

# JAMES H. WATSON PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES

January 16, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.



A meeting of the Watson PTO was held in the Watson Library on Tuesday, January 16, 2018. The meeting began at 3:40pm.

## WATSON PTO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Leah Denson—President  
Kim Marksteiner—Vice-President  
Karyn Coleman—Co-Treasurer  
Nicole Kirincic—Co-Treasurer  
Meredith Bickell—Co-Secretary  
Laura Tressel—Co-Secretary

## PARENTS PRESENT

Cynthia Rhoades  
Amber Volkman

## ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Michelle Lavin, Principal

## WATSON STAFF PRESENT

Gretchen Pishkur  
MariJo Olenick  
Crystal Slavo  
Judy Toczek  
Rita Evanson  
Sara Kroncke

## Next Meeting in the Art Room – March 6, 2018- 6:30 pm !

1	Meeting Called to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meeting was called to order at 3:04pm by Leah Denson</li> </ul>
2	Pledge of Allegiance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. Pishkur led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.</li> </ul>
3	Welcome to Watson Parents and Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leah Denson welcomed the parents and staff.</li> </ul>
4	Reading and Approval of November 2017 Meeting Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The group read the November 2017 meeting minutes led by Meredith Bickell. Mrs. Pishkur moved to approve the minutes.. Mrs. Slavo seconded the motion. The motion passed.</li> </ul>
5	Treasurer's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karyn Coleman read the Treasurers Report.</li> <li>The balance as of December 31, 2017 = \$37,156.90</li> <li>Mrs. Olenik moved to approve the report. Cynthia Rhoades seconded the motion. The motion passed.</li> </ul>
6	Teacher Liaison Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. Pishkur mentioned that the movie day she and Ms. Yelich donated for Holiday Carnival went well.</li> <li>Leah Denson gave an announcement about the upcoming Great Kindness Challenge headed by Marcie Claesgens.</li> </ul>
7	<b>Unfinished Business--Kim Marksteiner</b>  <b>ATTENDANCE AWARDS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance certificates were awarded the first week back to school. Every student with perfect attendance received a "Kids eat free" gift certificate to Tyler's Tender and a hand-signed certificate from Mrs. Lavin and PTO.</li> </ul>

### **ALL-SCHOOL REWARD**

- For the second quarter All-School Reward, All students received 5 tickets to our Holiday Carnival, December 1, 2017.

### **HOLIDAY CARNIVAL**

- Holiday Carnival 2017 was held Friday, December 1, 2017--5:30-8:30pm at Watson Elementary.
- There were over 100 Raffles and Silent Auction Items from National and Local " Businesses. "
- Live Entertainment was provided by LC Choir and Band, Grimmer Bell Choir, Watson's 3rd grade Choir and DJ Z Productions.
- Pictures with Santa provided by Tom Kiloran photography.
- Ice-Cream and Cookies sold by l'Scream and Cookies.
- PTO sold hot dogs, pizza, chips, pop and water.
- Families had the opportunity to participate in 16 games and 2 crafts.
- Net Proceeds after expenses- \$4,255 to date.

### **MYSZAK FUNDRAISER**

- We came together as a Watson Community to raise money for the Myszak family to help with occuring medical costs.
- We sold mittens (a fundraiser Mrs. Evanson graciously facilitated) and Watson Wildcat Light Up bracelets.
- Total sent: \$308.00 profit from bracelet sales and \$1,475.00 in mitten sales.

### **BALLS FOR THE PLAYGROUND**

- We approved the purchase of additional playground balls.
- The balls will be purchased by the end of January.

### **FALL FUNDRAISER**

- Income from sales was \$19,302.00 and expenses for rewards and the actual product totaled \$10,396.97. Total profit - \$8,905.03.

### **SANTA SHOP – ACTION REQUIRED**

- The Santa Shop was open December 13-15th.
- Toys and novelties were provided by Penguin Patch and additional items were purchased by PTO Board Members and our amazing parent volunteers: Candi Witry and Sara Kroncke.
- All items were wrapped by parent volunteers and parent volunteers helped facilitate the sale.
- In addition we supplied a room with coloring sheets where teachers could take children who did not bring money to shop.
- Net Proceeds after expenses- \$1,821.15.
- To have this event in December 2018, a vote is needed.
- Mrs. Slavo moved to hold Santa Shop next year. Mrs. Pishkur seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Santa Shop will be held next year.

### **CLASSROOM HOLIDAY PARTIES**

- Classroom Holiday parties were held Thursday December 21, 2017.

- Parent volunteers were responsible for planning and providing all the supplies for the parties.

**FAMILY NIGHT OUT--SMARTY PANTS: THE MOUSETRAP MACHINE SHOW**

- Our Annual PTO sponsored Family Night Out will be February 8, 2018 at 6pm.
- Smarty Pants--The Mousetrap Machine Show is a STEM oriented educational entertainment show that gets the audience involved.
- They will do 3 presentations on Feb. 8th. Two shows will take place during the day. One for grade PreK-2nd grade and a more advance show for Grades 3 & 4. In addition, he will be presenting a completely different show for the entire family at 6pm.
- This is paid for entirely by the PTO and is free to all Watson families.

**9 STAFF REQUESTS AND RECENT EXPENDITURES**

**Staff Reimbursement**

Tiered schedule, proper forms and receipts must be submitted.

All items must benefit the students and are the property of Watson.

Reimbursement deadline is May 1, 2018.

