

James H. Watson
PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
March 7, 2017



A meeting of the Watson PTO was held in the Watson Art Room on Tuesday, March 7, 2017. The meeting began at 6:30 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

- Gretchen Pishkur, Teacher Liaison
- Kim Yelich, Teacher Liaison
- Chris Mikuly

PARENTS PRESENT

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

Next Meeting—Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 3:00 pm in the Library

1	Meeting Called to Order at 6:32 p.m.
2	Mrs. Lavin led the Pledge of Allegiance
3	Leah Denson welcomed Watson Parents and Staff
4	Reading and Approval of January 2017 Meeting Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes were read by Sara Dennis. • A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mrs. Pishkur and seconded by Ms. Yelich. Minutes were approved.
5	Treasurer’s Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Treasurer’s Report was read by Karyn Coleman. • A motion to approve the January 2017 treasurer’s report was made by Mrs. Mikuly and seconded by Mrs. Pishkur. The treasurer’s report was approved.
6	Teacher Liaison Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everything is going smoothly. The kids loved the Dr. Seuss erasers & soon-to-be Kindergartners will love the new books purchased by PTO.
7	<p>Unfinished Business Kim Marksteiner read the Unfinished Business.</p> <p>Buffalo Wild Wings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On January 18th from 5-9pm BW3 donated 15% of all profits made that night back to Watson PTO. We made \$276.54. <p>2nd Quarter Attendance Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand calligraphied certificates signed by Mrs. Lavin and a free Culvers custard coupon were distributed to all children with perfect attendance for second quarter. Certificates/coupons were distributed January 20, 2017. <p>Mardi Gras</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held Tuesday, February 28, 2017. • Sponsored by the Schererville Chamber of Commerce. In the past \$1,000 has been distributed to each Schererville Lake Central school that participates. • Ticket price was \$35 per ticket and Watson sold 40. • PTO donated a date night themed basket for the silent auction. We used a Meijer Gift card to purchase it. Sara Dennis purchased and assembled a beautiful basket. • PTO purchased masks and pazcki’s for all participants as a favor. • We had 5 models representing Watson. A huge thank you to: Gretchen Pishkur, Jay Jones, Mandy Early, Ryan Kutzer and Vanessa Swatosh. • We raised \$206 from the 50/50 at the event.

	<p>Carson's Community Days Event Fundraiser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coupon books are free to PTO. • Envelopes and books were distributed to each staff member and student. Books were \$5.00 per book. Sale dates were February 13-17th. • We raised \$1,040.00. <p>Classroom Valentine's Day Parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties were held on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 1:30 pm. • Parents were allowed access to the classrooms at 1:10 pm. • The parties were a great success. <p>Dollars for Scholars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was held January 30-February 3, 2017. • PTO teamed with Desanka Damjanovic to help collect and count monies each day. • Money raised from this event goes to fund a college scholarship for a Watson alumnus. • For the week: Mrs. Lyda's class came in first place donating \$315.76, Mrs. Pishkur's class came in second place donating \$ 196.85, and Mrs. Radencic's class came in third place donating \$164.64. • Classes were given trinket prizes each day for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. • Mrs. Lyda's class won smoothies from Smoothie King courtesy of Dollars for Scholars for winning the 1st place spot for the week long competition. <p>Read Across America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTO purchased really cute Dr. Seuss erasers for an all-school treat. They were distributed the week of February 28th. <p>Kindergarten Registration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindergarten Registration will be held March 8 & 9th. • PTO has \$350 budgeted for registration supplies/and books for the incoming students.
9	<p>STAFF REQUESTS</p> <p>Staff Reimbursement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Reimbursements as of January 31, 2017: \$2,186.67. • Staff Reimbursements as of February 28, 2017: \$2,253.38
10	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>New Business read by Leah Denson.</p> <p>Midwest Training & Ice Center Open Gym</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Stay-cation" Family Night out at Midwest Gym. 10600 White Oak Ave, Dyer, IN 46311 • Will be held March 25th, 6-7:30pm. • Cost: \$10 per Elementary school student. Ages 5 and up. <p>Browns Music Bus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event will be held April 10th. • One (1) show during school hours. • One (1) free show at 6:30 pm for all Watson families. • The event is paid for by PTO. <p>BoxTops/Labels for Education Contest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contest will be 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. Each winning class will receive 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 will receive a certificate and a coupon for a treat on March 17th. <p>Brain POP—Action Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. Watson PTO would like to purchase Brain POP for the whole school for next year. We need a vote to approve the purchase.

- Ms. Yelich demonstrated what Brain Pop is and how it is used in the classroom and how parents can use it at home.
- Amber Volkman motioned to approve the Brain Pop purchase for next year. Carrie Shank seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Rear Gate—Action Required

- Currently there is a chain being used to deter traffic from driving around the back of the school during recess hours.
- 2 years ago PTO purchased an official gate for the front rear access near the playground. We would like to purchase a gate for the back rear access to provide a more substantial and safer barrier.
- We need to vote to approve the purchase. Cost estimated at \$1,500.
- Amber Volkman motioned to approve the purchase. Mrs. Mikuly seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Projector for the Cafeteria—Action Required

- 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 needs to look into costs associated with this with the help of Ms. Yelich.
- A motion to investigate this purchase with an additional vote needed once we have a quote was made by Yianna Pallas and was seconded by Mrs. Pishkur. The motion carried.
- Ms. Yelich will contact Hohman and find out the name of their equipment and get a quote from Lake Central Tech.

PTO Nomination Form

- 2017-2018 Executive Committee nomination forms being sent home on April 6th with a return date of April 20, 2017.
- New Executive Committee members will be announced on May 9, 2017 at the PTO meeting. All nominees should be present.
- We will need at least 2 new board members for next year. Co-positions are also available. Nominate yourself or a friend that you think would be a great addition to the PTO team!

Staff Appreciation

- Staff appreciation will be held May 1-May 5th.
- PTO will be organizing the festivities to let our staff know how much they are appreciated.
- Every year PTO pays for a luncheon, a cake and breakfast. Details to be determined. Parent involvement encouraged! If you have an idea you'd like to see implemented, please email Leah Denson, watsonpto4@gmail.com

4th Grade Party—Meredith Bickell

- A letter will be going home to all 4th grade parents inviting them to participate in planning the 4th Grade party sponsored by PTO.
- Planning Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 14th at 6pm at Michel's Restaurant on 41.
- 4th Grade party will be held Friday, May 19, 2017.

Field Day

- Field day will be organized by Mr. Jones and will be held on May 11th. PTO will help find volunteers and will provide an all school snack.

PTO Meeting

Last PTO meeting of the year will be May 9, 2017 at 3:00p.m. in the Library.

11	Parent and Teacher Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be an All-School Night Out Fundraiser at Culvers in April. Date to be determined.
12	Thank You for Coming Prize – Leah Denson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A drawing of 2 Watson t-shirts were given to Shay Morey and Desanka Damjanovic.
13	Adjourn Meeting – ACTION REQUIRED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mrs. Mikuly and seconded by Laura Wallace. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

