

Jacob Wismer PTO Meeting Minutes January 10, 2012

President's Report: Kim Beaton called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. There were 14 people in attendance. Kim thanked Ruth Deal and Delaram Adyani for the Safe Routes to School information presented before the meeting. Introductions were made.

Kim highlighted the current issue of PTO Today magazine, in which Jacob Wismer (JW) School's art programs are described. Melissa Gilley was quoted and has received calls from around the country asking for information.

Kim said that action is being taken to expand the treasurer role because the role's volume of work and to match current recommended accounting practices. There will be a formal and public process to review the proposal to add the position and implement the addition. Assuming the new position is approved, the current treasurer, Reena Akkal, will continue to perform the banking function and the additional treasurer will perform the accounting function. Chitra Tovinkere has volunteered to be nominated for the added treasurer role.

Kim reviewed the agenda. The PTO received a poster with individual thank you notes written by the students of Mrs. Gilchrist's class to express appreciation for the new printer.

Secretary's Report: Geralyn Kerprich motioned to approve the December 12, 2011, minutes. Reena Akkal seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Principal's Report: Principal McFadden said thank you for the computer purchase that was approved at the December meeting. Joan wasn't been able to attend the December PTO meeting because she had another meeting that she had to attend that was at the same time. The Beaverton School District community survey regarding the budget closed January 3rd. Principal McFadden don't have any details about what the district will be doing regarding the budget. There will be shortfall of at least \$35 million. The fall levy vote to raise funds failed with a margin of only 1,200 votes. Another levy will probably not be attempted in the spring. The next attempt will likely not be until next school year. It looks like the central office can't cut any more so cuts will be more visible in the schools next year.

At Jacob Wismer, average class sizes by grade level are: Kindergarten: 26.75 students; 1st grade: 23.4; 2nd grade: 28.2; 3rd grade: 27.8; 4th grade: 24.6; 5th grade: 31. Total Jacob Wismer enrollment today is 750. The effort has been to try to keep full and half day kindergarten class sizes equivalent, so some students from half day have been moved to full day.

The Citizenship Honor Roll is going really well and appears to be having a very positive effect on children's behavior. Between 2:30 and 2:45 p.m., kids whose Exceptional Eagle chart is completed turn the chart in and receive a prize. There is celebration and pictures of the students are posted on the school Web site. 154 students have completed their first chart. Two kids have done 2 charts. Five Rave Review (purple paper) slips=1 Exceptional Eagle sticker. Joan is not seeing many children referred to office for problems.

The school has received the 3rd and 5th grade Naglieri scores and the Sandford scores for 4th grade. The scores are being mailed to parents by U.S. Mail for confidentiality. TAG (Talented and Gifted) coordinators will let parents know what students are eligible for the program.

VP of Fundraising: Geralyn Kerprich said that there will be a restaurant fundraiser on Friday, January 27th, 6:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. at Biscuit's Café in Bethany Village. The PTO will receive 10% of proceeds for sales where the fundraiser flyer is given to the restaurant wait staff person.

Geralyn said that she got an idea from another school to do a scholarship each for a Westview and a Sunset graduate who attended Jacob Wismer. She thought it would be good community building. Geralyn made a motion that the JW PTO start a \$250 scholarship to be given to a Westview graduate

and \$250 to a Sunset graduate who has attended Jacob Wismer Elementary School. Melissa Gilley seconded. The motion passed.

VP of Community Events: Melissa Gilley said that the 5th graders are fundraising for activities including NW Outdoor Science School. They plan to have a "pancake feed" to raise money on Saturday, February 4th in the morning. Donations accepted. Dads will be flipping pancakes. The 5th graders will be serving and accepting tips for the 5th grade class. Under 3 free, but no sausage. \$7 per ticket. All you can eat pancakes. Chitra asked if could look into vegie sausage. Melissa said will check into and that had been exploring. Thank you to everyone who bought candy. Made about \$1,700. Need \$6,000. Wilsonville RV and Boat Storage made \$100 donation to help buy paper products. Other business sponsorships are welcome.

Lynn Hartigan said that there will be a free Family Movie Night January 20th at the school. Refreshments will be sold. Student Store will be open. There will be a free raffle to win a movie basket. Funds will go to 5th Grade Outdoor School. Please come through the school's front doors. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Volunteer Coordinators: Margaret said that Nina gathered 55+ coats for Clothes Closet.

Member at Large: Nothing to report at this time. Teacher appreciation coming up.

