

Jacob Wismer PTO  
Meeting Minutes  
March 8, 2011

**President's Report:** Robin called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. There were 23 people in attendance. Introductions were made, and Robin reviewed the agenda.

Robin reported that this is the time of year that we are busy recruiting for PTO board members and Chairpersons for next year. The timeline is that in April we will put together the slate of candidates. In May, we will vote on the new board members. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in June is when the new board takes over.

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

**Principal's Report:** Joan told Kim she did a good job on the minutes. Joan thanked Liz and Melissa for their work on Celebrate the Arts and thanked them for their flexibility in changing the date.

Joan said that we are having some thefts in the building. The projector in the library disappeared as well as some die-cuts in the workroom. We will be shutting the fire doors and making sure things are locked up each day.

On Monday the District is going to be releasing to administrators a list of itemized budget cuts. There is a list of more than 40 items. We need to cut \$33 Million. Any line item up until that dollar amount will be cut.

Joan gave definitions and purposes of the Site Council, the PTO, and the Local School Committee:

Site Council

The purpose of the Jacob Wismer Site Council is to promote and support the success of all students by:

1. Setting a positive direction for the school that is consistent with adopted core values.
2. Collecting and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data to guide decision-making.
3. Making school improvement decisions that build upon best practices and existing successful programs when they are applicable.
4. Making effective decisions about the allocation of staff development resources.
5. Setting ambitious yet achievable goals that target the highest priority improvement needs.
6. Continuously monitoring the improvement plan/progress and redefining goals as appropriate.

The Site Council will not concern itself with administrative issues related to personnel or day-to-day operations.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

The objectives of the PTO shall be to:

1. Promote education, communication and understanding among the students, parents, staff, administration, and community of Jacob Wismer Elementary School
2. Supply and facilitate parental and community aid to the School;
3. Aid the School in projects and public information as they relate to the School's educational programs;
4. Promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, and community;
5. Promote parental support for and cooperation with the teachers and administrators of the School in education of the children and youth enrolled in the School
6. Enhance and augment the basic curriculum through volunteerism and student enrichment programs.
7. The PTO shall not seek either to direct the administrative activities of the School or to control its policies.
8. The program of the PTO shall be education, fundraising, and social and community activities.

### Local School Committee (LSC)

1. The LSC shall determine the use of school property for civic purposes consistent with its primary use.
2. The LSC shall visit the school at frequent intervals, report to and advise the School Board concerning the progress and needs of the school and the wishes of the people concerning the school.
3. The LSC shall recommend improvements in school property.
4. The LSC may recommend rejection for the ensuing year for any teacher assigned to the school by the School Board.

**VP of Fundraising Report:** Geralyn reported that we raised \$343 from our Pizza Schmizza night. Geralyn said that we are getting a lot of positive feedback from this restaurant night. Thank you to teachers and staff for supporting our restaurant nights. The students really enjoy seeing their teachers at these events.

Geralyn is working with Curry Leaf to have a restaurant night on April 28<sup>th</sup>. This will be Curry Leaf's first school fundraiser night.

We will do the Innisbrook fundraiser one more time next year. Brenda said that she will head this up again next year.

Geralyn is looking at the possibility of doing Scrip next year.

Mr. Arnold and Mr. Kong have both agreed to run laps to provide goals for the students to beat. Marlo needs to get flyers approved for the Jog-A-Thon. Marlo asked what the flyer should read with regard to how the money raised will be used. Tobey suggested that the flyer reads: PTO Funded Events, Capital Campaign, and Technology.

**VP of Community Events Report:** Jana reported that the Variety Show is on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Applications are in progress.

**Volunteer Coordinators Report:** Margaret reported that we are working on recruiting for PTO board positions and that we have several good candidates for many of the positions but that there are still some open positions.

Lakshmi reported that many of the chair positions have been filled, but that we are still recruiting for several more.

**Member at Large Report:** Geralyn reported for Melanie that they need 2 more salads for the teacher appreciation lunch on Friday.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tobey reported that not much has changed since last month. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders earned \$857.56. We have brought in almost \$1K from restaurant nights and Piccolo Mondo shopping. Please see attached report for more details.

**Site Council/LSC:** There will be no Site Council or LSC meeting this month.

**Arts Edge Committee:** Liz reported that Celebrate the Arts will be held on Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup>. The music program did not change much at all. It is all good to go. Melissa reported that her only concern is that some of the art is losing its glue stick. She is going to go around and make sure that everything is glued. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is going to have a rocking pod. Melissa is not going to say any more. You will have to come on Thursday to see. Carrie Moore, Artist in Residence, will be in the Gym showing her work and talking about what the kids will be creating come May.

