

J.B. Watkins Elementary PTA
General Membership Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2026 – 6:30 PM
J.B. Watkins Elementary School Cafeteria

Call to Order

President **Brittany Heare** called the meeting to order at **6:38 PM**.

Attendance

Officers

- Brittany Heare, President
- Diana Perazzo, VP Ways and Means
- Nadira Asghar, Treasurer
- Kira Koon, Secretary
- Debbie McGonigle, Principal
- Brenda Myers, Assistant Principal
- Amy Lott, Assistant Principal

Committee Chairs & Guests

Stacy Ashikis, Courtney Scott, Arielle Greene, Sopahna Kwok, Heather Parrish, Lora Williams, Jen Fazar, Megan Ragusa, Megan Hodges Mann, Lynne Owen, Beth Hines, Janak Patel, Casey Jones, Marisa Boyles, Erin Rowe, Ashley Stoloff, Amber Rhodes, Kim Dacey, Denise Clark, Amy Gibson, Natalie Hlava, Jenni Grunden, Laura Burkett, Ligia Alvear, Missy Hill, Jessica VonBechmann, Emily Freund, Lauren Decker, Roxanne Schofield, Lee Ridens, Molly Greene, Melanie O'Dell, Angela Richmond, Tess Clark, Michael Goodwyn, Nathalie Faupel, Paton Chambers, Leslie Mento, Jordan Townsend, Michelle Roberts, Cecilia Portwood, Chanta Tyler, Cireici Chambers, Nicole Kupczak, James Kupczak, Alexsandar Vucetic, Ashley Stoloff, Gina Lundie, Caitlin Bonney

Quorum Certification

A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

The Secretary's Report was referenced. Minutes stand as presented.

Officer Reports

President – Brittany Heare

- Welcomed attendees and thanked volunteers.
 - Introduced the PTA Board.
 - Reviewed where PTA documents and financials are posted on the PTA website.
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Business

Adoption of 2025–2026 Audit – Nadira Asghar

- Summary of annual financial review provided.
- Motion to adopt the audit was made and seconded.
Vote: All in favor; none opposed.

Adoption of 2026–2027 Budget – Nadira Asghar

- Explained transition of Capitol Clothing revenue from PTA to the school and offset via Spirit Rock revenue.
- Motion to adopt the proposed budget was made and seconded.
Vote: All in favor; none opposed.

Adoption of Updated Bylaws – Brittany Heare

- Increase of \$1 in local PTA dues required by Virginia PTA.
 - Board position terms updated to one-year terms with a maximum of two consecutive terms.
 - Motion to adopt bylaws was made and seconded.
Vote: All in favor; none opposed.
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Officer Reports (continued)

Treasurer's Report – Nadira Asghar

- Reviewed July/August spending: reimbursements, teacher appreciation, Fall Fest prep, house shirts/spirit wear.
- Teacher reimbursement increased to **\$200**, due by **end of November**.

- Current budget balance: **\$35,000**.
- Increased revenue from Gem House and Spirit t-shirt sales: **\$3,560** in September.

VP Ways & Means – Diana Perazzo

Fundraisers & Spirit Nights

- University of Richmond football game: 92 tickets sold, \$460 revenue.
- Oct 20 – Chick-fil-A (20% kickback with mention of Watkins)
- Nov 19 – Skate-A-Way (\$2 per ticket)
- Dec 10 – Art Factory (6 PM; \$22 per painter, \$5 kickback)

Enrichment Programs

- **Tae Kwon Cho:**
 - K–2: 4 Tuesdays starting 10/13
 - Grades 3–5: begins 1/5
- **Bricks for Kidz:**
 - 4 Wednesdays starting 11/18
 - 4 Tuesdays starting 4/6
- **Art Factory:**
 - 5 Wednesdays starting 3/3; \$90 per student

APEX Fundraiser

- Begins 9/28; two-week program.
- Theme: *“Be the Best Superhero You Can Be.”*
- Fun Run on 10/8; donations per lap or flat.
- Last year: \$53.5k raised after 41% Apex fee.
- This year’s goal: **\$95k** (PTA keeps 59%).
- Apex funded the early elementary playground.
- Parent feedback emphasized fun runs as most effective.

