

James H. Watson
PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
January 17, 2017



A meeting of the Watson PTO was held in the Watson Library on Tuesday, January 17, 2017. The meeting began at 3:00 pm.

WATSON PTO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Leah Denson - President
- Kim Marksteiner– Vice President
- Karyn Coleman – Treasurer
- Meredith Bickell – Co-Secretary
- Sara Dennis – Co-Secretary

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Michelle Lavin, Principal

WATSON STAFF PRESENT

- Marcie Claesgens, Teacher Liaison
- Gretchen Pishkur, Teacher Liaison
- Kim Yelich, Teacher Liaison
- Sara Kroncke
- Brenda Kovich
- Judy Toczek
- MariJo Olenik, Ericka Dennerenzo
- Tina Ostrom
- Chris Mikuly
- Crystal Slavo

PARENTS PRESENT

Six (6) parents were in attendance. Sign-in sheet is available for review upon request.

Next Meeting—Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the Art Room

1	Meeting Called to Order at 3 p.m.
2	Mrs. Lavin led the Pledge of Allegiance
3	Leah Denson welcomed Watson Parents and Staff
4	Reading and Approval of November 2016 Meeting Minutes – Sara Dennis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mrs. Claesgens and seconded by Mrs. Kovich. Minutes were approved.
5	Treasurer’s Report – Karyn Coleman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A motion to approve the December 2016 treasurer’s report was made by Mrs. Mikuly and seconded by Ms. Yelich. The treasurer’s report was approved.
6	Teacher Liaison Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report other than the teachers are pleased with how the year is going.
7	<p>Unfinished Business</p> <p>Five Below-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turquoise flyers went home with students before Thanksgiving Break. If parents shopped Nov. 25-27th at Five Below and brought in their flyer, Five Below would donate 10% of total sales back to Watson. <p>Video Game Truck Reward for Great American Fundraiser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was originally scheduled for Dec. 15th and had to be canceled because of winter weather school closings. • Rescheduled for Wednesday January 25th at 9am. <p>Holiday Carnival—ACTION REQUIRED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event was held at Watson Elementary on Friday, December 2nd, 2016 • Evaluation meeting was held two weeks later at Pepe’s. • Activities: Games, Food, Pictures with Santa, Crafts, Face Painting, Balloon Art, Karate, Raffle, and Silent Auction. • Instant raffle – 29 donated items • Silent auction - 32 donated items • Monetary sponsors NIPSCO \$300, Ted’s Pet and Feed-\$300, Little Italy--\$300, AAC Orthodontics-\$100, Donna Brum Dancers-\$100. • Net Proceeds after expenses- \$4,398.24 • To have this event in December 2017, a vote is needed. • A vote was held to hold the Carnival next year and passed unanimously. Holiday Carnival will be held again next year in 2017. Date in December to be determined.

	<p>Santa Shop – ACTION REQUIRED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Santa Shop was open December 6-8th. • We decided to use Santa Shop as a service event for our students and their families as opposed to a fundraiser. Net Proceeds after expenses- \$87.59 • To have this event in December 2017, a vote is needed. • A vote was held to have this event next year and passed unanimously. • Suggestions for next year: PTO should make a little money for all the work done on the event. Ie. Charge \$1.25 for a \$1 item. There should be a holiday movie room/coloring room set up for kids who do not have money so they can watch a movie instead of shop. We should have extra volunteers for the Kindergarten and Early Education classes. Schedule should allow for a slot each day where no teacher is scheduled so that children who missed their originally scheduled shopping time can come back and shop. <p>Classroom Holiday Parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held Thursday December 22, 2016 <p>Attendance Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second quarter attendance awards will go out Thursday January 19th. All students with perfect attendance will receive a hand signed certificate from Mrs. Lavin and a coupon for a treat.
9	<p>STAFF REQUESTS</p> <p>Staff Reimbursement</p> <p>Tiered schedule, PTO dues must be current, proper forms and receipts must be submitted. All items must benefit the students and are the property of Watson. Reimbursement deadline is May 1, 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Reimbursements as of December 31: \$1,936.67
10	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>Buffalo Wild Wings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 18th from 5-9pm. Eat at BW3 or order take out. Bring in the flyer that is going home with your student and Buffalo Wild Wings will donate 15% of your bill to Watson Elementary PTO. Easy and yummy! <p>BoxTops/Labels for Education Contest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contest dates and prizes to be determined <p>Mardi Gras</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, February 28, 2017. • Sponsored by the Schererville Chamber of Commerce. Silent auction proceeds are distributed to all Schererville schools (past amount: \$1,000 to each school that participates). • Ticket price is TBD. Ticket, table and volunteer sign-up sheets will be in the mail room. • PTO will donate a themed basket for the silent auction. We will be using a Meijer Gift card to purchase it. • Volunteers and models are needed. • Additional information will be distributed once it is received from the Schererville Chamber of Commerce. • We want a great turnout from Watson families and staff! Invite your friends! <p>Carson’s Community Days Event Fundraiser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coupon books are free to PTO. • \$5.00 per book - Good only on February 23 & February 25th at any Carson’s location and on-line. Over \$500 worth of coupons in each book. • Sale dates are February 13-17th. • Distribute one to each staff member and student. Submit payment if they would like to keep it, if not return to school. • More than one coupon book can be sold and/or bought. Contact PTO for additional coupon books.

	<p>Classroom Valentine’s Day Parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 1:30 pm. • Parents will be allowed access to the classrooms at 1:10 pm. • No peanuts or peanut products policy in effect due to allergies. Please contact the classroom teachers for other dietary restrictions. • Head Room Parents need to submit a list of volunteers who will be attending the party to Kim Marksteiner by February 1, 2017. <p>Dollars for Scholars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every year PTO helps staff volunteers to help count, collect and rewards classes per grade for Penny War Participation. • Money raised from this event goes to fund a college scholarship for a Watson alumnus. • Volunteer Sign-Up Genius will go out soon. Dates are January 30-February 3, 9am-11:00am. • New parent coordinator Desanka Damjanovic. <p>Browns Music Bus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event will be held in April. • Two (2) shows during school hours; 12:30 am and 1:30 pm. • One (1) free show at 7:00 pm for all Watson families. • If Brown’s Music Bus cannot come suggestions made were the Frog Lady or Bubba the Alligator. <p>Read Across America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTO has \$200 budgeted for event and will purchase Dr. Seuss themed erasers as an all school treat. • Date to be determined. Mrs. Lyda is organizing. Date will not conflict with IStep testing. <p>Kindergarten Registration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTO has \$350 budgeted for registration supplies/and books for the incoming students. <p>PTO Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting will be March 7, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the Art Room.
11	<p>Parent and Teacher Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Claesgens is sponsoring the Great Kindness Challenge. Children were sent home with a worksheet to encourage random acts of kindness.
12	<p>Thank You for Coming Prize – Leah Denson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A drawing of a \$5 Dunkin Donuts gift card and a Watson t-shirt were given to two meeting attendees.
13	<p>Adjourn Meeting – ACTION REQUIRED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mrs. Pishkur and seconded by Mrs. Ostrom. Meeting was adjourned at 3:36 pm.