

WatersToday Board Meeting Minutes

December 13th, 2021

7 p.m. Open Meeting

WatersToday Mission Statement

WatersToday was created for the purpose of raising and administering money to support Waters Elementary School. Working collaboratively and respectfully with the Thomas J. Waters Elementary administration, faculty and Waters community, WatersToday strives to continually support, augment, and enhance the educational experience of Waters Elementary students. Our primary focus is to support the Waters ecology program and strategic school initiatives.

Attendance: Board members: Vanessa Summer, Cara Sullivan, Jennifer Davidson, Jessie Novak, Mary Gallery, Jesse Brannan, Poppy Brandes, Sam Kaune, Sarah Anderson, Jacqueline Gaines

Staff/Admin: Pete Leki, Amy Vecchoni, Peter Rutkowski

Public: Kristin Hanson

Secretary – Jacqueline Gaines

- Approval of November minutes
 - JG moved to approve November minutes, VS seconded, all in favor (JO abstained)
- Next Open Board Meeting March 14th, 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Presidential Team – Vanessa Summer and Jessie Novak

- JN gave an ontro to Waters Today: funding Ecology, Recess and Lunch Supervision, “PTA Plus”, we recruit volunteers
- VSgave an overview of our three main fundraisers: walkathon/ Pledge Drive (combined this fall), we raised \$120,000+ from that. In a normal year we would have the Maker Fair around this time of year. A smaller fundraiser but community building event. We could’t host in in-person in the school this year, but hope to bring it back next year. Big Night will be 5/20 this year(Little Big Night - an event for the kids will be near then)
- Staff Appreciation has been formed for this year. Tomorrow the staff appreciation committee will be going around with snacks and socks for the staff.

Waters Admin / Staff Updates

- PR: Working on after school planning for January and streamlining communications with ecology
- AV: thank you for all of your support and coordination of volunteers. We can’t do the art show in winter as normal. Will need volunteers in the future for other things though. Artsonia for digital portfolios can no longer be used to do digital safety regulations. Instead we will likely do an art show in the spring outside. Will definitely need volunteers for that.
 - VS: there is a Blg Night committee meeting this week to discuss theme

Ecology Program Updates –

- As Mr R mentioned, will be working together on website and communications
- Vendor status is process

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Volunteer Team –

- SA gave Book Fair Update - Big thanks for Hillary and Tina and the staff for their leadership on this event. Recruiting volunteers - using sign-up genius worked really smoothly. We had about 30 volunteers and got good feedback from teachers. PB: I wonder if it could be fewer toys and more books, but it's managed by Scholastic so maybe not. SA: we can do a reflection meeting to debrief and plan for next year.
- SA: The Committee Interest Survey: we got over 20 responses, so I am trying to do a warm hand-off to connect folks with the right people based on their interests. There is a lot of interest among the group in Big Night too, a few people interested in grant writing too
 - JD: will get you more info about January committee meetings for interested volunteers

Community & Events Team –

- JD gave overview of Community and Events Position - usually two people in this role, but just one this year. Responsible for coordinating events and liaising with sub-committees and volunteers
 - Big Night Overview - May 20 at Artifact Events, adults only fundraiser. Planning is ramping up for this.
 - January 20: Big Night open planning meeting for interested volunteers. Will be virtual.
 - Spring Community Event - Will be open for students and parents, at no cost. Jessie Novak will be one of the chairs for this, but she will need a co-chair. No details yet, so looking for someone with ideas for this. AV: could be a big outdoor multicultural celebration with local musicians/artists. Or tie it into the spring art show
 - Also looking for someone to take on walk-a-thon

Communications & Marketing Team –

- MG: We updated the website to have new emails on there. New teacher features are updated. Sam noticed a typo. If board members can check their areas and let me know if you see anything. Switched Green Notes to every other week and has the same open rates. Have done a few flyers sent home too. We've been having success with smaller asks recently, so maybe having opportunities for smaller ways to help out will be more accessible to people

Treasurers –

- Some Holiday Give Back contributions and pledge drive contributions have come in, and we've purchased a few teacher wish list items. Other than that just regular recurring causes right now
 - Timeless toys: \$234; Genevieve ~\$650

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- JD another request came in (another donors choose), will send your way

VS: Discussed a t-shirt contest with Mr. Rutkowski. Maybe if we do a spring event we could do a reveal at that spring community event and people could pre-order and pick-up then. We have to start the design content. JD: Could be student and/or community member, but needs to be a digital design. There's a parent who was eager to help with Maker Fair, but since that didn't work out, I can see if he would be up for this