected at the expense of the maintenance budget.

Does developer have to put forth proffers? Yes, they pay towards infrastructure. They also look at capacity. Functional capacity is used by the school board but is not the same as design capacity. The Board of Supervisors use design capacity but it's not as useful as functional capacity.

He closed by saying he was happy to share his email if anyone should have further questions.

Vice President – Ways and Means Report: Becky Hoang

Apex was very successful. A big thank you for all the volunteers that helped out at the fun run. We will have the final numbers later this week and they will be shared at the next PTA meeting.

The next spirit night will be on November 21st from 5-8pm Blaze Pizza. Don't forget to show them your paper flyer to get 20% of the sales that night applied to the school.

Secretary's Report: Sara Sitkiewicz

The minutes from the September 10, 2019 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.

Committee Reports

Box Tops: Katie Berkman/Erin Clippinger (not present)

To date, Watkins students have collected 3,770 box tops. The December 2019 box tops check total will be \$482. The next collection date is Thursday, October 17.

Pumpkin Lighting: Shannon McGinnis/Sara Sitkiewicz

Pumpkin Lighting tickets and pizza were sold online until last Sunday night. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$4 but pizza will not be for sale that night. We've sold about 250 tickets so far. I encouraged the teachers to remind the parents that volunteered to do the class pumpkin to have it in the cafeteria by 4pm on Friday. The weather looks like it's going to be a great night for the event.

WEP: Brandi Hildago

WEP is going well, but there are not enough volunteers each week. Some sign up at last minute and that's very helpful but would prefer to have the parents sign up in advance. There will be a WEP in the spring but no date has been set yet.

Spirit Wear: Jennifer Hampton (not present)

There has been a change and spirit wear will not be sold at Pumpkin Lighting. The plan is take inventory and sell it online. No new orders will be taken.

Green Team: Whitney Revell/Arielle Greene

Recycling started in the cafeteria again last week for all grades except kindergarten. Whitney will meet with them on Friday to give them a presentation on what to do. Third grade is doing really well. As always we can use more parents to volunteer in the lunchroom.

Trex recycling competition program will start in November. Bins are in the lobby and there will be one at parent pickup. Will announce more information to school in November.

Staff Appreciation: Heather Fritz

The first staff appreciation luncheon is scheduled for November 13, is hosted by grades K-2 and will be catered by Jimmy John's of Midlothian. The Staff Appreciation committee is asking for donations between \$2-\$5 per student from parents in grades K-2. Donations are not mandatory. Parents wishing to contribute should send in either cash or check in an envelope or baggie marked with Staff Luncheon. If writing a check, parents are asked to please write "Staff Appreciation Luncheon" in the memo line so donations are not confused with field trip money, etc. Information about the luncheon was included in the Miner Message and was sent to all K-2 room parents to disseminate to class parents. The next luncheon will be hosted in February by grades 3-5. Karen Carps: Communications Manager

Chesterfield County Council Rep: Leila Ward

Had the monthly council meeting last night and hosted all the school board candidates. There was a small turnout. Broke into 5 districts and Leila moderated the midlothian district group. She encourages everyone to learn about people running for school board.

Representative Reports

Principal's Report: Debbie Weatherford

Thanked everyone for being at the meeting. She was pleased to announce that all the promethium boards are installed. Many were purchased by money from the last APEX. She also wanted to thank everyone that helped and donated to the APEX fundraiser. It was well done.

Teachers and staff are looking forward to coming out for the October 29th Papa John's pizza delivery night. You can still order until the 20th. There's a good amount of orders even with lower student numbers.

It's fantastic to have everyone in the building. Excited because we have taken off with math instruction and we are working to support them with additional initiatives.

Teacher Representative Report:

Thank you for the teacher reimbursements provided at the beginning of the year. The promethium boards are amazing and fantastic and we enjoy using them. The students were really involved in APEX and they enjoyed it.

Ms. Weatherford added that students enjoyed PJ day as a reward for the denim collection. Jennifer Brooks will collect denim through the year because she wants to win next year.

New Business

No new business

Announcements

1. October 17th - Box Top Collection Day
2. October 18th - Pumpkin Lighting 6pm - 8:30pm
3. October 29th - Teacher Delivery Night w/ Papa John's
4. October 30th - Fall Picture Day
5. November 1st - Chess Club 8:15am
6. November 5th - Student Holiday
7. November 12th - PTA meeting 6:30pm
8. November 13th - Staff Luncheon (K-2 Sponsored)
9. November 21st - Blaze Pizza Spirit Night 5 - 8pm

Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was motioned to adjourn by Laura Burke and seconded by Katie Longo. Meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Authentication of the Minutes

Respectfully submitted to the Board for approval this October 24, 2019 by Sara Sitkiewicz.