

Jacob Wismer Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)
Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2011

President's Report: Robin Muhlheim called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. There were 24 people in attendance. Attendees introduced themselves. Robin reviewed the agenda. Robin handed the gavel to Kim Beaton, passing on the role of PTO president to her. Kim then led the meeting.

Secretary's Report: Liz Caswell motioned to approve the May 10th minutes with no changes. Jana Hiser seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed.

Principal's Report: Principal Joan McFadden thanked the new board. She thanked the PTO chairs of the Jog-a-thon & the 5th Grade Send Off and P.E. teacher Colin Arnold and Shanna Lonquist for coordinating Field Day. She said that all of the events went great. The kids were very excited when they saw the 5th Grade Send Off slide.

Joan explained that the Beaverton School District has announced continued staff reductions for Jacob Wismer Elementary School (Jacob Wismer), which makes support for the upcoming Local Option Levy very important to the school. The assistant principal role was already eliminated before the 2010-2011 school year. The counselor role at Jacob Wismer is planned to be reduced from the one full time counselor position in 2010-11 to a ½ counselor position in 2011-12.

Based on District enrollment projections, Jacob Wismer fourth and fifth grade class sizes will increase to 31-32 students per class, maybe higher. Jacob Wismer is losing temporary employees Kat England, Rachel Haag, David Kong and Sabreena Newman. Jacob Wismer used to roll over such temporary staff to next year. Now all are laid off effective at the 2010-12 school year end. All are exceptional employees. If Jacob Wismer has a vacancy, they can be considered.

Joan stated that in 2011-12 there will be four furlough days. One is the Friday before school starts. The staff has said that day is always very busy, so the staff has asked if there can be time to do preparation on other days. The other three days are a day added to winter break, the Friday before Memorial Day, and a day at the end of the school year. The staff does lose the pay for those four days.

She emphasized that the staff reductions and furloughs support the need for the passage of the Local Option Levy. Passage of the Levy will allow important services to be funded and a stable budget. A parent representative is desperately needed to help coordinate efforts to support passage of the levy. Anyone interested can contact Joan.

Joan gave gifts to outgoing board to thank them for their service.

Joan announced that after 2011-12 there will not be “looping” at Jacob Wismer (“looping” is where students in a particular class stay with the same class of students and teacher for two years). Joan and others have been examining Jacob Wismer learning targets, materials and learning outcomes. Jacob Wismer has a huge block of kids who are exceeding learning outcome expectations. There are some children who are stuck. Sometimes a teacher’s teaching style doesn’t match with a child as well as another teacher’s would. With looping, it’s logistically very hard for a child to change teachers mid-loop. The child’s social relationships also need to be considered. Eliminating looping will allow children to experience a fresh start each year with a new teaching style. It is also hard to introduce a new teacher with looping in place.

Joan explained that she brought up the idea of eliminating looping to the Site Council meeting. Joan said she offered the idea of going through one more cycle of looping after this one. The Site Council members thought it should be eliminated sooner. Joan said that the teachers should be surveyed. 70% of teachers wanted to stop looping.

Nina Kelley asked why there will be larger 4th & 5th grade class sizes next year. Joan said that this year there are five 4th grade and five 5th grade teachers. The school must reduce that by one per grade, so there will be four teachers each at the 4th & 5th grade levels. If the Local Option Levy passes, Jacob Wismer could get five teachers at each grade, which would bring class sizes to about 25 per teacher.

Second grade teacher Debbie Starr noted that The Oregonian just had an article about a “cool school” state legislative bill that would provide funds to schools for energy conservation.

Nina asked when Jacob Wismer would get money if the Levy passes. It was reported that if passed, the money from the local option levy would be released for the 2012-13 school year.

Sara O’Donnell asked what the Jacob Wismer Levy parent representative would do. Joan stated that the parent representatives would plan & coordinate a phone bank and / or canvassing. Up until the Local Option Levy is actually filed, Joan & staff can talk about the Levy. The vote on the Levy will be in November.

