

James H. Watson
PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
May 9, 2017



A meeting of the Watson PTO was held in the Watson Cafeteria on Tuesday, May 9, 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

- Kim Yelich, Teacher Liaison
- Marcie Claesgens, Teacher Liaison
- Crystal Slavo
- Rita Evanson
- Mari Jo Olenik
- Chris Mikuly

PARENTS PRESENT

Seven (7) parents were in attendance. Sign-in sheet is available for review upon request.

Next Meeting—TBD

1	Meeting Called to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was called to order by Leah Denson at 3:00pm.
2	Pledge of Allegiance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Lavin led us in the pledge of Allegiance
3	Welcome to Watson Parents and Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leah Denson welcomed parents and staff.
4/5	Reading and Approval of March 2017 Meeting Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Dennis read the March 2017 Minutes. Mrs. Claesgens motioned to approved the minutes. Ms. Yelich seconded the motion. The motion passed.
6	Treasurer’s Report – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karyn Coleman read the current Treasurerer’s report. Nicole Kirincic motioned to approve the report and Mrs. Mikuly seconded the motion. The motion passed.
7	Teacher Liaison Report—There was nothing to report.
8	<p>Unfinished Business –Kim Marksteiner</p> <p>Lion’s Club Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Schererville Lion’s Club presented Mrs. Toczek with a donation for the library. <p>Midwest Gym Open Gym</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Night out at Midwest Gym held Saturday, March 25, 2017. • Families were invited to come out for a “Stay-cation” Event at Midwest Gym. \$10 per student included access to the gym, the trampolines, the foam pit and Midwest Gym staff supervision. Cost to PTO-- \$30 <p>Browns Music Bus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event was April 10th. • PTO paid for One (1) show during the school day and One (1) free show at 6:30 pm for all Watson families. <p>BoxTops/Labels for Education Contest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contest was held April 17-April 21. This is a class competition. Prizes will be awarded for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place classes who bring in the most combined Box Tops and Aunt Millie’s School Spirit labels. • The winners are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st place Mrs. Olenik 933 combined 2nd place Mrs. Lyda 615 combined 3rd place Mrs. Carr 319 combined • Each winning class will received a new game and 15 min. of extra recess. <p>3rd Quarter Attendance Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third Quarter ends March 13, 2017. Students who have achieved perfect attendance for the third quarter received a certificate and a coupon for a free scoop of Culvers Ice Cream.

Brain POP

- Watson Elementary provides every student access to Brain POP. Brain POP is an online educational enhancement tool applicable for every grade. The cost is \$2,000. We voted last meeting to approve the purchase of Brain POP for the whole school for next year. The vote was passed.

Rear Gate

- We voted last meeting to purchase a rear gate to prevent vehicles from driving behind the school during school/recess hours. The vote passed. We are currently obtaining quotes. The project is estimated at \$1,500.

New Projector for the Cafeteria

- Teacher Liaisons have requested a ceiling mounted projector for the cafeteria that could be used frequently for class presentations, assemblies and as a special treat to show movies during lunch time.
- PTO is looking into costs associated with this with the help of Ms. Yelich.
- Parents present at the last meeting agreed that this would be an excellent purchase. We will vote on this purchase once we have quotes available.

PTO Nomination Form

- 2017-2018 Executive Committee nomination forms were sent home on April 6th with a return date of April 20, 2017.
- New Executive Committee members are currently present and we will be voting on them today.

Culvers Night Out

- Watson families were invited to eat out at Culver's on April 27th, 2017. During the hours of 3-8pm Culvers donated 10% of all sales back to Watson.
- Watson Elementary earned \$130.

Staff Appreciation

- Staff appreciation was held May 1-May 5th.
- PTO organized festivities to let our staff know how much they are appreciated.
- A huge thank you to Crystal Gvist (Avon), Meredith Bickell (Gold Canyon), Vanis Salon and Spa (80 product donations), and Kenna Tieri (Young Living Oils) for donating products for our Swag Bags.
- And last but not least, thank you to Little Italy for giving us an amazing meal at a discounted price to treat the fantastic Watson Elementary Staff.

4th Grade Party—Meredith Bickell

- A letter went home to all 4th grade parents inviting them to participate in planning the 4th Grade party sponsored by PTO.
- Planning Meeting was held Tuesday, March 14th at 6pm at Michel's Restaurant on 41.
- 4th Grade party will be held Friday, May 19, 2017.
- There will be a DJ, photo booth, beach ball signing and other fun activities.
- All 4th graders will receive a Watson shirt as a graduation gift.

Field Day

- Field day is organized by Mr. Jones. Field Day is scheduled for this Thursday, May 11th with a rain date of Thursday, May 18th.
- A Sign-Up Genius was emailed to all parents who checked that they wanted to participate at the beginning of the school year.
- PTO will be providing an ice-cream treat through Lake Central Food Services for Pre-school through 4th grade.

STAFF REQUESTS**Staff Reimbursement—Karyn Coleman**

- Staff Reimbursements as of May 5, 2017: \$ 6,985.59

Ukuleles-

- Mrs. Puzey asked PTO if funds were available if we would consider purchasing ukulele's for the music program at Watson to be used by students grades K-12.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Mikuly and seconded by Mrs. Claesgens to purchase the ukuleles. It was agreed that the purchase should not exceed \$500 and that the ukuleles would be property of Watson. The motion passed.

10	<p>NEW BUSINESS—Leah Denson</p> <p>Teacher Liaisons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Claesgens, Mrs. Pishkur, and Ms. Yelich will be the PTO Teacher Liaisons for the 2017-2018 school year. <p>Induction of PTO Board Members for 2017-2018—ACTION REQUIRED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominations for new board members were accepted until April 20th. Current PTO members spoke with the new candidates to discuss their roles and answer questions. Proposed 2017-2018 PTO Executive Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President--Leah Denson Vice-President—Kim Marksteiner Co-Treasurer—Karyn Coleman Co-Treasurer—Nicole Kirincic Co-Secretary—Meredith Bickell Co-Secretary—Laura Tressel <p>Announcement & Welcome of PTO Committee Co-Chairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sara Kroncke and Candy Witry have volunteered to help us with Santa Shop Yianna Pallas will help chair Spirit Wear. We are still looking for someone to help chair Wildcat Walk. Barbie Livingston will help chair the Staff Appreciation week for next year. <p>2017-2018 PTO Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed dates are attached. They will be posted in the Staff Lounge, in the PTO section of the Watson website, and in the 2017-2018 PTO packet. Dates will also be written on the calendar in the Main Office. <p>2017-2018 Proposed Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending approval of new Executive Board, the budget will be brought to the first PTO meeting of the 2017-2018 school year and voted on. <p>2017-2018 PTO Membership Perks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We would like to give parents motivation to join the PTO. Ideas discussed: a "Drive-In" movie "PTO Rocks" campaign. PTO Directory. Interested parents would have the option to put their info in a members only directory. Great for business advertisement and play dates
11	<p>Parent and Teacher Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone was thanked for a successful year!
	<p>Thank You for Coming Prize</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Gift cards to Dunkin Donuts were raffled to those in attendance.
	<p>Adjourn Meeting –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Claesgens motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Yelich seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35pm.