

WatersToday Board Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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.

Meeting Information:

<https://meet.google.com/ehv-jjyt-gko>

Welcome/Board Introduction – Kortney Moore (5 minutes)

Updates - Jaime position TBD; Sherry stepping down

Secretary – Jacqueline Gaines (5 minutes)

- July minutes approval - Jacqueline moved to approve July minutes; Jaime seconded; all approved
- Directory info needed by 8/21
- Circle of Help follow-up discussion - will continue to follow up with Jaime on expanding circle of help to include camps, lessons, dance, etc.

Admin / School Liaison – Titia Kipp, Amy Vecchioni (10 minutes)

- Ms. Vecchioni updates - thank you to Amy, Mary, Hillary who are spearheading ordering. First order of \$3400 ready to purchase. Process for determining order included considering student choice, community members; social/emotional learning and behavior; social justice; robust Spanish language books; books for middle grades; Chicago authors. In art students will make books. Books likely will not be committed to certain classroom - can float among rooms.
- Ms Kipp updates -
 - District guidelines for remote learning include full school day, teachers will have lunch break. There will be synchronous teaching and learning sometime within the 5 hours block and engagement between teachers and students; awaiting updates from CTU/CPS negotiations. Will look different than spring remote learning.
 - Completion visit on 8/21 for addition project. Furniture will be delivered at end of the month. Teachers hopefully in the building by week of 8/31. Teachers will have open to teach from home or classroom.
 - Nature Play Space -facilities conducted site visit to review Alex's plans. Approved by CPS Facilities.

Treasurers – Sam Kaune and Jesse Brannan (5 minutes)

- Ended year raising \$219,000. Some money from last year rolled over (biggest chunk of that from RAS).

WatersToday Board Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

- \$40,000 reserved for nature play space
- ~\$63,000 “rainy day” fund
- \$128,000 ready to share with LSC (total fundraising minus ecology and library) - Kipp and LSC to allocate as appropriate.
 - Kipp: prioritized SBB spending at end of 20 AY over WT funds (so funds were not swept)
 - Vecchioni: purchased claymation suite and subscriptions in spring that can used remotely

Presidential Team – Kortney Moore and Hope Nichols (10 minutes)

- Shift to fundraising event schedule for 2020-2021
 - Pledge drive was scheduled for 9/24 start. Given remote learning, pledge drive will be challenging. Postpone to spring? Combine or not do in-person large event? Considering direct ask of large donors.
 - Kipp: reconsidering student fee
- Committees: volunteers and reporting
 - Tabling discuss - but consider new needs for this year in light of remote learning

Community & Events Team – Jaime Murphy and Sherry Mayberry (10 minutes)

- Updates shared above

Communications & Marketing Team – Mary Gallery and Cara Sullivan (10 minutes)

- Pledge Drive communications plan
 - Met with Sarah and Jesse to discuss pushing pledge drive and not communicating suggested \$750. Perhaps doing an incentive raffle for certain amount.
 - Potential direct mailer to homes if we aren't able to send things home IRL through student back pacs.
- Green Notes schedule for remote learning
 - Every two weeks and plan to go weekly at start of AY
 - Plan to do teacher & student spotlights to highlight remote learning and foster community and connection.
 - Kipp can take lead on getting teacher contributions
 - Student newspaper?

Volunteer Team – Maripa Abella and Poppy Brandes (5 minutes)

- Remote learning support for parents by parents. Sign-up sheet was distributed. Team of 4-7 tech support parents per grade level. Team for disseminating information.
- Poppy proposed using funds to hire consultant for remote learning

WatersToday Board Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

- Kipp and Alvarez listed additional resources and teacher trainings in the works. It's unclear at the moment what the needs are.

Q&A/Public Comment (10 minutes)

Q: In-person / socially distanced / outdoor meet-ups with teachers/ecology?

A: Ms Kipp: have to follow CSP guidelines

Will continue to think of creative ways to support the ecology program. Mr Leki doing virtual class visits? WT and Leki will brainstorm ways to engage ecology program during remote learning.

Sam: Let's learn from this unusual time and continue community-building initiatives even in a post-pandemic world.