

**WATCHUNG PTO**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Dated May 14, 2013**  
**Bayberry School All Purpose Room**

The meeting was called to order at 9:41 am by Lauren Krouk.

Lauren asked that the minutes of the April meeting be approved. They are posted on the Watchung PTO website. There were no changes and the vote was to approve.

**Board Reports**

**President – Lauren Krouk:**

- Thank you to Ellen HockmeyerBeth Morgan Mattiassi for BB Teacher Appreciation and Wendy Ruta & Sandi Hammer for VV Teacher Appreciation. You all did a phenomenal job!
- Thank you to everyone who helped with the Plant Sale and the chairs Allison Baitel and Kathy Rhyner, who did a great job.

**1st Vice President – Sonja Savatta:**

- Nothing

**2nd Vice President – Georgia Glasser-Nehls:**

- Nothing

**Treasurer – Beth Morgan-Mattiassi:**

The **Treasurer's Report** was reviewed:

- This month had Food Sales Income and a few more people who joined the PTO. We got a generous \$1,000 donation. There was more money that came in for Dining for Dollars and Movie Night.
- The Expenses this month were for Food Dales, Student Special Events, Hospitality, Watchung Wear, Scrip and Movie Night.
- The committee nets are at the bottom.

**Recording Secretary – Kristin Narayanan:**

- The April minutes have been posted on the website.

**Corresponding Secretary – Mary Beth Lijo**

- Nothing

**Fundraising Chair – Doris Fine:**

- The Edible Gardens flyer is coming home in backpack. These are locally grown organic home herbs and lettuce at \$4. The PTO gets \$2 for every plant. Money is due May 20<sup>th</sup>. The plants come in 7-10 days later and you come pick them up at the school. We need someone to help with distribution of plants when come in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June. Adriana Del Forno volunteered to help. Thank you!
- We are partnering with Gray's Florist on selling flowers at the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation. They will have a table set up a canopy. The PTO will get 20% of anything that is

sold that night at VV. Next year, this funding will go towards the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Fundraising. This is not a pre-order. Teresa Schaefer will eBlast out the information to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents and set up the location.

**Immediate Past-President – Michelle Hwang:**

- Nothing

**Committee Reports:**

**Food Sales- BB - Mary Beth Lijo and Christina Colonias:**

We still need Chairs to run Food Sales for BB next year. If we don't get them, we won't be able to continue Food Sales at BB. We would still need these chairs even if just doing Simply Gourmet.

**Food Sales – VV – Doris Fine, Sue Ober, Jodi Hector:**

We need volunteers for certain days next year at VV. Wednesday and Sub Day volunteers are needed. Every other day is filled.

**Administrative Professionals Day :**

This was on Wednesday April 24th,. The Administrative Staff at both schools, as well as the Board Staff, enjoyed lunch from Delicious Heights that day.

**VV Teacher Appreciation: Wendy Ruta/ Sandi Hammer**

- The teachers had hot food, sandwich platters, salad bar and a variety of desserts. We had about 20 people volunteering and donating money. The teachers were thrilled. Thank you to everyone who participated!

**Scrip - Wendy Ruta/ Sandi Hammer**

- The Order in May and the last order is June Final deadline is Monday at June 9<sup>th</sup> at noon. Orders and checks need to be in by noon. The cards are here by Friday, so there is plenty of time to use them for teacher gifts.
- The Program survives on 5 regulars, so need to get the word out more. Wished had better way to market this service. It is free money for the schools. June is always a big month.
- Order cards for over the summer, such as grocery cards.

**Scholarship Committee – Tammy Benc:**

- The Watchung PTO provides two scholarships to graduating seniors for Watchung Hills Regional High School. The L. Suzanne Kenney Memorial Scholarships, \$1500, are awarded to students based on their record of community service.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> place recipient is Dylan Flynn. He is a volunteer for the Watchung Rescue Squad and achieved the rank of Cadet Corporal/Certified EMT.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> place recipient is Catherine Higgins. She is a Habitat for Humanity volunteer and the Human Right Institute Outstanding Student Activist of the Year. Both students will receive their awards at the HS awards ceremony on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Thanks to PTO members Erin Acosta, Puja Goel, Lucy Hsueh and Beth Mattiassi for

scoring the applications. Gratitude is also expressed for Marianne Tyler and Karen Jubin for tabulating the results.