Liz reported that Art Lit – Yani Wang finished on February 28<sup>th</sup> and that we had a great experience. Liz wants to thank all of the volunteers for teaching the students Chinese brush painting.

Training for Salvador Dali was done yesterday. Thank you to Len Mathis, a retired art teacher, who lives near Jacob Wismer and volunteers on the Art Literacy Committee. Len came up with many of the ideas for this art project for the students. Salvador Dali finishes on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

The next artist for Art Literacy is Pieter Bruegel. The training for this is on Monday April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**PTO Liasons:** Collin reported that Mrs. Gatewood and Mrs. Perrin were attending this meeting and would report for the first grade.

1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Mrs. Gatewood reported that they have new engineering benchmarks for 1<sup>st</sup> grade. They are focusing on higher level thinking skills and on trial and error. They are also studying earth science and plants. The first grade will be leaving the polar things up until Friday.

Mrs. Perrin said that they are studying healthiness and how to keep their bodies healthy. All of the first grade teachers wanted to share with the parents that they love working here. They love to come to work and have good friends in their peers and the parents. They are grateful that Joan gives them the freedom they need to teach the way they want.

2<sup>nd</sup> grade – Writing prompts; cursive.

3<sup>rd</sup> grade – Mobile museum; local native tribe; science expo.

4<sup>th</sup> – Regions; land forms; regions of Oregon.

5<sup>th</sup> – Biztown lessons; science inquiry; developing their own business selling within their classes; will have an international business day eventually to sell to the other 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes.

Music – Mrs. Phillips is still getting back to full time after recovery from her accident. The fifth grade is working on a music program.

Art – Mrs. Edens reported that Nina Kelly is the Volunteer Coordinator for the Literacy and Art Class. A huge thank you to Nina!

Kindergarten:

- Finished their Mixed Up Chameleon using texture rubbings.
- Just starting their Gertrude McFuzz pictures with feathers galore inspired by Dr. Seuss

First Grade:

- Completed three sunflowers now displayed off the railings by the computer lab entrance that were inspired by Eric Carle. Earlier in the year the kids created the paper when reading many of his books and seeing his video.
- In the middle of students replicating Kente cloth through paper weaving. This is inspired by the book, "The Spider Weaver." Focused on the key elements of a legend.

Second Grade:

Illustrated their current read-aloud in their classroom using a clear image in their mind about the story. (comprehension) Students chose the type of medium to use that would be appropriate for their picture and the amount of details: tempera paint, colored pencils, or markers. The students then put their pictures in the order of the story – difficult at times. Now, they are being mounted on long paper as a visual of the book.

Third Grade:

Students have painted color wheels starting with primary colors, primary and mixed their own secondary colors, and most classes will paint a primary, secondary, and tertiary color wheel. Other activities such as cardboard printing using two primary colors are included. All classes are making a "Color Study Book.

Fourth Grade:

Students are finishing up their Art Books they will use this year and next year as a place to hold their learning and as a sketch book. It is a collaged composition book that had to include: their name in large letters, a picture of something about art, three things they love – all cut out from magazines. They just added their Table of Contents pages.

#### Fifth Grade:

- Students painted a primary, secondary and tertiary color wheel mixing their own colors. They then created several other color wheels of their choice – change color wheel design, focus on the range of just one color, just primaries, etc.
- Students are creating a book focusing in on their labeled art work, color vocabulary, color moods and feelings, describing their favorite color using art vocabulary.

#### Future:

CLAY!!! FYI – Am getting a great deal from Georgie's on a slab maker. Because it is funded by PTO, the \$550 slab maker was reduced to \$500.

Collin said that he did not send the Specials sheet to Robin because there are updates to it every few days. Collin will be emailing the latest version to Robin to send out to the community. This form was initiated by the elementary PE specialists in the District.

**SmartBoard / Technology:** Robin reported that Mr. Leahey and Mr. Porter have been doing research on how best to invest in technology for our school

Derek Porter reported that Steve Langford sent a spreadsheet that showed that 50% of Jacob Wismer's computers were new when the Jacob Wismer first opened.

