

WATCHUNG PTO MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2011 at Water and Wine Restaurant, PTO Meeting and Luncheon

Meeting was called to order by Edie at 11am

President – Edie Belcastro

- Thank you to Lisa Mobus for organizing the PTO Luncheon.
- Thank you to the Board of Ed, Mrs. Nunn, Dr. Resko, Dr. Malyska, the Executive Board, parents, volunteers and the new Incoming PTO Board
- Chair people please complete your binders. If you are continuing your position you can keep the folders but please fill out the form and volunteer list and give them to Michelle Hwang. The forms are available on the website under printable forms.
- After meeting with the Principals and PTO Executive Board, we are proposing the following End of Year gifts to Valley View and Bayberry (\$22,000 each school):
- Bayberry – two smartboards, 10 eReaders and covers at \$150 each for the eReader pilot program, and additional \$3000 for playground equipment and \$6000 for installation of playground equipment, \$1000 each for Art, Computers, Foreign Language, Gym, Music (both Choral and Instrumental)
- Valley View – portable smartboard for the Child Study team, 30 Texas Instrument Graphic Calculators at \$110 each for the 8th grade math classes, two new floor mats for the gym for \$1800, Study Island renewal for \$4400, \$200 for new letters for the outside sign, 10 eReaders and covers at \$150 each for the eReader pilot program, Elison machine \$500 for shapes for the 5th grade, \$1000 each for Art, Music (both Choral and Instrumental) and Industrial Arts, \$500 for each foreign language
- A motion was made to accept the 2010-2011 gift proposal by Lauren Krouk and Sue Ober seconded the motion. There was a lengthy discussion and all were in favor and the motion passed.
- Peggy Ellis made a motion to accept the new officers for next years Executive PTO Board and Lisa Mobus seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. Same for the Proposed Change to the By-Laws adding Sunshine Fund to 6E1 for Corresponding Secretary and shifting responsibilities between the Corresponding and Recording Secretaries. Michelle Hwang – President, Lauren Krouk -1st Vice President, Christine Ead - 2nd Vice President, Greta Santucci - Incoming Treasurer, Tiffany Brigante - Corresponding Secretary, Sue Ober - Recording Secretary

Second Vice President – Michelle Hwang

- We need volunteers for Bus Moms
- We are switching over the PTO Website

Treasurer – Judy Curiale

- The Treasurer's report is available and Judy can answer questions.
- Summary for the school year, gifts went up 50%, membership was up substantially, there were 20 fundraising venues and 90% of them were up in earnings.
- Judy is closing the books for the end of the year, anything outstanding please get receipts and forms to Judy ASAP
- Edie thanked Judy for doing an outstanding job as Treasurer

Recording Secretary – Regina McKenna Nadbielny

- The PTO minutes will be on the website soon.

Corresponding Secretary – Sue Ober

- Thank you for checking the PTO website. Please continue to go on the website weekly including the summer.

Committee Reports

- Scrips – Allyson Crystal – please get orders in
- Scholarship Committee – Tamara Benc and Peggy Ellis co-chaired. Peggy thanked the six members on the board. 70 seniors at the high school received applications, 13 asked for applications and four came back. Second place went to Logan Taylor who receives \$500 and First place went to Zoe Ann Malkin who had over 1200 hours of Community Service. Peggy thanked the Committee Members and the PTO on behalf of Tammy.
- Greta was in charge of Field Day popsicles.
- Judy Curiale still needs volunteers for the End of Year Staff Luncheon on the last day of school. There are a few outstanding needs for supplies and cooking.
- Thank you to Michelle Hwang and Lucy Hsueh for running Food Sales at Bayberry and Georgia Glasser-Nehls and Maria Carneiro for running Food Sales at Valley View.
- Lucy Hsueh announced that the last food sale of the year for Bayberry would be 6/17. She said Class Parents had been asking whether the PTO would donate bagels for the end-of-year parties and the answer is no. Last year Warren Bagels

- owed the PTO bagels from a snow day and from a day they missed delivery so the PTO offered them for class parties.
- Wendy Ruta asked how Committee Chairs are picked and Marianne Tyler asked how Class Moms were chosen. Edie explained that a volunteer questionnaire is included in the back-to-school packets and also available on the PTO website. She said some committee chairs identify their potential replacements. She said the new website, Paperless PTO, will make the procedure more automated.
 - Dr. Resko was asked if all 5th grade teachers are keeping their jobs. Her response was yes, and that they will all stay at VV.

