

# Waters Today Open Board Meeting

October 15th, 2018

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:** Jessie Novak, Sara Byerly, Jessica Kaune, Leah Rieger, Kortney Moore, Laura Earle, Paul Mullen, Vanessa Summer, Hope Nicholson, Rick Bolliger

**LSC Members:** Erica Smith

**Visitors:** Ron Dean, Carolyn Dean, Julie Peterson, Jaime Murphy

**Admin:** Ms. Alvarez

**Staff:** Pete Leki, Amy Vecchione

## Welcome – Sara Byerly and Jessie Novak

- Please spread the word about Halloween costume & accessory donations

## Secretary – Laura Earle

- Approval of September minutes – **unanimous approval**

## Admin Updates – Ms. Alvarez

- Spirit week is coming up; PJ, Country Western, Halloween, Rock Star, Mad Scientist Hair, 11/1 Dia de los muertos – maybe a picnic? Watch Coco? Bring a pillow and hang out? Still figuring out details
- Harvest Day; Volunteers need schedule for volunteer sign-ups
- Cardboard challenge was a hit – 149 people in attendance

## Ecology Update – Mr. Leki and Julie Peterson

- Introduction of Julie Peterson
- Creation of website to provide information in response to surveys and random city people measuring the garden
- Alderman Pawar supports the garden fully
- Rumors of initial plans coming in November?
- <https://www.watersecology.com> (not quite ready for widespread announcement)
- Pete & Julie are open to brainstorming

## Pledge Drive Update – Leah Rieger and Jessica Kaune

- Pledge Drive Updates
  - Kicks off with Harvest Day (10/26 – 11/14)
  - Bump Lou Malnati's Waters Dines Out event to 11/12 if possible
  - Adding Bloom @ Noon on Tuesday 11/6 with Jessie Novak
- Coffee Sales – Emily Bergstrom and Jaime Murphy will take over organizing
- Jaime will look into a greenery garland/wreath stand for the craft fair
- Brew Night? Perhaps shift to another month further from Big Night

## Volunteer Update – Vanessa Summer and Hope Nichols

- CPS Volunteer Application  
Sign up table at Parent Teacher Conferences, Nov 14th
- Volunteer Email Chain  
Sign up volunteers at Parent Teacher Conferences
- Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Events
  - Harvest Festival, October 26th
  - Pledge Fair Ambassadors, October 26th to Nov 14th
  - Day of the Dead Art Installation, Nov 1st
  - Book Fair, Nov 26 (set up) to Dec 1st
  - Holiday Craft Fair, Dec 1st
- Garden/Ecology info and help needed
- Waiting on email for final Harvest Day schedule

## Treasurer Update – Rick Bolliger and Paul Reschke

- Pulling together numbers for the 2018-2019 budget
- Erica: Coach stipends may be overallocated and could shift to fill art supply gap
- Using DonorBox for PledgeDrive with recurring donations and corporate match

## Communications Update – Kortney Moore and Jen Davidson

- School collaboration has been going great

## General Business – Sara Byerly

- Would be great to have someone to own a Grant-writing committee
- Julie will keep an eye out for grants associated with Chicago River

## Visitor Comments:

- Suggestion to have a specific day to push specifically for the garden – maybe post one of the garden videos? Maybe tie to a “national \_\_ day”? Maybe have “virtual” garden Wednesdays through the year? St. Geranium Day, etc?
- Maybe pass out seed packets for...something?