**AJ WHITTENBERG PTA BOARD MEETING - FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025**

*Board members present:*

*Bonnie Barr - President Shannon Ellis - Treasurer*

*Cameron Brice - Principal Jonathan Siau - President Elect*

*Jeannine Cox - Secretary Sherlen Crawford - VP Outreach*

*Jessica Blake - VP Fundraising Drew Hincapie - Spirit Wear*

*Sarah Dowsley - Swap Shop Kathryn Knott - VP Communications*

*Kat Bougie - Volunteer Coord Mike Haffen - WatchDogs Coord*

*Allie Kramer - Hospitality Coord Jamie Stover - Room Parent Coord*

*Allie Munafo - Robot Ruckus Coord*

7:54 am call to order. A motion to approve the Board minutes dated February 7, 2025 after minor edits were discussed was accepted and seconded for approval. These minutes will be uploaded to the AJW PTA website.

*Bonnie Barr - President*

* April 10 will be 3rd general membership meeting in conjunction with Buddy Bench celebration
  + Want to provide food and dessert option
  + Start at the K4-5 playground - we’ll showcase the donors/sponsors there
  + Start 5:30pm
* Bingo Night was our 2nd general membership meeting
  + Members voted to approve nominating committee
  + Be sure to let nominating committee know of anyone wanting to get involved
* Board Discretionary Fund
  + Would like this to grow and help provide resources to get new programs off to a good start (it’s not allocated to any specific program)
  + It’s a general fund and all expenses have to be approved by the Board
  + Here’s where we can nurture an idea and see if works - if we don’t use it, it rolls over to next year
* Budget Discussion
  + How can we reflect field trip assistance within budget, can we decrease the field trip costs for everyone and show that PTA assisted w/this? Are there guidelines that have to be followed for this? Reach out to Mr Criss for discussion on working with OrangeSky and what parameters (can he see if specific parents need assistance and if so, how can we provide monetary assistance)
  + Is the Hospitality line item accurate and if there is overage, could it help towards providing food/dinner at General Membership meetings? Better Bingo prizes?

*Cameron Brice - Principal*

* Book fair is coming up - permission slips have to be completed for student to attend
  + Access to book fair during Robot Ruckus is not feasible
* Real Men Read was a great event
* March 28 Spring Pictures
* April 5 Imagine Upstate Festival - staff is handling volunteer slots
* April 24 Related Arts Night
  + Will inquire about how many volunteers are needed outside of staff volunteering
* Will continue encouraging teachers to apply for mini grants
  + Could move this grant opportunity to early next school year

*Sarah Dowsley - Swap Shop*

* March 28 - Swap Shop open
* April 4 next Swap Shop
* There are many items in Lost/Found - be sure to label names in items

*Shannon Ellis - Treasurer*

* Classroom mini grants - we need more teachers to fill out applications. It is $200 and only stipulation is to provide receipts
  + The budget was increased last year to fulfill this opportunity
  + Mr B has emailed all teachers with the details and special services were included this year
  + Jamie will send out an extra message via room parents
  + Ideas > alternative seating (wobble chairs), Scholastic memberships, math cubes, reading resources, stress balls
* Please review the 2025-2026 budget handed out (keep in mind Robot Ruckus real numbers are not in here yet) - need feedback
  + April 4 board meeting will vote on budget and then the budget will be sent out to the general membership for input before motions and approval
  + Dues are going up by a $1 so it’s reflected in budget

*Shannon Ellis - Care Closet*

* 3rd-5th Grades, a box will be in each homeroom to address needs (~15 boxes)
  + Sanitary products for girls, underwear for girls/boys
  + Shoes
  + Uniform bottoms
  + Snacks
* Teachers provide inventory and will let us know when the box needs replenished

*Allie Kramer - Hospitality Coordinator*

* Individual gifts bags were provided to all staff for Valentine’s Day
* Working on May 12 Teacher Appreciation Week which will include 10 minute massages and lunch
* Unsung heroes is popular
* Going to expense out the remainder of the year to see if we have any overage available to be used towards General Membership meeting food

*Kathryn Knott - VP Communications*

* Keep sending items to get posted and for newsletter postings, send by Thursday prior
* Market WATCHDog character

*Jessica Blake - VP Fundraising*

* Boosterthon is moving to the Fall and we still earn our discount for full serviceD
* We will not do Attractions next year
* Think about catalog fundraiser options for next year
* Currently marketing sponsorships to local businesses
  + Volunteers needed to help marketing
* For sponsorships, there’s a central form available along with a list of sponsors signed up so we don’t double-y pursue the same sponsor
  + Get sponsor names to Jessica or let her know if you need her to reach out to a specific company

*Sherlen Crawford - VP Outreach*

* AJ Readers
  + March 24 kickoff
  + Mondays and Fridays
  + 10 volunteers so far, initially pairing 2 students with each volunteer - goal is 15 volunteers to help lighten load to only volunteering one day per week
  + Sign up genius
  + Level 2 volunteer required
* Working on PTA cart to use for teacher incentives
  + Receive a behavior ticket and get to pick a prize from the cart (especially a different prize than the teacher’s prize supply)
* Beautification initiative
  + Refresh the ball court
  + Add balls
  + Paint robot on court

*Kat Bougie - Volunteer Coordinato*r

* Sending out March birthday club sign up
* Working on teacher lunch coverage during teacher appreciation week
* April 14 tentative for Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
* May 16 luncheon

*Mike Haffen - WATCHDogs*

* No events scheduled
* Robot Ruckus week - we have access to the WATCHDog character outfit all week to wear during car line to help market the program

*Jamie Stover - Room Parent Coord*

* Recently sent out a survey to the teachers asking for input on how the room parent is doing

*Drew Hincapie - Nominating Cmte*

* Promote and submit all nominations

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannine Cox