Treasurer's Report: Reena distributed the Profit & Loss statement. The PTO has income of \$56,304.24, which is more than expected for this point. The computers that were just bought aren't shown because receipts haven't been received yet.

Site Council/CEC: Joan said that the Site Council and Community Engagement Committee are now combined. Next meeting is this Thursday. She will handle test reports. Brian Schnell will run the rest. Main goal is increasing community involvement in the school, largely due to budget cuts.

Arts Committee: Kim said the training that Liz presented was awesome and described some details about the training. Denise Phillips is singing associated songs and music. The teachers are reading an associated book.

Kim read news from Liz Caswell, which included the following:

The Art Literacy training for artist Faith Ringgold was on January 9th. The training was well-attended! The project is a "quilted" pattern frame around a 4x6 photo that students bring of themselves. The unit includes reading Ms. Ringgold's book Tar Beach aloud in class, and learning her song, "Anyone Can Fly." The curriculum also ties in to themes for Martin Luther King Jr Day, and for Black History Month in February. The Ringgold unit goes through Feb. 23rd.

Kim Beaton and Liz Caswell picked up the school's new Dell laptop that will be used for Art Literacy from the District on Jan. 5th at a Beaverton Education Foundation Celebration at the AVA Rostaria. It is now being inventoried. It will be used it for our next unit on Fabergé. Thanks to PTO for finishing the fundraising drive through the BEF.

Liz is looking at changing servers for online registration for the March 1st Celebrate the Arts, since the former website ran through Verizon. Liz anticipates being ready to start accepting registrations on Jan. 20th. Instrumental performers can register to play a piece for the music program, and registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Deadline to submit a registration will be Feb. 14th, and the schedule will be distributed by Feb. 20th. The registration link will be on the Jacob Wismer and PTO home webpages, and news of the music will be well-advertised and communicated.

Kim said that the committee is still working on finding an Artist in Residence for May of this year. Today they interviewed Ellen Whyte, a singer. Also will meet with Kaaren Pixton. She does collage and painting and uses bright colors. Next year's Artist in Residence is planned to be Portland TAIKO.

PTO Liasons: Librarian Jane Hamilton relayed reports of what students in various grade levels are doing and passed on big thanks from everyone in every grade for the new printers.

Kindergarteners have been focused on the achievements of Martin Luther King Jr., habitats, and learning about winter animals' behaviors through studying trees and how they are connected to animal life. Each kindergarten class is making a tree out of recycled materials to allow the children to sort animal homes by their winter behavior characteristics. The **2nd graders** did planet presentations, which included oral speeches, reports, and a visual such as diaramas, mobiles, Powerpoint slide shows, originally-created board games, DVDs and posters. The **3rd graders** had their "wax museum" and are doing inquiry and engineering design for science and a comprehension focus, writing in various genres, geometry and learning about national symbols. The **4th graders** are doing an owl unit, dissecting owl pellets and will go on a field trip to the Audubon Society in the spring.

Music teacher Denise Phillips and Jane in **Library/Media** have been working with the 5th graders to get ready for their program of skits and songs about U.S. history on February 2nd. There will be one program in the afternoon and one in evening. Also in music, the 4th graders are beginning to use recorders and are starting a program about the Oregon Trail, 3rd graders are learning about scales and singing some patriotic songs, 1st and 2nd graders are studying new rhythms with songs about snow and singing songs about Martin Luther King Jr., and kindergarteners are playing drums to the beat and singing a Chinese New Year song with a lion dance.

Additionally in **Library/Media**, 3rd-5th grades have started the Oregon Battle of the Books. Jane has reviewed sportsmanship and emphasized that the points earned are more important than which individual team wins. There will be one team who will go to regional. Jane is starting to cover the Dewey Decimal system in grades 2-5. She has also been emphasizing that the Caldecott and Newberry awards for literature will be announced in January.

Jane relayed art teacher Pam Edens' report for **Art**, including thanks from Pam for supporting the purchase of materials for Pam to do the art literacy Henri Rousseau Landscape project. All grades are creating a jungle landscape that includes a jungle animal. The project's learning targets are creating a piece that makes sense (ex. no giraffes in a pond); placing objects in the fore-, mid-, and background; overlapping; using line, shape, color value, form and texture; drawing by observation, increasing independence (ex. creatively fixing a mistake and continuing work) and doing one's best. The kindergarteners through second graders seemed to really enjoy mixing the tempera paint and discovering new shades of color. The 3rd-5th graders really seem to enjoy having success and taking great pride in drawing and coloring the animals.

New Business: No new business. Next meeting will be on the 1st Tuesday of the month due to Valentine's Day.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.