

Jacob Wismer PTO  
Meeting Minutes  
April 12, 2011

**President's Report:** Robin called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. There were 18 people in attendance.

Robin welcomed everyone to the PTO meeting. Introductions were made, and Robin reviewed the agenda.

Robin reported that it is time to start taking nominations for the Joyce Richards Award which is the Volunteer of the Year Award. The award is given at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Robin also reported that we are in the process of heavily recruiting for PTO Board and PTO Chair positions. We are working on getting the slate finalized by the end of April. This slate will be finalized by the May PTO meeting and will be voted on at that time. We are still recruiting for Chair and Committee members.

Debbie said that if Robin emailed her a list of positions that are open, she would be happy to forward to the staff and ask for suggestions.

Robin, Kim, Joan, and Lori met today to make the first pass on putting together the calendar for the 2011-2012 school year. Robin would like the current board's assistance in filling out the building use forms for next year. Please get those done and sent to Julie by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Secretary's Report:** Jana motioned to approve the March minutes with minor changes. Deb seconded. The motion was voted on and passed.

**Principal's Report:** Joan reported that the staff is SO excited about the new Mobis. We got them so quickly and had training today. All but 2 teachers were able to be here today for the training. It is absolutely unbelievable what these things can do. Thank you SO much. We let Steve Langford, the Beaverton School District CIO, know that we have these in our classrooms and will let him know how it goes. JW is a pilot for the district with Mobis in all of the classrooms. The teachers were asking if they can take them home to practice. Joan is still deciding if she will allow them to take them home. Lori & Julie labeled all of the Mobis with paint with which classroom they belong to. They have to be programed to connect with each computer. So if they got mixed up, we would have to test each one with each computer until we found the right one. Thank you SO much that all grade levels are able to take advantage of this wonderful technology!

Joan asked Kit Seely if she would be interested in having the SmartBoards in the Special Ed Resource Room. Kit was so excited and happy that she almost cried.

Joan reported that she immediately posted the District proposed budget cuts on the Monday after the past PTO meeting. Nothing has changed since that posting. As changes are made, Joan will send out updates.

**VP of Fundraising Report:** Geralyn reported that the next thing we have coming up is a Curry Leaf restaurant night on Thursday April 28<sup>th</sup> for either lunch or dinner – dine-in or take-out.

Geralyn had a meeting with Marlo and Sherri last week. They are on track with being organized and sending information out to people for the Jog-A-Thon.

Marlo reported that Mr. Arnold will not be able to run in the Jog-A-Thon do to some physical issues. Mr. Kong and Ms. Newman will be running to give the students a goal. Marlo said that the flyer and the pledge envelope include information that the schools goal is for each child to raise \$15 in order to meet the PTO budgeted goal for the Jog-a-Thon will go home soon.

**VP of Community Events Report:** Kim reported that the Variety Show was awesome. Joan reported she will ask staff to help police the hallways and bathrooms, etc. next year. We will also begin at 6:00 instead of 6:30 next year so that it does not go so late.

Liz reported that Celebrate the Arts went off without a hitch on the new date (rescheduled due to the weather). Thank you to Melissa Gilley for all of her hard work to get the artwork displayed. Liz said that there were 64 performers. Every act had a current student appearance. The performers were all on schedule.

Liz also reported that we are in our last throws of Salvador Dali for Art Literacy. It has gone very well. Our next Art Literacy training is on Monday April 25<sup>th</sup>. The artist is Pieter Breugel. The students will use watercolor for this project. The lineup of next year's artists are: Joan Miro, Faith Ringgold, Carol Peter Faberge, Art of India.

**Volunteer Coordinators Report:** Margaret reported that we have over 7500 volunteer hours logged so far this year. The HelpCounter developer is going to change the system so that people can sign up for events on HelpCounter. Margaret also asked the developer if there could be another level of administrator so that the Chairpersons could access the system. The developer said that he would look into this for her.

Lakshmi reported that we are still in the process of recruiting chairs for next year. There are still about 8 open positions. These include: Field Day, Jr. Great Books, Clothes Closet, and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sendoff.

**Member at Large Report:** Jana reported that Staff Appreciation Week is the week of May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tobey reported that the big change from the last PTO meeting to this PTO meeting is that the PTO spent \$15,943 instead of \$11,006 to cover the cost of all of the Mobis. We had other sources of income in our budget that we had not been counting on (\$1K for T-shirts, \$1K for directories, etc.)

**Site Council/LSC:** No one from the committee could make it to the last LSC meeting. They had a meeting via email to decide on a date (May 1<sup>st</sup>) to begin accepting building use forms for next year.

Site Council has created a survey to be sent out for the Science Expo. We will be having Lego Robotics teams doing demos during the Science Expo as well as someone from Mad Science.

