

WATCHUNG PTO MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2011

9:30 am Bayberry APR

Meeting was called to order at 9:45 am by Michelle Hwang, President

Michelle asked for questions or changes to the minutes of the October meeting; there were none and accordingly they were approved.

Board Reports

President – Michelle Hwang

- This is American education week – a schedule is available for parents to visit their child's Bayberry classroom. The Valley View Open House will be 11/14.
- There will be a PTO meeting recap this evening at 7pm in the VV faculty lounge.
- There will be an 8th Grade parents meeting on 11/16 at 7pm in the VV library to discuss fundraising for the 8th grade trip and dance. A 2nd meeting will take place 11/30. Volunteer signup sheets were available at the PTO meeting.
- BB Family Reading Night is 11/17 6-8pm.
- The next PTO meeting is our holiday luncheon on Thursday, 12/15 10:30am at Christine Ead's home. Sign up to bring entrée, appetizer or dessert.

First Vice President – Lauren Krouk

In Lauren's absence, Michelle reported. The directories are out! If you haven't done so, please update your information, and your childrens' information, on the PTO website.

Second Vice President – Christine Ead

Halloween Festivities at both schools were cancelled because of the storm. VV will be rescheduled. Non-perishable snack party donations will be used for the winter holiday parties.

Treasurer – Greta Santucci

In Greta's absence, Michelle reported. Notable income items include BB food sales, membership, scrip and gift wrap. Notable expenses include BB food sales.

Recording Secretary – Susan Ober

The October PTO minutes are on the website.

Corresponding Secretary – Tiffany Brigante

Several people said they're not getting eblasts – a list was circulated and Tiffany will follow up.

Past President – Edie Belcastro

No report.

Committee Reports

Bayberry Picture Day - Wendy Ruta reported that it went very smoothly and she thanked the many volunteers. The picture retake day is 11/18; Wendy asked for one volunteer.

Scrip – Wendy Ruta asked for volunteers to help wrap baskets and staff the scrip table for the BB and VV Holiday Boutiques. The next scrip deadline is 12/6 – those cards will arrive 12/19.

Giftwrap Sale – Kristin Rizzi reported that the giftwrap is available for pickup on 11/14-15 at the BB APR.

Watchung Wear – Lauren Krouk reported that the next ordering session ends 11/27 and that items will be available for the holidays. New items include black zip-up sweatshirts, black sweatpants and plaid flannel pants.

BB Food Sales – Sue Ober reported that rather than rescheduling missed food sale dates because of the storms, credits will be given which can be used toward the 3rd session orders. She said that credits for missed food sales due to field trips during the 1st session had been incorrectly entered into the system and therefore won't offset 2nd session orders. This will be fixed and will offset 3rd session ordering. 2nd Session ordering is ongoing; the deadline is 11/16. She thanked all the volunteers.

VV Food Sales – Georgia Glasser-Nehls reported that it's going great! She said numbers are down because of fewer kids in VV and therefore fewer orders. To enhance income they will now offer snack sales on Thursdays. She thanked all the volunteers.

Cultural Arts – VV's assembly involving technical music production was a great success!

BB Holiday Boutique – Christine Ead reported that she and Christine Listorti had made several changes in vendors and were implementing a 3-part receipt system which should result in better accounting. She asked that people sign up to volunteer. The boutique is 12/1&2, with evening hours on 12/1.

VV Holiday Boutique – Maria Senatore reported that they need more volunteers, and that she and Cindy Huljack were awaiting approval to hang flyers in the school. The boutique is 11/29-30 with evening hours on 11/29.

Spring Social – Doris Fine reported that they need to find a new theme, as "Denim & Diamonds" has been taken by St. Mary's. The event is set for Friday 3/16 and will probably be at Sally Gee's in Warren.

New Business – Sue Ober reminded people, when ordering online, to check the PTO website first to see if there's a link because the PTO earns money from purchase made from vendors through links from our website.

Administration Reports

Superintendent – Dr. Malyska

- Dr. Malyska reported that this is American Education Week and that parents are welcome to visit their children in their classrooms.
- The BOE meeting is 11/15 at 7:30 in the VV Library. The BOE is currently interviewing candidates for an interim board member to replace Wendy Robinson, who resigned. The person appointed will serve until the April election. There will be 3 seats opening in April. The BOE has scheduled a Budget Forum as part of its 11/19 to encourage residents to be a part of the school budget process. The BOE is working hard to attract Superintendent Candidates and will be soliciting parent volunteers for the interview process.
- Dr. Malyska expressed frustration and concern regarding the 4 days of school missed due to the storm. They do count against our allowable snow days. They are considering adding days back to the calendar – Long Hills has already added back (1 / 2, 2/16, 3/12 and 4/9)
- In response to a question, Dr. Malyska said that the results of the survey sent to residents about characteristics desired in a Superintendent will be posted on the BOE website.
- The VV band and chorus will be performing at an event in December that the Watchung-Warren Rotary Club hosts for 2 groups of handicapped schoolchildren.

