

**J.B. Watkins Elementary PTA  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
January 27, 2026 - 6:30pm**

Brittany called the virtual meeting to order at 6:31pm.

In attendance were:

**Officers:**

Brittany Heare, President  
Diana Perazzo, VP Ways and Means  
Nadira Asghar, Treasurer  
Kira Koon, Secretary, not present

Debbie McGonigle, Principal  
Brenda Myers, Assistant Principal

**Committee Chairs and Guests:**

Allison Zabel, Amy Lott, Amber Rhodes, Andy Edwards, Arielle Greene, Danielle Smith, Dianna Yolango, Emily Freund, Emily Ziegler, Erin Hansard, Gage Bowman, Justin Crostic, Kalie Owen, Maria Anthony, Lindy Moraca, Erin McAuliffe, Katherine Burnette, Irene Buckley, Harsha Prabhu, Kathryn Gunn, Mark Miller, Megan Grant, Meredith Griles, Megan Ragusa, Michael Goodwyn, Missy Hill, Nicole Seay, Sarah Saunders, Sharon Knight, Samantha Fountain, Lindsay Miller

**Quorum Certification**

A quorum was established.

**Approval of Minutes**

*See secretary report.*

**Officer Reports**

**President's Welcome: Brittany Heare**

Brittany welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining.

**Treasurer's Report: Nadira Asghar -**

- Budget currently at \$67,000
- *December* - largest expenses were for teacher appreciation and Gem breakfasts
- *January* - Chess club expenses through December
- Brittany discussed that \$15,000 will be going to our new ECSE playground, while the rest will be covered by the county thanks to Arielle, Mark Miller and their team.
- Additional money is going toward our Gem project in March.

- Money is also slotted to pay for Gem shirts for incoming students

### **VP of Ways and Means Report – Diana Perazzo**

Diana provided updates on recent and upcoming Spirit Nights:

- University of Richmond Basketball : sold 101 tickets with \$5 donation per ticket = \$505 total donation
- Mellow Mushroom : February 11 all day event. 25% donation. Must mention “Watkins”. Online orders must add “jbwe” behind their name for credit
- Chick Fil A : March 11
- Skate A Way : April 15
- FoxTail Coffee : May 6
- Enrichment Program - Bricks 4 Kids : 4 week program starting February 25; 4 consecutive Wednesdays from 8:10 to 9:10 am; \$65 with \$5 donation to PTA per ticket; Flyer coming in next couple of weeks
- APEX : Need to repeat next year? Survey to be given to teachers and administration to determine the need for the fundraiser and how to best utilize funds donated
  - Brittany added that we will survey internal staff first and then once narrowed down, survey families

### **Secretary’s Report - Brittany Heare for Kira Koon**

The minutes from the December 2, 2025 PTA Meeting were previously emailed to the Board for approval. There were no corrections and the minutes stand as presented. Minutes posted on PTA website.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Staff Appreciation – Brittany Heare for Sopahna Kwok**

- Soup-er Bowl February 4. Brittany encouraged families to sign up - sides and dessert slots have been filled but we still need lots of soup offers. Additional emails to come
  - Discussed Valentine’s Day treats for teachers - more to come

### **Playground Improvements - Update and Funding – Arielle Greene and Mark Miller**

- Mark Miller was thanked for funding
- Arielle discussed the replacement of our ECSE playground. Has not been totally approved through the budget process. Happening later this week but should be approved. It will be similar to the previous structure but made of higher quality material. Also ADA access to rubber surface to enable play. Music structure to be placed on sidewalk for ADA accessibility as well
- PTA to pay \$15k and county to cover rest
- Mark Miller thanked Arielle for advocacy

### **Birthday Rock - Emma Swann & Brittany Heare**

- We’ve had a great start

- Brittany thanked the WatchDOGS for creating the border and Pleasants Hardware for their generous donation of mulch

### **House Committee/Breakfasts - Amber Rhodes**

- No updates. Breakfasts are going well
- Brittany added more to come on ordering more t-shirts
- Please sign up ahead of time if you can join the breakfasts
- Brittany thanked Amber and committee for all of their hard work

### **Room Parents - Amber Rhodes**

- Recently requested parents to donate cleaning supplies. Encouraged families to donate if able
- No other updates at this time

### **Yearbook - Missy**

- February 1 - 5th Grade Shout Out Deadline
- Thanked all participants for helping
- 667 books sold - 300 more sold than last year
- Communication has been extremely helpful
- Reinforced that we do not have extra books on hand
- If you have a 5th grader, please do shout out

### **International Night - Brittany Heare & Mrs. Meharg**

- Date set for February 26
- Already several people have signed up
- The information meeting was last week. Good attendance. Multiple returning families
- Tickets are free
- Get tickets early. Space is limited.