**Arts Edge Committee:** Pam Edens reported the Carrie Moore is going to be here in a few weeks. Jane Hamilton has graciously provided the tables in the Media Center with natural light for Carrie Moore and the students to use. Carrie will be here the whole month of May. Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will meet with her two times. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades will meet with Carrie 3 times. They will make pieces that go into a framework similar to stained glass. They will be hung on the posts over the library. Each child will receive his/her own pack of oil pastels as well as create a piece to bring home.

Jana spoke with Carrie at Celebrate the Arts. Carrie mentioned that she will need parent volunteers. Pam said that Melissa Gilley is working to coordinate volunteers for each class.

**PTO Liasons:** Deborah Starr reported that she is taking Labor Day very seriously this year because she is due to have a baby that day! Deb also gave grade reports:

**Kindergarten:** Maps, weather, +/- story problems, plants, and oviparous animals.

**1<sup>st</sup> grade:** Flat Stanley, geometry, healthy foods, Earth/recycling/geography, plants – planting their garden boxes.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Walking Field Trip to Bethany Village to study goods and services. Science week the 1<sup>st</sup> week in May – Inquiry Project & rotate through 5 projects. The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade has had a lot of new students from a variety of countries.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** Oaks testing, Eddie the Eagle videos, How to Help a Newcomer, Science Expo Projects.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** All about Oregon: geography of Oregon, Oregon Trail, Philip Foster Farm for a Field Trip, Music Program on May 12<sup>th</sup> about the Oregon Trail.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Getting ready for Biz Town on May 17<sup>th</sup>; working on Science Inquiry practice experiments; they had their Music program last week; Thank you, thank you for the Mobis!!!

**PE:** Kindergarten – Loco motor. 1<sup>st</sup> grade – games with manipulation. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – basketball. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades – Fit testing.

**Library Update:** Jane thanked Robin and the rest of the board for letting Jane come to talk with us. Jane believes that we will be the basis for the network to get help save our librarian position at Jacob Wismer. On March 15<sup>th</sup> a proposed budget district list was presented to the budget committee. Either ½ or all Library/Media Specialists (Librarian) will be cut next year. This means that there will be 1 Library/Media Specialist (Librarian) for every 2 schools or no librarians at the schools.

Jane said that one of the things that did not get communicated is what the Library/Media Specialists do. Please see attached for the long list of things that the Library/Media Specialist does, including direct instruction to 32 classes each week.

Jane showed us that if the Librarians are cut in ½ which activities would have to be cut.

Jane quoted from a Center for International Scholarship paper that, “schools w/o libraries minimize the opportunities for students to become discriminating users in a diverse information landscape and to develop the intellectual scaffolds for learning deeply through information.”... “a major research study, Effectiveness of Centralized School Library Services, involving 271 schools.... compared test scores of students in three learning environments: schools with classroom libraries, schools with centralized libraries run by non-librarians, and schools with centralized libraries run by librarians. Students in schools with centralized libraries managed by qualified librarians tended to score higher than students without centralized libraries or qualified librarians.”

What can we do? There is another listening session on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Even if people are not comfortable presenting, getting lots of people to show up will help a lot. If you do not feel like speaking and cannot make the meeting in person, there are other things that you can do. The district is keeping track of how many emails they are receiving from parents with regard to keeping the Librarians: Go to the District website: Departments/Business Services/District Annual Budget/2011-2012 Budget Process/Budget Input Form. The form tells you where to send it and how to email it.

Jane feels very strongly about Jacob Wismer’s library program. She loves the students and knows the name of every single student at Jacob Wismer – she even knows their names outside of school. Jane is available to answer any questions for any Jacob Wismer parents.

Charlotte, a JW parent, thanked Jane for her passion. Charlotte has been to the PTO in the past to find ways to be heard. Charlotte said that she is having a hard time understanding why the instructional time for students is being impacted instead of transportation for the children. Charlotte said that in other countries parents are responsible for getting their children to school.

Jane said that in the listening sessions the board said that their job was to listen and that she believes that they are listening. What Jane wants to impart to us is that there are small things that we as parents can do and there are big things that we as parents can do. Even if we just say that we feel that this program is very important to our children’s education. Once a program is dead, it is nearly impossible for it to come back. Even if we just write to the District letting them know that we don’t have the answers but that we feel strongly that this program is kept at our school.

Liz asked whether it would be appropriate for one of our Board Members or Chairpersons to come to the meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> to speak about the importance of keeping our Librarians. Jane said that yes it would be wonderful for someone from Jacob Wismer’s PTO Board would speak at the next listening session. Jane said that the meeting starts at 6:30 and that someone would need to be there before 6:00 to sign up to speak.

**New Business:** No new business.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.