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VV Principal – Dr. Resko

Mrs. Keane reported for Dr. Resko.

- The month of November was off to an unusual start due to the snowy weather at the end of October! School was closed October 31st through November 3rd. November 4th was a delayed opening with excellent attendance.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences were held on November 7th, 8th, and 9th. Over 90% of our parents attended the conferences!
- An all school assembly was held on Tuesday, November 8 at 10:30 in the gymnasium. Recording artist Brent Daniels presented Technological Music Production. <http://academicentertainment.com/technologicalmusic>. At the end of the presentation, the student body recognized the WEF “Minute to Win IT – A Race to Read” contest winners.
- School was closed on November 10 and November 11 for NJEA convention.
- American Education Week was celebrated November 14-18. Valley View Middle School hosted an Open House for parents and guardians on November 14. Valley View Middle School kicked-off its celebration of American Education Week on November 14th by hosting an Open House for parents/guardians to visit classrooms.
- Eighth grade class trip (Philadelphia) meetings will be held on November 16 (10 am) and November 30 (7pm) to discuss itinerary, student expectations, etc. Parents also will have the opportunity to sign up for 8th grade fundraiser committees and end-of-year activities.
- Ms. Kaitlin Rydberg is representing Valley View Middle School at a Special Education articulation meeting at Watchung Hills Regional High School on November 16th. Mr. Mehl will attend the Social Studies meeting on 11/30.
- The first marking period will end on November 18th and report cards will be distributed on November 23th.
- The Student Outreach Club has rescheduled the Walk-a-thon for the afternoon of Monday, November 21. The rain date is Tuesday, November 22. The Student Council carnival games (from Halloween) will be scheduled as A “Winter Carnival Night” in January.
- There is a one-session day on November 23rd and school was closed on November 24 and 25th in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- Retakes of school photographs will occur on November 30th.
- Students will have an opportunity to purchase gift items at the PTO Holiday Boutique on November 29th and 30th.

Looking Ahead to December 2011:

December 5	Health Classes begin for students in Gr. 6-8
December 14	Senior Holiday Luncheon – Hosted by Community Outreach
December 15	Holiday Concert (Gr.7/8) 7pm
December 13	Band/Chorus Performance at Rotary Holiday Luncheon
December 8	Holiday Concert (Gr. 5/6) 7pm
December 20	WHRHS Vocal Music Choir – 1 pm
December 23	One Session Day – Start of Winter Recess; School Reopens
	January 3, 2012

A parent expressed concern regarding morning extra help sessions at VV. She said that although a math teacher s offering extra help at 7:30, students often aren’t let into the school until 7:45 or later. Dr. Malyska responded that Lori Joyce will be responsible for letting the students in at 7:30.

BB Principal – Mrs. Nunn

- Today is the 2nd grade class trip to the Crayola Factory.

- BB held an assembly to kick off the “Minute to Win It” challenge sponsored by WEF, and to recognize students who participated in the summer reading program. All classes reached the 2,000 minute goal, and the individual class winners were: K- Waryn, 1st – Turturiello, 2nd – Meyers, 3rd – Freitas, 4th – Deegan. Winning classes will receive a pizza party from WEF. Mrs. Nunn also announced the names of the students who received medals for the most minutes read
- October 19th was 4th grade Family Fun Night
- October 22nd was the “Officer Phil” program
- BB is again offering the Pursuit of Excellence program funded by a grant from the Watchung Municipal Alliance. This program offers after-school tutoring to 3rd and 4th grade students and includes a bus ride home.
- Mrs. Nunn congratulated 3rd Grade teacher Ms. Honig on her recent wedding (she is now Mrs. Friedland) who carries on the 3rd grade teacher tradition of getting married in disastrous storm conditions! Her wedding was Sunday 10/30 after the recent snow storms; Ashley Berger Freitas had gotten married during Hurricane Irene.
- Report Cards were distributed 11/7; parent-teacher conferences were held the week of 11/7 with almost 100% participation.
- 4th graders are collecting non-perishable food for the Community Food Bank.
- The Community Service Club is holding a coat drive which will be ongoing through 12/2
- This is American Education Week – a schedule for classroom visits was sent home in backpacks and was posted on the school website. Family Reading Night will be 11/17 with guest author Pat Brisson.
- Nov. 17th is the kindergarten open house. An ad was placed in the Echoes Sentinel for the preschool open houses, also held this week. They will also be posting signs around town advertising for the preschool.
- The Harvest Festival is 11/22.
- The Holiday Boutique is 12/1 and 2.
- The Winter Concert of the 4th Grade Band and Chorus will be held 12/7.
- There will be a Marine Life program for 2nd graders sponsored by WEF and funded by Watchung Pediatrics.
- 1st graders will have a field trip to the RVCC Planetarium on 12/14.
- The BB Picture retake date is 11/18.

New Business

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Ober, Recording Secretary