Bayberry Principal – Mrs. Nunn

Mrs. Nunn began by thanking the PTO for its generous gifts and for all that was done for Teacher Appreciation week. She said there are a lot of class trips scheduled for June: 4th Grade- Liberty Science Center; Kindergarten – Turtle Back Zoo; 2nd Grade – a fossil dig at Poricy Park. She thanked Ms. Goldstein and Ms. Heller and the library volunteers for a successful Battle of the Books. The 4th grade play /Bayberry Farewell, The Nightingale, is scheduled for 6/15. We had perfect weather for field day. A father of a kindergartener and 2nd grader brought an 18-wheeler to school for students to visit. BB had “Aptitude for Art”, where talented 4th graders can showcase their artwork. She thanked the PTO for providing bagels for 3rd and 4th graders during the NJASK tests. An awards assembly is scheduled for the morning of 6/20. Report cards will be distributed the last day of school: 6/24. She is busy with plans for the new preschool program. There are still spaces available in both the 3 and 4-year programs so they are considering allowing some 3-day children. Monday 6/6 was move up day – 4th graders visited VV, kindergarteners visited BB and all the classes visited their next grade classrooms.

Superintendent – Dr. Malyska

Watchung Schools are doing a solar panel project (funded by the county). Panels will be placed on the roofs of both buildings. They will also be building a canopy and some ground level panels. Prior to the project both schools will have their roofs repaired. Dr. Malyska hopes her legacies will be solar energy, smartboards and e-books. She reported NJ is changing its tenure requirements, its pension programs and health benefits, and while this will bring some relief to taxpayers she is hoping it will not compromise the quality of people entering the profession.

This summer they’re ripping of the top layers of flooring in the VV APR (which has old water damage) and will be replaced with new solid line floor. They’re also installing new lighting in the BB gymnasium, with instant on/off, which is much more energy efficient. She is still interviewing to staff the pre-school and will be moving staff around in both schools. She said through “Rubicon Atlas” parents, students and faculty will have online access to high school curriculum.

She thanked the PTO for everything they have done this year and re-emphasized that the administration and PTO are partners. She announced the new school hours for next year: BB 8:45-3:25, VV8:15-2:55. She said VV would not be losing academic time, just hallway time – that homeroom would be combined with 1st period.

Valley View Principal - Dr. Resko

- The PTO hosted a delicious breakfast for the staff on May 1st in recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week.
- Keith Dunn spoke at an all-school assembly held on May 1st on Cyber-bullying, Social Networking and Texting. Scott Tallmadge, our new D.A.R.E. officer, coordinated this event.
- On May 3rd, Brian McDonald, consulting Occupational Therapist, participated in the Sunshine Foundation's Dreamlift trip. Approximately 50 chaperones and 100 chronically ill children with physical and cognitive disabilities from schools around the state flew from New Jersey to Florida for a fun-filled day at Disney World. All of this was accomplished within a 24-hour period of time!
- NJ ASK testing for Grades 7 & 8 occurred during the week of May 2nd with make-ups during the week of May 9th. Testing for students in grades 5/6 occurred during the week of May 9th with make-ups during the week of May 16th.
- The Student Council hosted a Cinco de Mayo luncheon for the staff on May 5th.
- PTO plant sale was held on May 6th.
- The Community Outreach Club is sponsoring a Food Drive from May 9th through June 13th. The collection of food will be donated to the Somerset County Food Bank.
- The fifth graders went to Buehler Space Center in Paramus for their class trip on May 16th.
- Spring Picture Day was held on May 17th.
- Pancakes with all the fixings and smiling faces filled the APR on May 18th as Dr. Malyska and Dianne Faucher prepared breakfast for the staff.
- The 5th grade SOAR students participated in the Warrenbrook Senior Center's 35th Anniversary Celebration on May 18th. Select members from the school choir also performed for the seniors. A book of quotes, *Never Too Late to Live and Learn*, was published and distributed. This book was created through a collaborative inter-generational endeavor with our students and the seniors.
- The band and choir students in grades 7/8 participated in a judicated event in Hamilton Township on May 20th. The band and choir both won the coveted Gold Music Award for their outstanding performances under the direction of Elizabeth Thompson and Angela Marcone. The students then enjoyed an afternoon at Great Adventure!
- The eighth grade car wash was held on Saturday, May 21st. The class raised \$1400 toward their Dinner Dance.

