

Meeting Minutes

James R Watson Elementary PTO



Date/Time: Monday, Nov 18th at 6:00pm Location: JRW School Cafeteria

Meeting called to Order by: *Lindsay Foster, President* Time: 6:03pm

Attendance: There were 23 attendees including board & guest speaker; a quorum was reached. Guest speaker, Carrie Quaintance was in attendance.



Treasurer's Report *(given by Andrea Sponhower)*

- Treasurer's report read & accepted (see attached). Andrea reviewed PTO General Fund Income & Expenses from 10/1/24 through current.
- Income received from first Dine-to-Donate(Panda Express) & Spirit Wear.
- Expenses paid out for Aquarium cleaning, Classroom Money, Field Trips, Grade Level Money, Student Engagement, Sweetheart Dance, & (New) Teacher Resource



Committee Reports

Literacy Night *(given by Lindsay Foster)*Co-Chair w/ Andrea Sponhower*

- Inaugural Trunk or Treat for Lit Night Book Fair Family Event was a success, students were able to receive a free book. Will plan this event again for next year to coincide with week before Fall Break. Great turnout and Trunk participation from families.



Box Tops *(given by Andrea Sponhower)*

- Current amount raised is \$387, over halfway to this year's Goal of \$600. Kindergarteners won the October contest for a Pajama Party. Next winners (Nov/Dec) will win a Cookie Party.

Color Run Committee *(given by Lindsay Foster)*Co-Chairs Angie Turner & Shaye Pfister*

- Will be getting new Sponsor signs for next year
- Students who raised at least \$100 enjoyed an Ice Cream party on Oct 9th. Mrs. Weber's class raised the most funds and got to 'Throw Pies' at Mr. Harrison on Oct 11th during a mini assembly with a performance by Rockin Classics.

Yearbook **Co-Chairs Jenny Caylor & Abigail Alexander*

- No updates at this time.

Sweetheart Dance *(given by Kileigh Wolfe) *Co-Chair w/ Jennifer Hagar*

- Date set for April 11 in the school gym, will be Candyland themed with a DJ!
**Amanda McGrew interested in Co-Chair next year.

Fifth Grade Party *(given by Kileigh Wolfe) *Co-Chair w/ Lindsay Foster*

- Date set for May 16, will be Carnival theme using games on hand in PTO closet, discussed using the Cotton Candy and/or Popcorn machines. **VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED**
**Jenny Caylor agreed to Co-Chair next year with Lindsay Foster during 9/16 meeting

Son Plus One Event*(given by Kileigh Wolfe) *Co-Chair w/ Lindsay Foster*

- Tincaps Baseball game in May, date TBD.
Emily Wrona agreed to Co-Chair next year during 9/16 meeting. **VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO CO-CHAIR NEXT YEAR.

Teacher Appreciation *(given by Lindsay Foster & Andrea Harrison)*PTO Board*

- Aug-Breakfast; Sept-Fair Donuts; Oct-Candy, Pringles, Cookies & Boo Game; Nov-Mini pies; Dec-Texas Roadhouse carryin lunch & fun game. **VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED FOR FEBRUARY SOUP CARRY-IN**

School Kits*(given by Emily Wrona)*Chaired by Jennifer Hagar*

- Will begin reaching out to teachers to gather lists in January, no further updates for now.
*Brandi Snider & Emily Wrona agreed to Co-Chair next year during 9/16 meeting.





Committee Reports (cont'd)

Skating Party (given by Lindsay Foster) *Chaired by Eric Bowser

- Date set for all K-5 students for 11/19 from 5-7:30. Will plan another for early spring.

Spirit Wear (given by Amanda McGrew)

- Orders are in, hoping for delivery before Thanksgiving. A second Spirit Wear order will be offered in Spring using same design, with hopefully a new color choices.



Ronald McDonald Pop Tabs (given by Andrea Sponhower) *Co-Chair with Lindsay Foster

- Contributions increased after recent flier, current updated count not available, hoping to hit GOAL = 1,000,000 tabs within the next couple years! (425,000 as of 9/16 meeting)

Student Engagement (given by Andrea Sponhower) *Co-Chair with Lindsay Foster

- Students received suckers at start of school & Fruit Snacks @ Halloween. They will receive a Candy Cane @ Christmas & Sunglasses @ Field Day.



Dine to Donate (given by Lindsay Foster)

- Panda Express D2D on 9/18 raised \$1,230. The next 'Texas Roadhouse/JRW' co-branded Gift card Fundraiser will be sent out soon with delivery before Christmas, plus a Dine to Donate @ Texas Roadhouse in early 2025.

Spring Fundraiser (given by Andrea Sponhower) *Co-Chair Alison Todd

- Discussed pivoting from a Catalogue to a Rise'n'Roll baked goods fundraiser with delivery goal of before Easter



Donuts w/ VIP (given by Lindsay Foster)

- To take place on 12/18 from 7:25a-8:00a in the school cafeteria

Principal's Report (given by Austin Harrison & guest Speaker Carrie Quaintance)



Mr. Harrison was joined by Carrie Quaintance, the JR Watson Instructional Coach/Literacy coordinator to provide insights on the new IREAD-3 Senate Bill 1 passed into law on 7/1/24. The I-READ-3 measures foundational reading skills consisting of 3 sections: Vocabulary, Nonfiction, & Literature. The test is a Third grade level test taken in March by 2nd and 3rd graders on a computer using the same test for both 2nd and 3rd grades. Once passed, *students will not need to take it again*. Administering the test to 2nd graders allows time for targeted interventions for "at risk" and "on track" students who did not pass in their 2nd grade year. 54% of JRW 2nd graders passed this test in the 23-24 school year, allowing intervention resources to focus on the 46% who will need to pass in 3rd grade. Students must pass the IREAD-3 before going on to 4th grade and are given 3-4 attempts prior to retention (some retention exceptions apply). Mr. Harrison shared for reference in his time at JRW, only 1 student would be impacted by retention under these new standards. Mrs. Quaintance shared how the Science of Reading curriculum (phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary, & comprehension) is taught beginning in Kindergarten as basic building blocks for fluency. Teachers use targeted assessments to pinpoint opportunities for growth in individual students throughout grade levels. More information & details on intervention processes will be provided at a later date.



The IDOE has set a goal of 95% proficiency (pass rate) by 2027 for the I-READ-3; JRW's pass rate for '23-'24 school year was 95.2%! Mr. Harrison, Mrs. Quaintance, & Michelle Wagner represented JR Watson in September at the Indiana Statehouse for recognition of this achievement. Mr. Harrison also shared that according to the US News & World Report, JR Watson has been named a Top elementary school, based on weighted measures, and is the only Elementary in DeKalb County to achieve this honor.

Next Meeting is 1/20/25 at 6 pm in the JRW Cafeteria

Meeting adjourned at 6:48pm

Minutes compiled by Emily Wrona, PTO Recording Secretary

