

WatersToday Board Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2020 at 7:30 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.

Zoom Meeting Information:

<https://uchicago.zoom.us/j/93437784841?pwd=dGNYNVNHQnJRZkE1S0dFU1RaZlkwdz09>

Password: Waters

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,93437784841# US (Chicago)

Welcome & New Board Member Introductions – Kortney Moore (2 minutes)

Welcome back Jen and welcome to Melaina to the board!

Secretary – Jacqueline Gaines (2 minutes)

- September minutes approval
 - Jacqueline moved to approved and Melaina seconded; all in favor

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

- Updates from Waters Elementary
 - LSC candidate forum completed, elections in November at report card pick-up (format TBD)
 - One month into remote learning
 - Construction to complete in one month
 - Events still happening (curriculum night, diverse learning info session, high school info night)
 - BAC elections completed
 - Nature Playspace work has begun
 - 19 boxes of books ready to go

Ecology Program Presentation – Pete Leki (10 minutes)

- Ecology updates:
 - Kindergarteners found potatoes
 - Ecology has been adapted for remote learning and field trips and field journals happening
 - Conversation about improving communications of all that is happening in Ecology

Presidential Team – Kortney Moore and Melaina Prest (5 minutes)

- Were planning to present on allocation of 2020-21 WatersToday funds by LSC

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- Budget committee meeting will be held on Monday at 8:30. It is a public meeting
- Kipp: 20th day has passed, but still waiting to hear back from central office if we are receiving any additional funds. Would like to wait to allocate WT funds until we hear from Central Office
 - Question from Kipp: Still a rainy day fund? Sam: Yes, about 40-60K
 - Alvarez: we are collecting wish list items and quotes from teachers
 - Discussion about how to communicate previous expenditures
- Circle of Help funds
 - Needs continue, and will continue through remote learning
 - Needs include childcare, technology, tutoring, assessments/test prep

Treasurers – Sam Kaune and Jesse Brannan (5 minutes)

- General Financial Update as of 9.30.20
 - ~\$3,500 donations this year, mostly recurring donations from last year's pledge drive
- parent/teacher party refunds issued when requested
- Funds spent this year include Ecology and COH
- Kipp will get clarification from central office on guidelines for fundraising during this time

Community & Events Team – Leah Rieger and Jennifer Davidson (10 minutes)

- Maker Fair/Pledge Drive Update
 - Pledge Drive combined with Maker Fair and moved to November 12-23 (individual donations and events with local businesses)
 - Goal: \$85,000 to fund ecology program
 - Same platform that Apple Fest used for small businesses and local makers; Donations also accepted through this platform
 - In-Store events (i.e. Timeless Toys will give percentage of sales); WT branded masks for sale
 - Two in-person events
 - Teacher reading at the Book Cellar
 - Fashion show at Genevive
- Big Night at Home May 22nd
- Virtual Cooking Class with Big Fork in the works

Communications & Marketing Team – Mary Gallery and Cara Sullivan (5 minutes)

- Teacher Feature getting positive feedback
- Please encourage folks to subscribe to Green Notes
- Pledge Drive communications plan
 - Will communicate that \$300/family would cover ecology
- Discussion about pros and cons of Green Notes distribution via Aspen

Volunteer Team – Maripa Abella and Poppy Brandes (no report)