- Students in grades 5-8 participated in a Battle of the Books contest at Harding School on May 23rd. Fifth grade placed fourth and seventh grade placed 3rd. Eighth grade won first place!
- The Spring Band Concert was held on May 24th in the gymnasium. The Spring Choir Concert was held on May 25th in the APR. Both concerts performed to a full house. Student art and photography were also displayed throughout the school on these two nights.
- The sending district track meet was held on May 25th at WHRHS. Over 70 students participated in the various field events.
- Students in grades 6-8 participated in another Battle of the Books contest on May 25th at St. Vincent de Paul School in Stirling, NJ. Sixth grade tied for second place and seventh grade placed second. Eighth grade, once again, won first place!
- Transition meetings were held on May 26th with Bayberry teachers to plan for fourth grade students entering Valley View Middle School in September 2011.
- The sixth grade class trip was to Lincoln Center on May 26th to see the literary program, *Mythunderstood*.
- Select students took the "End of Year" Algebra test on May 26th.
- The Boys Baseball Team finished the season with a winning 8-3 record! The Girls Softball Team finished the season with one of their best records, 5-6!
- School was closed for the Memorial Day weekend on May 30th.
- Fire Drill and Security Drills – May 31
- Maggie Kieltyka – Teacher of the Year, May 31
- Rotary Track & Field Day – Cancelled June 1 & June 8
- Medieval Festival June 2
- 8th Grade Trip to Philadelphia – June 2-3
- Orientation to Fifth Grade – June 6
- Pursuit of Excellence – Concluded June 6
- Battle of the Books – Grade 5 – Second Place – June 7 Woodland School
- Christopher Mehl – Rotary Teacher of the Year, June 7
- Bus Evacuation Drills – June 8
- SOAR Students – Town Council Meeting – June 9 at 7:30 pm
- Field Day – Grade 7 – June 10,
- Community Outreach – Book Project – James Flynn School, Perth Amboy, June 13 am
- Parent Orientation – Grade 5, June 13 at 7pm
- Field Day – Grade 6 – June 14 am; Grade 5, pm Rain or Shine
- Board of Education Meeting – June 14 – 7:30 pm
- Algebra Finals – June 15- am
- Field Trip – Grade 7 – Bronx Zoo – June 16
- Student Council Speeches & Election – June 17 am/APR 8:15 am
- WBEA Retirement Get-Together – Stage House, Scotch Plains – 3:30 to 5:30 pm
- Poetry Readings – June 17 5A/5B in Library
- Powerschool Parent Access Disabled – June 18 at 12 noon

- Sports Assembly – 2pm – June 20 Gymnasium
- Awards Assembly – 2pm – June 21 Gymnasium
- 8th Grade Picnic/Yearbooks – 11 am – June 22 – Rain or Shine
- 5th Grade Class Parties – June 23 11:15 am – 12:30pm
- Graduation – 7:15 pm gym; Photo – 6:15pm APR – June 23 -- Dinner Dance, TBCC
- Last Day of School/Report Cards Distributed/ PTO Luncheon – June 24
- One Session Days - 12:45 dismissal on June 23 & June 24
- Board of Education Meeting – June 28 – 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Regina McKenna Nadbielny and Sue Ober
Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary