

JAMES H. WATSON PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.



A meeting of the Watson PTO was held in the Watson Art Room on Tuesday, March 6, 2018. The meeting began at 6:30pm.

WATSON PTO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Present

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Michelle Lavin, Principal

WATSON STAFF PRESENT

Marcie Claesgens
Gretchen Pishkur
Kim Yelich

PARENTS PRESENT

Barbie Livingston
Becki Murphy
Yianna Pallas
Jill Skehan
Amber Volkman

Next Meeting – May 15, 2018—3pm Library

1	Meeting Called to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Leah Denson
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 the parents and staff
4	Reading and Approval of January 2018 Meeting Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meredith Bickell asked everyone present to read the January 2018 minutes. Amber Volkman moved to approve the minutes. Becki Murphy seconded the motion. The motion passed.
5	Treasurer's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Treasurer's Report was read by Karyn Coleman. Balance as of February 28, 2018 = \$37,477.41 Gretchen Pishkur motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report. Yianna Pallas seconded the motion. The motion passed.
6	Teacher Liaison Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Claesgens reported that the week back from Spring Break would be Disability Awareness Spirit Week. Students will have a door decorating contest as well as wear something different each day to recognize different disabilities.

Unfinished Business--Kim Marksteiner**FAMILY NIGHT OUT--SMARTY PANTS**

- Our Annual PTO sponsored Family Night Out was rescheduled due to weather. It will be April 4th, at 6pm.
- Smarty Pants--The Mousetrap Machine Show is a STEM oriented educational (entertainment show that gets the audience involved. (
- They did 2 presentations on Feb. 8th during the day. One for grade PreK-2nd grade and a more advance show for Grades 3 & 4.
- The family show on April 4th at 6pm will be completely different.
- This is paid for entirely by the PTO and is free to all Watson families.

RED ROBIN FUNDRAISER NIGHT

- Watson Staff and Families had a fun night out at Red Robin in Schererville on Thursday, January 25 from 4-8pm.
- Red Robin donated 20% of all purchases that night.
- We raised \$537.07

BOX TOPS/AUNT MILLIE'S CONTEST

- The combined Box Tops and Aunt Millie's School Spirit Label contest was held February 19-March 2nd.
- The winning students:
- 1st place: Emma Sarka, 216 boxtops, Baron-Pre K
Emma won a \$25 gift card to Five Below and the opportunity to be Teacher, Dean or Principal for the hour.
- 2nd place: Mila Gerike, 109 boxtops, Kovich ()
Mila won a \$20 gift card to Five Below. (
- 3rd place tied: Ava Coleman, 107 boxtops, Olenik and Grant Balsitis, 107 boxtops, Ostrom ()
Ava and Grant each won \$15 gift cards to Five Below. (
- The labels are submitted by Betty Gulick. Box Tops and Aunt Millie's send Watson PTO a check. We recently received a check for \$789 from Spring '17 and Fall '17 contests. The monies raised from these contests go to purchasing playground equipment.

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS PENNY WARS

- Was held January 22-26th.
- Co-Chairs: Gina Schutz and Draga Cucuz.
- This year Watson students raised: \$1,692.98.
- Parent Volunteers helped count and hand out prizes.
- The monies raised are turned into Dollars for Scholars and go toward providing college scholarships to Watson Alumni.
- In addition, Watson PTO donated \$500 to Dollars for Scholars.

MARDI GRAS

- Was held Tuesday, February 13, 2018.
- Sponsored by the Schererville Chamber of Commerce.
- Ticket price was **\$35 per person.**
- Watson sponsored 3 tables.
- Watson received 100% of the monies raised from our Class sponsored auction items and also received our share of the 50/50 tickets.
- The 50/50 tickets were sold ahead of time at the Red Robin--\$5 for 10.
- PTO purchased jelly donuts and Mardi Gras masks as favors for each person from Watson who attended Mardi Gras fest.
- Watson raised: \$ 791.13.