VP of Fundraising Report: Geralyn Kerprich said Divine Yogurt mailed a check, that but she isn’t sure of the exact amount of it. It’s possibly \$100. Jog-A-Thon was a smashing success. Thank you to Marlo Mcilraith, who signed on to co-chair again next year. Treasurer Tobey Nelson said that \$12,066 was raised and \$11,400 had been budgeted to be raised. This means the Jacob Wismer PTO is in great shape for next year’s capital projects.

VP of Community Events Report: Lynn Hartigan said she had nothing to report. Shannon Todd-Olson said that four Carnival chair positions remain open. There will be 50 volunteers from the high school Key Club helping to staff the carnival, so parents aren’t going to have to work actual events nearly as much as last year. Raffle,

Decorations, Setup/Takedown and Budget chair positions are open. There is a project plan, forms are predone--much is already done so things are easier than in the past. The materials are on a CD. At the time of the meeting, the date of the Carnival was set for Sept 30th (notetaker's edit: now changed to October 7th). It is earlier in the year this year than past. They tried for warmer weather. Raffle preparations have started. Timbers and Portland Ballet tickets are done.

Geralyn asked if the PTO can reach out to the incoming kindergarten parents via Help Counter. Potential volunteers can be told the chair positions will only require a few hours a month. Margaret Littman said that most of next year's kindergarten parents' data won't be in HelpCounter until JumpStart in August unless they hear from someone to log in. There are 12 people on the committee. Volunteers won't have to work the whole night of the carnival.

Volunteer Co-Coordinator Report: 2011-12 Co-Coordinator Nina Kelley stated that Jump Start will be on August 24th, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and August 25th, 2-6 p.m. There will be a meeting on June 15th. Nina will contact Carnival, Art Literacy, and other committee representatives to be at a table at Jump Start to tell parents about what that person's committee does. On the day before Jump Start help will be needed with packet stuffing & preparations.

Continuing Co-coordinator Margaret Littman said she met with Nina and showed her the new HelpCounter volunteer scheduling system features. She and Nina will split things in volunteer coordinator roles between the two so that one is a primary contact for some things and the other for other things. Both will be available to help with everything, but this way there will be a designated contact person. She said they still have things to update for the Web page. They are focusing on getting parents whose children are new to Jacob Wismer signed up in HelpCounter.

Member-at-Large Report: 2010-11 Member-at-Large Melanie Henstrom and 2011-12 Member-at-Large Crysta Dorkin had nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Tobey Nelson said that the PTO needs to vote on the 2011-12 PTO budget. She displayed the 2011-12 budget for the meeting attendees to see. There are no big changes from last year's budget. The carryover is smaller than what it was last year, which is good. The plan is to bring in \$43,305 and spend \$43,305. In 2010-11, about \$10,000 was received through Write-A-Check. For 2011-12, the budget plans for less Write-A-Check income. Less income than 2010-11 is also budgeted for 2011-12 for Innisbrook and Jog-A-Thon. Tobey noted that copies of the budget are available. Regarding the Cub Scouts, the PTO in the past agreed to charter it so that it could get money from Intel volunteer hours. (Intel gives the Jacob Wismer PTO money for every hour of volunteering an Intel employee does at Jacob Wismer.)

Student Store: This year for the 5th Grade Send Off & Student Store, the money came through the PTO rather than through the school's student body funds as it has in the past. As in previous years, decisions about how the money was spent were made by the

send-off committee. The 5th grade send-off committee wanted to fully fund Biz Town this year. In the past parents had written a check. The student store profits were used to help fund Biz Town. Student Store has to have a certain amount of money to have enough to buy supplies. Student Store doesn't have a high profit margin due to it being an educational activity. Nevertheless, \$1,300 was raised and was used for Biz town (which cost \$2002). Additional money from cookie dough sales and a skate event covered the remaining cost of Biz Town and the 5th Grade Send-Off celebration. Melissa Gilley asked about money rolling over for next year to those categories. Tobey said that there are several hundred dollars left over and the plan is to keep it separate. The PTO Treasurer has the money, but the 5th Grade Send-Off committee makes the decisions.

The PTO budget for 2011-12 was presented. A carry-over of \$2,205 is all that is needed to make the budget balance for next year. Melissa Gilley motioned to approve the 2011-12 budget. Liz Caswell seconded. The motion was voted on and approved.