**Plant sale –Allison Baitel and Kathy Rhyner;**

- The sale was very successful with a net profit of \$2,700! They ordered 72 more of the smaller items to cater to the young students. However, they sold out of everything by 1 on Friday and had to run out to Shop Rite to buy additional flowers to sell.
- Three leftover planters were donated to BB and VV.
- The sale had a number of moms helping out. But, we were short handed at BB. Special thanks goes to Anne Departo, Pat Price and Kim Nunn who volunteered at both schools.
- Goals next year are to purchase more inventory and surpass \$3,000 in profits. Allison and Kathy enjoyed chairing and are available to co-chair again next year.

**Narratives of Courage - Georgia Glasser-Nehls:**

- The event is at VV tomorrow. We do have volunteer spots available for morning and afternoon. Please talk to Georgia after the meeting if you are interested in helping.
- We are requesting that folks get there at 7:30 to meet the speaker ahead of time. You will need to park off site. If you can't make it at 7:30 but do have time, come when you can. The Keynote speaker, Mark Barden a parent from the Newtown School District, is from 8:50 – 9:30.
- It is a regular school day for kids. Students go to homeroom and then go to the assembly after attendance is taken. The Band is playing, then the keynote at 8:50. Kids are not to wear jeans or shorts, business casual. The students will all be given a t-shirt to wear tomorrow, which will be put over what they wear to school.
- The list of the speakers are: Sally Alexander, Daryl Davis, Dr. Jerry Ehrlich, Edward Fine, Jacy Good, David Kaczynski, Anisa Mehdi, Tamara Meyers, Kellum Smith, Dave Stevens, Johnnie Tuitel, Lorna Tychostrup and Jeff Veatch.

**2014 – 2015 Nominating Committee –Karen Jubin and Marianne Tyler:**

- The presented slate of Lauren Krouk, Sonja Savatta, Teresa Schaefer, Mary Beth Lijo, Beth Morgan Mattiassi and Cindy Sampredro was read. It was asked if there were any other nominations. There were not, so there was a motion to close.
- Next month is the vote. We reviewed each role and nominations for each of those roles to see if there were any other further nomination for each role and then each role was then closed. The election will be held at the June meeting.

**Spring Fundraiser – Doris Fine :**

- The fundraiser is called “Spring in to Action”. It is an Online Auction. We are using Bidding for Good to run the auction. It will run from May 24<sup>th</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- To make it as successful as possible, we are using a combination of unique Watchung Items such as Yankee tickets, Mozzarella making class, George Street Playhouse tickets, Roxdane Kennel offerings, Cheescakes from Morgan Mattassi, Beautiful Make over with Marybeth Lijo. We are still looking for donations, anything that a business or service can offer us.
- There will be all different type of items listed and value of what the item is worth, if you went out to purchase it. Other people will bid for those items as well, like on eBay. Some

of the bids are things we don't get full amount that you pay. The Bidding for Good folks get a percentage and the PTO get a percentage Anyone can bid on an item, not just Watchung people. Bidding for Good offers this for any non-profit.

### **Administration Reports**

#### **Superintendent – Dr. Resko:**

- Good morning. Thank you for letting me go first, since I need to get back to VV.
- Thank you for honoring and recognizing the teachers in both buildings, they really enjoyed it.
- The VV graduation will be on Tuesday June 24<sup>th</sup>, which is an one session day for everyone. The last day of school is Thursday June 26<sup>th</sup> so all three days are one session days. Report cards are given our the last day and if you are not there, then other arrangements will be made after the last day of school for report cards. We adjusted the end of this year's school calendar. June 24<sup>th</sup> is a one session day and graduation.
- We are starting a new Business Administrator search. Charisse Guterrez tendered a letter of resignation. She will be leaving as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. This is a full time position.
- There is a Common Core link on the school's website with presentations of that night.
- We would like to Thank the PTO for your Narratives of Courage support . We have some new speakers and some who are returning. Thank you for the grants and financial support. We are looking forward to an exceptional day tomorrow.