	<p>CARSON'S COMMUNITY DAYS FUNDRAISER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • One book was distributed 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 Karyn Coleman for additional coupon books, watsonpto11@gmail.com • Coupon Book sales bought in \$610. <p>CLASSROOM VALENTINE'S DAY PARTIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Valentine's Day party was held on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 1:30 pm. • Parents were allowed access to the classrooms at 1:10 pm. • No peanuts or peanut products policy in effect due to allergies. <p>JUMP ROPE FOR HEART</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTO assisted Mr. Jones with Volunteer coordination for Jump Rope for Heart held, Wednesday, February 21, 2018. • Thank you to all of the parent volunteers and Staff who volunteered. <p>READ ACROSS AMERICA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTO has purchased Dr. Seuss themed bookmarks and pencils for the entire school. • Teachers distributed to their classes on Friday, March 2nd. • Thank you to Mrs. Lyda and Ms. Vanek for coordinating the week's activities. <p>KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTO purchased the supplies for Kindergarten Registration. • PTO also assisted with volunteer coordination for the Registration to be held March 7 & 8.
9	<p>STAFF REQUESTS AND RECENT EXPENDITURES</p> <p>Staff Reimbursement</p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Reimbursements as of February 28: \$2,479.74 • RECENT EXPENDITURES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mardi Gras • Playground Balls • Read Across America • Perfect Attendance Certificates
10	<p>NEW BUSINESS—Leah Denson</p> <p>MOVIE NIGHT OUT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive-In Movie Night Scheduled for Thursday, March 22nd at 5:30pm • Movie: The Princess and the Frog (Mardi Gras themed) • Open to all families. • Concessions (popcorn, water, fruit snacks) free to PTO member families. Nominal fee otherwise. • There will also be a 15-minute intermission for bathroom and snacks in the cafeteria. • Feel free to come in jammies, bring your blanket or a decorated box "car". It is sure to be a great night out!

4TH GRADE END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION

- Planning meeting to be held Wednesday, March 14th @ 7pm at Michel's in St. John.
- Date of the party: Friday, May 18, 2018.
- All 4th grade parents are welcome to help plan and/or attend. Please contact Leah Denson if you are interested in planning/donating an item/attending—watsonpto4@gmail.com
- A letter was sent home to all 4th grade students with this information as well as requesting their t-shirt size for their special 4th Grade t-shirts paid for by PTO.

FIELD DAY

- PTO will be assisting with volunteer & snack coordination for Field Day.
- Date: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL (Rain or shine) May 25, 2018.
- A Sign-Up Genius will be sent out shortly.

NOMINATION FORMS

- Nomination forms will be going out to all families the first full week in March.
- We have two graduating board members: Leah Denson and Karyn Coleman.
- NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND NEW EVENT CO-CHAIRS ARE NEEDED! Talk to any Co-chair from this year and they will tell you they had a great experience! Join the fun!
- **Please fill out and return your nomination forms by April 13, 2018.**
- New board members will be inducted at the May 15th PTO meeting at 3pm in the Library.
- New event chairs will be introduced at the May 15th PTO meeting.

STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

- Staff Appreciation Week will be held April 30-May 4th.
- Barbie Livingston has graciously agreed to co-chair this event.
- Staff Appreciation involves a special activity each day of the week to let Staff know how much we appreciate them.
- A flyer with details and a Sign-Up Genius will be going out soon.

THIRD QUARTER REWARD will be given out the week of March 14th.

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UPCOMING PTO EVENTS—Nicole Kirincic

March 22—DRIVE IN MOVIE @ 5:30PM WATSON

Princess and the Frog.

March 26-March 30th--Spring Break

April 2018—ISTEPs

April 30-May 4—STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

April—Third Quarter Night Out at Baker's Square as well as "My Messy Design" Paint Class. More details to follow.

May 25, 2018—FIELD DAY

May 15—Last PTO Meeting of the Year—3pm in the Library. Childcare Provided.

May 18, 2018—4th Grade END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION

May 24, 2018—LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

12	Parent and Teacher Comments
13	Thank you for coming Prize
14	Adjourn Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Yelich motioned to adjourn the meeting. Yianna Pallas seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.