



**Watts Middle School  
PTO Board Meeting  
April 13, 2021  
7:00 PM**

**I. Call to Order (Emily Denlinger)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. A quorum was present including PTO President, Vice President and Secretary. Three other attendees were present.

**II. Secretary's Report (Robyn Bueltel)**

The minutes of the March 9, 2021 PTO meeting were presented and approved.

**III. Treasurer's Report (Tim Gilliland; presented by Brian Miller)**

- Incoming funds include \$257.38 from the Chipotle takeover and a \$10 donation for Teacher Appreciation Week.
- Expenses were \$160 to renew the Avenue of Flags program for the coming year as well as purchase of several Spanish versions of *The Outsiders* and prizes for Foreign Language Week. These costs were funded by the Chipotle takeover.

**IV. Vice President's Report (Brian Miller)**

- Brian will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers for Watts staff on April 21 as a thank you; cost is around \$150 for food.
- Testing
  - MAP Assessments: Watts results were above the national mean. Data will be used to identify summer school candidates. The district will be able to offer transportation, paid by government funding.
  - State Testing: Testing will happen during April & May (remote learners will test in person on Wednesdays).
- Learning will continue up to the end of the school year (no wind-down). Summer reading will be emphasized and IXL will continue to be available to students.
- Eighth graders will tentatively be going to King's Island on the last day of school. Sixth and seventh graders will have organized activities and an opportunity to purchase Kona Ice (with profit going to the PTO).
- The plan is to return to a seven-period school day next year (students will be able to use lockers) utilizing a hybrid of Google Classroom and hard copies. Sixth graders will continue to use agendas (though every student will receive one), and there will be an overall emphasis on developing study skills and on students finding an organizational system that works for them.
- Incoming sixth graders will have an opportunity in May to walk through Watts with parents (no organized school field trips), and an informational video will be made for parents. All students will have an opportunity to walk their schedules in August before school starts.

**V. President's Report (Emily Denlinger)**

- Attic Cleanout: Staff have been asked to identify belongings and mark them as being kept, donated or trashed. Next week they will have an opportunity to "shop" unwanted items. Afterwards, PTO will throw away or donate remaining items. The overall goal is to organize and better utilize the area, further facilitated by a local Eagle Scout who will be building shelving for the space.

- Staff Survey: The PTO surveyed Watts staff in order to be able to serve more effectively. Topline findings include a desire for Fall Party to be on 3 separate evenings, food and drink preferences as it relates to PTO-sponsored meals, and an interest in changes to the silent auction held at Family Night. This feedback will be incorporated into future plans.

## VI. Committee Reports

### A. Business Partners (Emily Denlinger)

Future takeovers include City Barbeque on April 14 and Rapid Fired Pizza on May 11.

### B. Curriculum Advisory Council (Brenda Colton)

The next meeting is April 14; the topic will be diversity.

### C. Fall Party

- There was much discussion on possible logistics for the event this coming fall. Because there will likely still be restrictions in place regarding distancing and large gatherings, it is necessary to look at spreading out the crowd by holding separate parties for each grade. However, that would make it necessary to rent things such as lights and DJ three times, increasing the overall cost significantly.
- It was decided that the best solution is to schedule the party for after school; students going to the party that day would go to the gym upon dismissal at 3:35, where they would check in and receive their wristbands. Then, once the buses and after-school traffic have cleared out, students would go outside and take part in the activities until 6pm, at which time their parents would come and pick them up.
- There was additional discussion around whether to have one party on 3 separate days or to have the 6<sup>th</sup> grade party on one day and then 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade parties consecutively on another day. The thought was that the 8<sup>th</sup> graders might prefer to have their party at night, which would make their last Fall Party a little more special.
- Additional potential activities could include raffles and Kona Ice for sale.

### D. Parent Connection (Brenda Colton)

There may be a Parent Connection meeting at the end of the school year.

### E. Scholarship (Brian Miller)

Scholarship applications have been received. A committee comprised of Mrs. Bakan, Mrs. Petty, Mr. Miller and one additional teacher will review the applications.

### F. Hospitality – Teacher Appreciation Week (Robyn Bueltel/Emily Denlinger)

- Teachers and staff will receive some sort of treat/snack each day accompanied by a note of thanks fitting with that day's theme. PTO will also provide lunch on Wednesday, May 5 which will include a cookie and made-to-order personal pizza from Donato's as well as drinks, fruits and veggies donated by Watts families.
- Prizes will also be raffled each day, including Watts masks, Watts stainless tumblers, Starbucks gift cards and DLM Killer Brownies.

### G. Spirit Wear (Maria Rigling)

- The sale resulted in 78 orders totaling \$4,700 in sales. PTO profit will be around \$950.
- The group discussed next year's sale(s).
  - August (back-to-school) – Sponsor a small-scale sale with a student-designed Watts graphic. Students can submit their designs, to be voted on and selected by the PTO. Winner may receive a Cold Stone Creamery gift card. Consider having samples available for purchase during Open House.
  - October (fall conferences/holiday shopping) – Offer a full range of products and designs.

#### **H. Membership (Rachael Sheridan)**

- It's important to communicate what the PTO does and how the money is used. Communication to families will be updated to include infographics about Watts and the PTO.
- The PTO is looking into online payment capabilities in order to make it easier for families to pay membership due (and other things such as Fall Party tickets and future fundraisers). Email communication could contain links to the payment site, and hard copy handouts could include a QR code that takes users to the payment site when scanned on mobile devices. There was discussion on whether to pass along the associated administration fees.

### **VII. New Business**

#### **A. Communications to Parents**

There are opportunities to communicate to families at new parent orientation (May), in the late-summer Watts mailing, and Open House (August).

#### **B. Facebook**

Parents and staff are invited to join the PTO Facebook Group. They will be prompted to answer 3 questions.

#### **C. Student Gift/Treat**

There was discussion around whether to use PTO funds for some sort of end-of-the-year treat. Based on plans that are already in place for students on the last day of school, the group concluded that PTO funds would be more effectively spent elsewhere.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

***Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 11 at 7:00 PM outside in back of the school. This is also the same day as our Rapid Fired fundraiser. Bring your pizza (we will have tables set up) and a chair.***