- Staff Reimbursements as of December 31: \$1,500.00.
- RECENT EXPENDITURES: \$10,080.45 sent to Kleinhenn Company for Fall Fundraiser product. Other than Staff Reimbursements, Holiday Carnival and Santa Shop inventory were the only expenses in December 2017.

**10 NEW BUSINESS**

**RED ROBIN FUNDRAISER NIGHT**

- Join Watson Staff and Families for a fun night out at Red Robin in Schererville.
- Time: 4-8pm
- Date: Thursday, January 25th.
- Bring your flyer, eat out and Red Robin will give 20% of your purchase back to Watson. It's a Win/Win!
- Flyers will be going out closer to the 25th.

**BOX TOPS/AUNT MILLIE'S CONTEST**

- The next Box Tops/Aunt Millie's School Spirit Label contest will be held February 22<sup>nd</sup> through March 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is an individual contest.
- The student who brings in the most combined labels will get to be Principal/Dean/or Teacher for an hour—student's choice.
- In addition, the students with the top three label donations will each win a gift certificate to Five Below--\$25, \$15, and \$10.

**DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS PENNY WARS**

- January 22-26th.
- Co-Chairs: Gina Schutz and Draga Cucuz.
- Parent Volunteers will be needed to help count change and hand out prizes.
- Dollars for Scholars is LC Corp. wide. Elementary and Middle Schools do a change drive and classes compete against each other for small prizes. Monies raised from this event go to providing college scholarships for Watson alumni.
- A Sign-Up Genius will be emailed out so parents can sign up to help. We will need volunteers every day from 1/22-1/26 from 9am-11am.

## **MARDI GRAS --ACTION REQUIRED**

- Tuesday, February 13, 2018.
- Sponsored by the Schererville Chamber of Commerce.
- Ticket price is **\$35**. Ticket, table and 50/50 tickets will be in the mail room in the main office.
- PTO will find silent auction items to be auctioned at the event.
- Watson will receive 100% of the monies raised from their auction items and will also get their share of the 50/50 tickets.
- The 50/50 tickets can be sold ahead of time. We will be selling them at the Red Robin Fundraiser and at the Smarty Pants Family Night Out.
- 50/50 tickets: **\$5 for 10**
- Last year PTO purchased jelly donuts and Mardi Gras masks as favors for each person from Watson who attended Mardi Gras fest. Would we like to do this again? If so we need to vote to add this item to our budget. Approximately \$80.
- A vote was held and unanimously passed to add \$80 for Mardi Gras to the budget.
- There is no Fashion Show this year. Event will be held at the Patrician. Ticket includes: vendors, unlimited champagne, photo booth, Mardi Gras inspired dinner, and live entertainment by a band, hula hooper, magician and comedian.
- Family and friends welcome.
- Classes will be creating baskets to auction. Kindergarten—gardening, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade—St. Patty's Day, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade—Crock Pot/Dinner's Done, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade—Sports/Fan-tastic Basket, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade—Family Fun Night.
- All donations for the baskets should be brought in by Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **CARSON'S COMMUNITY DAYS FUNDRAISER**

- Coupon books are free to PTO.
- \$5.00 per book - Good only on Thursday, March 1st through Saturday March 3rd at any Carson's location and online. Over \$500 worth of coupons in each book.
- Sale dates are February 20-28th.
- 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.

## **CLASSROOM VALENTINE'S DAY PARTIES**

- Will be held on **Wednesday, February 14, 2018** 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.

## **MOVIE NIGHT OUT**

- We still need to have our Drive-In Movie night.
- Movie: The Princess and the Frog (Mardi Gras themed)
- Open to all families.
- Concessions free to PTO member families. Nominal fee otherwise.
- Date: Thursday, March 22, 2018
- Time: Movie will start at 5:30pm. There will also be a 15 minute intermission for bathroom and snacks in the cafeteria.

	<p><b>READ ACROSS AMERICA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PTO has \$200 budgeted for event</li> <li>• Mrs. Lyda is coordinating this event. PTO has purchased bookmarks and pencils for each student.</li> </ul> <p><b>KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PTO has \$350 budgeted for registration supplies/and books for the incoming students.</li> <li>• Kindergarten registration will be held March 7 &amp; 8<sup>th</sup>. We are currently seeking volunteers for this event. A Sign-Up Genius has been sent out.</li> </ul>
11	<p><b>UPCOMING PTO EVENTS</b></p> <p><b>January 25--Red Robin Night Out Fundraiser</b></p> <p><b>January 22-26th--Dollars for Scholars Penny Wars</b></p> <p><b>February 8, 2018--Smarty Pants Family Night Out Show</b>  FREE TO ALL WATSON FAMILIES  6pm, Watson Gym</p> <p><b>February 13th--SCC Mardi Gras Fest</b>  Tickets \$35 each and can be purchased in the Watson Main Office.</p> <p><b>February 14th--Classroom Valentine Parties</b></p> <p><b>March 1-March 3--Carson's Coupon Book Fundraiser</b></p> <p><b>March ____--Drive-In Movie</b></p> <p><b>March 6, 2018--PTO meeting</b>  6:30pm Art Room</p> <p><b>March 26-March 30th--Spring Break</b></p>
12	<p>Parent and Teacher Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no comments at this time.</li> </ul>
13	<p><b>THANK YOU FOR COMING PRIZE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicole Kirincic pulled the names for our "Thank you for coming Drawing."</li> </ul>
14	<p><b>ADJOURN MEETING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Slavo motioned to adjourn the meeting.</li> <li>• Amber Volkman seconded the motion.</li> <li>• The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.</li> </ul>