### **Talent Show : Lindsay Miller**

- March 19 from 7-9pm
- Registration to open next week
- Spots are limited
- Mandatory rehearsal is March 18th after school
- No DJ confirmed yet
  - Lindsay asked if anyone had a recommendation for a DJ? Email Lindsay or Brittany
  - Communicating with Back 2 Rock. Awaiting confirmation

### **5th Grade – Sopahna Kwok**

- Yearbook Signing Pizza Party - May 26 (1-3pm)
- More info to come from 5th grade room parents
- Open House Celebration - May 27 (5:30-7:30pm)

- Food truck for purchase
- Kona Ice free tickets for 5th grade students
- Spring fling dance in May - more to come

### **Representative Reports**

#### **Principal Report – Debbie McGonigle**

Mrs. McGonigle welcomed all in attendance, thanked PTA and Mark Miller for his attendance.

#### **Teacher Report**

None

#### **Special Guest - Mark Miller, Chesterfield County Supervisor Q&A**

- Brittany thanked Dr. Miller for joining and for all of his help with ECSE playground help
- Dr. Miller thanked Brittany for invitation and Arielle's help with playground
- Dr. Miller explained that he has been doing this job for 4 years. He has his doctorate in clinical psychology and discussed further credentials
- He was voted chair of the board this year.
- Discussed back up plans for snow/ice storm with cots in hotels and elementary schools
- Thanked board and staff for hard work in preparation
- Discussed upcoming weekend storm and their readiness for it
- Land across from JB Watkins : Town homes are not supported. Looking at other options. Hope was to build Midlothian Middle School on this location but owners of land wanted \$14million. Dr. Miller's predecessor said no. His other option is to hopefully do something with that land in conjunction with Midlothian High School. Dr. Miller stated, "It will definitely NOT be more town homes."
- Questions asked :
  - Hoke Hill - asked about Elementary and Middle Schools that are over capacity. Any updates?
    - Currently looking into building a new Midlothian Middle School - looking at property on the other side of 288 down Woolridge.
    - Owners are asking for a lot of money but Dr. Miller is hoping to work something out - space is large enough to build Middle and Elementary Schools plus a Police Station.
    - Redistricting depends on the school board, not Dr. Miller
    - Multi family homes were approved years ago for 13,000 units. Dr. Miller has "slowed the process down to a crawl".
    - He plans to eliminate trailers.
    - Wants to balance schools out

Brittany Heare - asked if the land 288 land deal was "dead". Are there any other plans? What will happen with that land if not issued for education?

- Deal isn't dead, just slowed because of unforeseen circumstances - 100 acres are available. Middle School needs 40+ acres. Current Middle School is only on 20 acres plus there are safety hazards in regards to Midlothian Turnpike.

- His plan is to create a “Midlothian Green” space where the Middle School currently is. It will contain commercial space and a park, and definitely NO housing
- Currently only has enough money to build half of a middle school - need extra money - hoping to add 1 penny or 1% sales tax. More to come. Would allow for income of \$80 mill a year. Will allow for middle building without further referendums. The community will be given the opportunity to vote on it. Smarter than taking out loans with paying interest

Arielle Greene - How can we advocate for the middle school deal going through?

- Best thing is for us to pay attention and vote when it occurs. Encourage families without small kids to vote for it. Renovating the current school is not working anymore.
- Vote will be delayed tomorrow Jan 28. Will speak with the developer and come to an arrangement that makes the most sense. They are working with us. Hopefully the earliest vote will be February
- 804-301-4680 - Dr. Miller cell - [millermark@chesterfield.gov](mailto:millermark@chesterfield.gov) -encouraged families to call him if any help is needed
- Arielle and Brittany encouraged Dr. Miller to let us know when the meeting will occur so we can be present to support the new middle and elementary building.

Deborah McGonigle - Does elementary building need to go through the referendum as well?

- Elementary school build was part of the last referendum. Once other issues are ironed out in regards to middle, “we will be ok”
- Dr. Miller thanked and he left the meeting.

Deb McGonigle doesn't believe that the new elementary school was part of the past referendum. Brittany asked that everyone please rise up in Feb and help get construction moving.

### **New Business / Announcements**

- Local Business Sponsors - Brittany thanked Pleasants Hardware and The WatchDOGS for their help with the Birthday Spirit Rock
- Feb 5 - House Breakfast (Ruby)
- Feb 6 - Chess Club
- Feb 11 - Mellow Mushroom Spirit Night
- Feb 26 - International Night
- March 5 - House Breakfast (Amethyst)
- March 18 and March 19 - Talent Show Rehearsal and Performance
- May 8 - 4th and 5th Grade Spring Fling Dance (Save the Date)

**Adjournment**

With no further business, the PTA meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

**Authentication of the Minutes**

Respectfully submitted to the Board for approval this February 2, 2026 by Diana Perazzo.