#### **District Principal – Mrs. Nunn:**

- Girls on the Run and 5K race is June 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The VV play, Alice in Wonderland, was a big success.
- NJ ASK for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th grades and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades happened.
- We had dance for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th grades on May 2nd . We did it outside. Eddie Cai was our resident DJ. The Volleyball net was set up. It was really fun and a great night.
- That is wonderful news about the success of the Plant Sale.
- Thank you for the wonderful luncheons at both schools.
- The Great Adventure Band trip on Friday was a big success. First the students go to an Adjudication on what judges consider a perfect band and chorus. Both achieved gold standard, which is the highest they can get.
- VV Boy's baseball team have a 2-5 season. Mr. B thinks they are great kids and is happy with how they are doing
- Track meet Sending District rain date is this Friday.
- Next week at VV is Spirit week. There is also an End of the Year assessment in Language Arts for the PARC field test.
- VV band concert is Tuesday, the 20<sup>th</sup>. The 21<sup>st</sup> is the VV Chorus and Art show. The concerts start at 7:30. To view the Art show, you can come in at 7.
- The BB Recorder Concert is May 29<sup>th</sup>. That is also the day the 8<sup>th</sup> grade leaves for the Philadelphia trip.
- The Board meeting is tomorrow night, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be there talk about their service learning project which is a Blood Drive. This will be held at VV on Tuesday from 3 – 7:30 pm. Bring a photo id, you need to be 17 or older to donate.
- BB's Mini Narratives of Courage will be on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> . The Rotary track

meet is also that day.

- VV Miles for Smiles and Field day are the same day, June 6th.
- Move up day is June 9<sup>th</sup> and usually that night is for 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents.
- June 10<sup>th</sup> is the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Dare graduation.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> grade goes to the Liberty Science Center on June 16<sup>th</sup>.
- June 17<sup>th</sup> the 6<sup>th</sup> grade goes to the Museum of Natural History and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade goes to the Bronx Zoo. Mr. Mehl handles those chaperones.
- The Battle of Books is on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and VV is hosting.
- On May 30<sup>th</sup>, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade is going to the Bueller Science Center. There are no chaperones needed. It is very small center.
- Thank you to the PTO for their involvement with Teacher and Administration Professional day for what they did for the staff in both schools.

#### **New Business –**

- The last Cultural Arts program is a Hip Hop performance at BB on June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- We want to also thank the BB Teacher Appreciation team. There was a tremendous response by parents. The teachers are so appreciative. At BB, Ellen Hockmeyer coordinated this year. If you can help out next year, that would be appreciated. Parents can drop something off in the morning. The teachers enjoyed it.
- The 8th grade car wash is this Saturday from 10 -2. We presold tickets to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents that 8th graders can sell. You can also just show up and pay the \$5 when you get there. The car will look better than you came in with. We are using a hose with soap in it. So, the kids won't drop the sponges and get rocks on them. They should do a decent job.
- Dress code at VV. There has been some talk regarding girls wear shorts that are too short. They wear spandex if too short. Most teachers will say something. Today Mrs. Nunn will remind everybody on dress code this afternoon. Clothing should not come off at lunch and when they walk out the door.
- Next year we should consider allowing the 4<sup>th</sup> graders be volunteers in the library. They can help shelve the books during recess in the winter months and maybe also kids who aren't in the band in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. There would have to be a certificated person with them.

The next PTO meeting will be the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. It will be held Thursday, **June 12th** at 10:30am. The location will **the Water and Wine Restaurant**. Flyers will be going out. RSVPs are to Kristin. There will be the PTO meeting and then the luncheon.

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristin Narayanan, Recording Secretary, June 4, 2014