

## WATCHUNG PTO MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2012

Bayberry APR

Meeting was called to order at 9:50 am by Michelle Hwang, President

Michelle asked for questions or changes to the minutes of the December meeting; as there were none, the minutes were accordingly approved.

### Board Reports

#### **President – Michelle Hwang**

- There will be an evening recap tonight at 7pm in the VV faculty lounge; the BOE meeting is tonight at 7:30pm in the VV Library
- Thanks to everyone who attended and provided food for the December PTO holiday luncheon
- Special thanks to Christine Ead for hosting the holiday luncheon!
- Next PTO event is the Soup Supper on Friday, 1/27 6:30-8:30, in the BB APR
- PTO Spring Adult Social is Friday 3/16 at the Pantagis Renaissance in Scotch Plains

#### **First Vice President – Lauren Krouk**

It's not too late to join the PTO (and receive your directory)!

#### **Second Vice President – Christine Ead**

Valentine's Day parties are coming up! Class Parents should contact their teachers for the times; most of the parties will be spent exchanging valentines so only a small amount of time needs to be planned for crafts, games and food

#### **Treasurer – Greta Santucci**

In Greta's absence, Michelle reported. She addressed a question that was raised at the December meeting about a miscellaneous expense item of \$2,200: there was both an expense and an income item for this amount, and both related to a bookkeeping entry reflecting payment of last year's year-end PTO gift of benches to Valley View (the income and expense items were offset.) Significant other income and expense items included BB food sales and scrip (for holiday boutiques). The BB Boutique is still showing a high net income because the expenses related to the consignments have not been processed. A significant income item of \$2,000 reflected a donation from Loyola secured by Dr. Malyska.

#### **Recording Secretary – Susan Ober**

The December PTO minutes are on the website. VV food sale dates have been added to the website through year-end.

#### **Corresponding Secretary – Tiffany Brigante**

The website has been updated reflecting the new days added back because of the fall snowdays: a one session day has been added to 2/16 and a full day has been added to 3/12.

#### **Past President – Edie Belcastro**

No report

### Committee Reports

**NJ Ask Bagels** – a suggestion was made that 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade parents spearhead this effort. Tiffany Brigante is chairing.

**Scrip** – Wendy Ruta reported that today is the scrip deadline. She is busy purchasing basket filler items at post-holiday sales.

**Watchung Wear** – Lauren Krouk reported that orders were distributed before the holiday break and that we have some inventory available: long sleeve tees and zip-up black VV sweatshirts. The next order will be in the spring and may include shorts.

**BB Food Sales** – Sue Ober reported that we are now in the 2<sup>nd</sup> session and that the 3<sup>rd</sup> session would begin March 1<sup>st</sup> (with online ordering running 2/1-15). She said there had been some confusion because the 1<sup>st</sup> version of the BB food sale calendar showed 4 sessions, including a December ordering deadline, but that the sessions had been reduced to 3 (which was reported on the website and via eblast).

**VV Food Sales** – No report.

**Soup Supper** – Doris Fine reported that the magician Peter Jervis would entertain the kids and there would be crafts for younger children supervised by 8<sup>th</sup> graders. There will be a new voting method, using different colored coins, so people can only vote one time in each category. Prizes include Restaurant.com gift certificates and movie tickets. Tickets can be purchased on the PTO website in advance for \$5 or at the door for \$8. People wishing to enter a soup need to tell Doris ahead of time to get instructions.

**Spring Social** – Doris Fine reported the event, “Dazzle in Denim, will be held at the Pantagis Renaissance on Friday 3/16 7-11pm. Tickets are \$55 but can be purchased AT THE SOUP SUPPER ONLY for \$50. The price includes dinner, dessert, soda, beer, wine. There will be a cash bar for other drinks. We’ll have a DJ. Tickets are available for sale on the PTO website. We are looking for donations of auction items, including vacation homes, airline tickets, gift cards, professional services, beauty services, babysitting services, music lessons, tutoring, etc.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents:** Christine Ead reported that 4<sup>th</sup> grade parents need to begin working on the photo cd. Pictures are needed – action shots, especially group shots, are encouraged. A volunteer is needed to coordinate the autograph books with each child’s picture (Mrs. Nunn will provide a cd from Lifetouch). Someone mentioned that only certain pens can be used for autographs because of the glossy paper.

**VV Teacher Appreciation** – Kristin Rizzi reported that she and Lisa Mobus are chairing. They had a signup sheet available for volunteers. It is currently scheduled for the week of 5/21.

**BB Teacher Appreciation** – Michelle reported that we need a chair! Greta Santucci and Cindy Huljack volunteered. Mrs. Nunn suggested that it be the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May.