Derek did a demonstration of the Mobi device which is similar to the SmartBoard only it is mobile. Derek has had a Mobi device since January. He received it and 2 others in the form of a grant. It is simply defined as a portable mousepad. Derek used a Mobi "pen" to show how he could draw lines and shapes that show up on the screen. The Mobi can be used to access the internet. The main thing Derek uses this for is math and writing. The new math program can be accessed electronically. Derek uses the Mobi to access homework assignments (past and present). The Mobi has graph paper that can be pulled up. One of the things that Derek received as a part of the grant is training on how to use the Mobi. There is a gallery with over 4000 images and lessons to use in teaching. Derek gave us a demonstration and pulled up maps, graphic organizers, and a game to learn the state capitols. If a teacher has multiple Mobis, he could hand out 4 of them to 4 different table groups. Each group could individually solve a problem all displayed at the front of the room in 4 different quadrants. It also has a feature pen where you can write on the pad with a pen that will then be converted into digital text. You can access a web page and use it as a mouse to navigate through the webpage as well as draw on the webpage to teach the children about a specific topic. So far the Mobi has been able to do everything that Derek wants it to do. He had it up and running within 20 minutes of receiving it.

Deleram asked if the children found this as a cool gadget or as a distraction or as a helpful learning tool. Derek answered that most of the children think it is cool. Derek has only found it to be distracting when he tries to do something new and it takes a bit of time for him to remember how to do something.

Nina asked ideally how many of these Derek would like to have in his classroom. Derek felt that with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade that 3 were plenty. Most of the time Derek said that he uses only one Mobi device. Mr. Leahy felt that having more would be better: the Mobi 2 which is the teacher model plus 2 more for students. When Mr. Leahy has allowed his students to use the Mobi, they have been 100% successful in getting it to work the way that they want it to the first time that they used it.

Carol Gatewood said that as a lower level (1<sup>st</sup> grade) teacher know what is available on the internet to use to teach her children, but not able to use current technology in her room to show it to her students. The Mobi is amazing and would be so helpful.

Deleram asked what comes with the Mobi. Derek answered that it comes with 3 Mobi's and a docking stations.

Lakshmi made a comment that kids are so interested in the latest technology and that this is another thing that could make children excited to go to school and learn.

Jana asked how long these stayed charged. Neither Mr. Porter nor Mr. Leahey has had a problem losing power when they have charged the night before.

Mr. Leahey and Mr. Porter have 2 proposals from the vendor. Please see attached.

The proposals include providing Mobi's for 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grades. The PTO would like to see how much it would cost to also provide Mobi's for Kindergarten, 1st and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade currently has SmartBoards. There was discussion about whether or not to provide Mobi's for 4<sup>th</sup> grade since they have SmartBoards.

Collin asked about the possibility of providing SmartBoards for the Specials teachers.

Kim Beaton asked about what precautions would be taken to keep the Mobi's from being stolen as they are quite small and portable. Derek said that the pods are locked by the last teacher to leave each night. He also said that the teachers have a locking desk and a locking cabinet in their rooms that could hold the docking station and the Mobis.

Geralyn thanked Mr. Porter & Mr. Leahey for doing their due diligence in researching the technology and finding the best solution at the lowest price. Geralyn suggested that we prioritize providing Mobi's as follows 5th, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, then 1<sup>st</sup>, Kindergarten, 4th, and the Specials teachers.

Pam suggested that we wait until budget cuts are announced on Monday before making any decisions.

Jana stated that even if some classes are cut that there would be someone in the building who would use the Mobis.

Someone asked what the lifespan is of the SmartBoards. Steve said that one is brand new and the rest are 3 or 4 years old. He thought that they should last another 5 or 6 years.

Jana motioned to spend \$11K and use the \$2K that Joan will receive from Intel to purchase Mobis for 5<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, Kindergarten, 4<sup>th</sup>, and Specials covering as many of these classes up to the \$13K. Liz seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed.

**New Business:** No new business.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:38.

#### **PTO Votes Outside of Formal PTO Meetings:**

- On Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup> the PTO had a meeting. Tobey Nelson made a motion to change the wording of the PTO Bylaws to reflect current practices as follows:
  - 1) Volunteer Coordinator Appointments will be treated as any other board appointment voted in by membership as part of the slate of officers.
  - 2) A single signature will be all that is required on checks and that the Treasurer will bring a current monthly printout of checks written to each PTO meeting for anyone to review.

Geralyn Kerprich seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed.

- On Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup> the PTO had an emergency meeting to discuss the purchase of the Mobis. Tobey Nelson made a motion to increase the technology check from \$11,006 to \$15,943 so that we can purchase Mobis for all grade level (K – 5<sup>th</sup>) teachers. Along with this Tobey moved to contribute the PTO's portion of the Intel donation to the school. Kim Beaton seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.