Secretary – Kira Koon

- The minutes from the April 14, 2026 PTA meeting were previously emailed to the Board for approval. There were no corrections and the minutes stand as presented.
- Minutes available on PTA website.

Committee Reports

Fall Fest – Brittany Heare

- Event on Oct 24; \$10 family tickets.
- Activities include Jonathan the Juggler, food trucks, games, bounce houses, spirit wear sales, Tae Kwon Cho demo.

Staff Appreciation – Sopahna Kwok

- First event: Fall Treats.
- Monthly events planned; master sign-up available.

5th Grade Committee – Sopahna Kwok

- Reviewed bridging ceremony, pizza party/yearbook signing, t-shirts.

Reflections – Michelle Roberts

- Theme: *“What My Culture Means to Me.”*
- Deadline: Nov 15.
- Various prizes available.

House Committee & Breakfasts – Amber Rhodes

- First House Breakfast held for Topaz House.
- Volunteers needed; sign-up available.

Room Parents / Pumpkins – Amber Rhodes

- Meeting held prior to PTA meeting.

Digital Wellness Community – Amber Rhodes

- Virtual meeting scheduled for tomorrow at 7:30 PM.
- Book club reading *The Anxious Generation*.
- Participation in statewide discussion.
- Promotion of “Wait Until 8th” initiative.

Yearbook – Missy Hill

- 163 yearbooks sold to date; last year nearly 700.
- Pricing: \$20 until Nov 14; \$25 until Jan 15, 2027; after Jan 15: “while supplies last.”
- Parents may submit photos via PTA website.

Beautification Committee – Laura Hunt & Jessica VonBechmann

- New committee.
- Completed projects: mulching rock area and little library; replaced front planters.
- Seeking ideas and volunteers.

WatchDOGS – Michael Goodwyn

- Led by Michael and Mr. Chilcote.
- Thanked PTA for pizza at kickoff.
- Open to all father figures.

Chess Club – Aleks Vucetic

- 190 students registered; 175 attended first meeting.
- Meets first Friday monthly; twice monthly starting in the new year.
- Food provided; volunteers needed.
- Parents welcome.
- 20 student instructors (Grades 3–5).

Advocacy – Arielle Greene & Brittany Heare

1 for Schools Referendum

- Proposed 1% sales tax increase dedicated to school construction/renovation.
- Offset by reductions in real estate and personal property tax rates.
- Would fast-track six capital projects, including a new elementary school to relieve overcrowding at JBW and Old Hundred.

Midlothian Middle School Replacement

- Reviewed three location options.
- Otterdale property includes space for both a middle and elementary school.
- Encouraged outreach to:
 - Mark Miller, Board of Supervisors Chair & Midlothian Representative
 - Lisa Hudgins, School Board Chair & Midlothian Representative

Representative Reports

Principal – Debbie McGonigle

- Expressed gratitude for PTA support.
- Reviewed capacity concerns: additional trailers placed in bus loop; one more coming next year.
- Enrollment is 55 students above projections.
- Staff can accommodate growth, but space remains a concern.

Teacher Report

None.

New Business / Announcements

Upcoming Dates

- 9/28 – APEX Kick-off
- 9/29 – Fall Picture Day
- 10/2 – Chess Club
- 10/8 – APEX Run
- 10/15 – ONYX Breakfast
- 10/20 – Chick-fil-A Spirit Night (Code: WATKINS)
- 10/24 – Fall Fest (Tickets on sale soon)

Adjournment

With no further business, the PTA meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Authentication of the Minutes

Respectfully submitted to the Board for approval this October 11, 2026 by Kira Koon.