Site Council/Local School Committee (LSC): Joan said that there are positions open on Site Council. Send an email to her if interested. At last the last Site Council meeting, field plans & looping were discussed. LSC went through many building use apps. March deadline helped for getting it done. It seems everyone pretty much got what wanted. There were about 25 applications. The LSC is responsible for reviewing applications for building use after school hours, including outside facilities. There are set rental fees for facility & equipment. Available space is filled first come, first served. LSC is a Jacob Wismer local school committee.

Site Council reviewed student data and a school improvement plan. Special Ed students haven't done as well as in the past. There are 20 students who don't speak English at all. There is a need to prepare teachers for helping those students.

Arts Edge Committee: Art & Literacy Teacher Pam Edens expressed appreciation for Jacob Wismer's wonderful artist in residence, Carrie Moore, and the parents who volunteered. The 4th and 5th grade mobiles are being completed. Carrie thought of a way to display to integrate the various displayed hanging art work as a seaweed/ocean idea. The kindergarten, 1st, second grade panels are 2 sided. The 10-11 panels will be hung from the wooden beams. There have been favorable comments from the students, teachers and parents.

Arts Edge goal for this project was an installation, the students "getting dirty" and immersed in the art, enjoying the process, and doing something in fine arts. Kim said Carrie was amazing with the kids. Carrie will be back to tighten wires and do other follow up.

Liz Caswell said that Art Literacy is done for the year. There were 3,218 projects done for the program this year, including volunteer training. There is a remainder of \$1,100 in Art Lit's budget. It will be carried over to next year. A new lap top & projector are needed for Art Lit. The current machine keeps getting error messages. A fundraiser has been

completed to provide money for a new lap top & projector. Liz will find out later exactly how much was raised. I-Shuann Warr is the 2011-2012 co-chair. Len Mathis will help design the projects again. Liz is hoping to use Mobis in the classroom for Art Lit.

PTO Liaisons: Debbie Starr shared reports from the various grade level teachers:

- The kindergarten teachers are proud of their students' academic, social and emotional success over this year.
- The 1st grade teachers expressed thanks for the Jog-A-Thon parent volunteers and to the PTO for the Mobis, \$100 and field trip support. The 1st grade classes to a field trip to the zoo and researched animals. Thanks to the PTO for the field trip money. The students worked with 3d shapes. Mrs. Gatewood's class did a play.
- The 2nd grade teachers thanked the PTO for the money for science week, which went fabulously. The second grade classes took a walking field trip Bethany Village, which went well. The business representatives said that the kids were well behaved and that they hoped Jacob Wismer would do the field trip again.
- The 3rd grade teachers thanked the PTO for the Jog-A-Thon and the Mobis.
- The 4th grade students have been studying the Oregon Trail. A Jr. Achievement event is planned for fall. There are thoughts about the Outdoor School for next year.
- All of the Physical Education classes have been getting outside. The students have been working with clay in Art and using rhythm instruments in Music. In Library, they have been doing "Read-Ins" and checking in books.

On Thursday there will be We Care assemblies. It will be time for the students to focus really feeling good about themselves.

Colin Arnold provided an update on the Morgan family donation of \$5,000. There is \$2,400 left. A laptop was purchased for P.E. to use with the projector. A weed wacker was purchased for areas that Tualatin Hills Parks doesn't maintain. The P.E. sound system was replaced with an Ipod touch and a new speaker system to go with it. Two new pop up tents were purchased for Jog-A-Thon events, etc. The other was breaking a lot. Colin expressed great appreciation for Mrs. Morgan's donation.

Colin said thank you to the PTO for supporting Jog-a-Thon; the Volunteer Coordinator was a huge help. Then P.E. teacher can focus on setting up games. The financial support for the events was also appreciated.

New Business: No new business was reported.

Enthusiastic expressions of appreciation were shared toward PTO volunteers, chairpersons and board members. Gifts were given to Robin and others. A YouTube-worthy choral ode was sung to Robin to the tune of Fleetwood Mac's "Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow" complete with cowbell percussion.

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