**BB Cultural Arts** – no report

**VV Cultural Arts** – no report.

**New Business** – Edie Belcastro reported that the PTO will publish a cookbook, primarily with Soup Supper and Teachers’ Luncheon recipes, as a fundraiser this year. She asked people to bring recipes to the Soup Supper. Edie also reported that she and Doris would be cleaning out the PTO “dungeon” (closet) and would appreciate volunteers!

### **Administration Reports**

#### **Superintendent – Dr. Malyska**

- Dr. Malyska said she had received a \$2,000 donation to the PTO from Loyola .

- The Narratives of Courage are shaping up for May. They would like the PTO to help with food. The PTO and WEF are the primary funders of this event. It is tentatively scheduled for 5/24 but Dr. Malyska would like to move it earlier so it is not so close to the Memorial Day long weekend. There are 12 speakers and people are encouraged to recommend new speakers.
- There have been 19 people expressing interest in the Superintendent position and the BOE has received 10 applications. They are conducting interviews in January and will ask for some parent involvement. She commended the BOE for conducting the search themselves rather than hiring a consultant.
- QSAC, (“Quality Single Accountability Continuum”) the NJ State Department of Education program for monitoring public school districts, now requires each District to submit an annual statement of assurance, covering academics, financials, personnel, building & grounds, test scores, teacher evaluations, instructional programs, etc. QSAC evaluates and certifies public school districts every five years. Watchung’s review was last year and we scored in the highest level (of 3 levels).
- The NJ Senate and Assembly passed a law enabling school districts to hold school board elections in November, along with the political elections. Watchung has not yet decided if they would make this change as it would politicize school board elections.
- Thanks to the PTO for all they do!
- Thanks Christine Ead for hosting a fabulous Holiday luncheon!
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### **VV Principal – Dr. Resko**

Dr. Resko reported that six Students went to the Firemen’s Exempt Hall on December 5th to drop off boxes of clothing and other essential supplies for families in need as a result of the Community Outreach Club’s Adopt-a-Family drive. The Club’s “Soup Drive” continues until February 1st and the “Mitten Madness Drive” ends February 6th.

The Club’s “Serving Our Soldiers” (SOS) Drive was also a great success! Students mailed 14 boxes of toiletries, over 200 cards, and other items to the troops in Afghanistan. An SOS luncheon was held on December 12th for raffle winners. Note: The holiday greeting cards were also part of the Governor’s “Season of Service” project for U.S. service members.

Health classes commenced on December 5th for students in grades 6-8. Classes will continue through the end of January.

The Basketball Teams are off to a terrific start this season. The boys have a 4 win-6 loss record and the girls have a 5 win-5 loss record. Pictured below is Brooke Aldrich dribbling a ball down court during the North Plainfield game.

Susan DeVillers attended the WHRHS articulation meeting for Language Arts on December 14.

The Future City in-house competition was held during the week of December 19 to finalize our teams attending the final judging at Rutgers University on January 14. 14 SOAR students will participate in this event.

### **BB Principal – Mrs. Nunn**

- Mrs. Nunn apologized for missing the PTO holiday luncheon – she was at a Morris-Union Jointure Commission meeting, the subject of which was how they score the NJ ASK language arts portion for grades 3-8. She shared the information at a BB faculty meeting on 1/9. (Someone asked whether NJ ASK is a means of evaluating teachers and Mrs. Nunn said no, that it’s an audit of what students are learning, not an assessment of teachers.)

- The week of Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> BB held a Cultural Arts assembly, Dance China, that was fabulous! She thanked the PTO for sponsoring.
- The e-readers are here! We were able to purchase 12 to be used in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Teachers are being trained this week by Robin Almer.
- WEF donated funds to purchase 30 Ipads to be used by multiple grade levels. The grades must apply to use the Ipads for specific purposes. The school is trying to show how student learning improves with the use of technology.
- Mrs. Turturiello's 1<sup>st</sup> grade class wrote and published a book entitled "My Wish for the World" and will present it to the childrens' parents on Friday January 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The week of January 16<sup>th</sup> is spirit week. Students are encouraged to wear sports jerseys on Wednesday, Hats (for "Heavenly Hat Foundation") on Thursday and mix-it-up day on Friday.
- The marking period ends January 13<sup>th</sup>; report cards will be distributed 1/20.
- "No Name Calling Week" is the week of 1/23. Students are encouraged to wear certain colors on certain days.
- February is Black History Month
- The Moonglowers, a jazz band from Scotch Plains, will perform on a date TBA
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class plan, Dinosaur, will be performed 2/23 (2K&2M) and 2/24 (2F&2T) at 9:15.

**New Business**

The next PTO meeting is 2/14 at 9:30 in the BB APR, with an evening recap TBD.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Ober, Recording Secretary