

Jacob Wismer Elementary School PTO

Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2011

President's Report: Kim Beaton called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report: The notes were distributed for review. Geralyn Kerprich motioned to approve the minutes with no edits, Liz Caswell seconded. The motion passed.

Principal's Report: Principal McFadden expressed appreciation to carnival committee chair Shannon Todd-Olson and the carnival committee and volunteers for a very fun carnival. She also thanked Brenda Stober for leading the Innisbrook fundraiser.

Principal McFadden said that Derek Porter, head of technology, and the Technology Team has met twice this year and identified technology priorities at Jacob Wismer. The laser jet printers in the (classroom) pods are running down. They cost \$382 each. Color would be nice. Each grade has at least five IMacs. There is a need for a newer laptop in library; it doesn't work with the Mobi. More pod computers, calculators (the ones there are from when building opened) and headphones are needed.

The Beaverton School District notified Principal McFadden a few weeks before this meeting that Jacob Wismer would be getting another teacher. This is because Jacob Wismer School was projected to have 717 students and it's at 750. The new teacher, Stephanie Amato, volunteered to come here. She came from another school that was under-enrolled. She took Barb Yarnell's second grade class. Barb has moved to fourth grade. The students in the affected classes look happy and have adjusted well. The fourth grade class size is down to 26 per class. The teachers were very concerned about how to implement the change and were very careful about what students were moved where. Librarian Jane Hamilton said that she recently had Mrs. Yarnell's class for library and they were fabulous. She and Principal McFadden commented that there is a big positive difference having fewer students per class, even just in terms of physical space in the classes.

VP of Fundraising: Geralyn Kerprich said that the items from the Innisbrook fundraiser will be delivered in early November. The fundraiser went really well again. To date, \$16,873 was collected; the PTO gets half of that. 182 people participated—coincidentally the same as last year. Brenda Stober has led Innisbrook for five years. This is her last year because her daughter is going to middle school. Brenda's work has really been appreciated.

Pizza Schmizza fundraiser is Oct 26th. PTO gets 35% if we have people help Pizza Schmizza. Contact Geralyn if you want to help. The PTO got about \$156 from the Divine Yogurt night fundraiser. It was done last minute because the weather was so nice. Geralyn made a motion that use proceeds from Divine fundraiser to buy flair pens for students in classrooms to use, focusing on lower grades. Margaret Littman seconded the motion. Kim Beaton suggested the amount to spend be rounded up to \$200. Joan explained that kindergarten started using flair pens last year and noticed big results. Features are that the writing can't be erased, it's bold, and the pens last long. Geralyn amended the above motion to be for \$200. Liz Caswell seconded. The motion passed with no opposition.

VP of Community Events: Speaking in place of Lynn Hartigan, Margaret Littman said that this was the first time that middle and high schoolers helped at the carnival. She thought it went well; there were a few complications. There were 15-20 minute waits for more popular activities like photo booth. Kim Beaton said that the carnival came in on budget and did better financially than last year. Crysta Dorkin said the I-Pod raffle could be promoted even more next year. Shannon Todd-Olson is moving out of the country for work, so a new chair will be needed.

Volunteer Coordinators: Nina Kelley said that \$600 was budgeted for more books for Jr. Great Books. The books have now been bought. Fourteen books for first grade, ten for fourth, and six for third were purchased. Sara O'Donnell asked people to sign up to help with October's Book Fair on HelpCounter.

PTO Liasons:

Grade Reports: Librarian Jane Hamilton reported:

The **Kindergarten classes** are introducing an “In Our Backyard” science focus & seek a lab coat to use. Students will incorporate what they notice throughout the school year (seasons, plant life changes & area animal habitats) through reading, writing & observation. October’s Tyron Creek State Park field trip kicks this off.

The **1st Grade** classes are learning about sunflowers & studying them in their garden. 8th grade buddies will be reading to the students. The **3rd Grade** classes are preparing a “wax museum” for December; Jane is helping. Naglieri testing is in October. Also going on are KOI (Kilgore Observation Inventory), conferences preparation, finishing reading assessments, adding & subtracting whole numbers, & starting Jr. Great Books. A big thanks to the volunteers.

In **Art and Literacy**, students studied the book, “Only One You.” Students & some staff members drew patterns on paper fish, which are hanging on the wall near the office and, with the students’ messages, are linked to the book. Drawing is this year’s focus. Students are sketching elements of reading. Second through fifth graders created a personal sketch book. All grades are working on the “line” element of drawing. The complexity increases with the grade. Fourth & fifth graders are writing a fictional piece inspired by their art work. Kinders created books about color. First graders drew Joan Miro-esque people focusing on lines and shapes. **Library:** Jane said that they are having a blast with Book Fair. Sara O’Donnell did a great job with display case; check it out! It will be moved to library to make room for Art Lit’s display.

Site Council: The Site Council has met twice this year. Ryoko Kitajima, Brian Schnell and Shanna Lonquist are its new parent members. The Site Council teacher representatives are Kelley Liesinger and Deborah Starr. The Site Council reviewed Jacob Wismer’s school improvement plan. The focus is on English as a Second Language (ESL) students and Special Education. They are working on an education resource center to help the staff in teaching ESL and Special Education students.

LSC: Local School Council representatives from the last two years are finishing this month. Then the new Community Engagement committee is starting.

Art Literacy: Liz Caswell said thank you for the \$ for the laptop. The District is purchasing it and they say it should arrive in January. Liz is trying to get it sooner. Oct 17th is the first training. At Jacob Wismer, four units are done due to school size. Pam Edens is incorporating the two additional boxes of Art Literacy units in her Art and Literacy classes.

New Business: Megan Doan would like to, during the first or 2nd week of Nov, have a garden party to weed, trim, and put down bark dust. She wants to try to work with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Audrey Schaab, Center for Earth Leadership volunteer, said that the Center is looking for 2-3 parents to attend a November 15th meeting to start eco-school network in Beaverton. Ridgewood Elementary already has a representative. Twenty-one schools are “Green certified”, but that can expire if not maintained. Committee would share ideas, successes, and challenges. Projects can be as small or as big as desired.

Liz McGuire & Beth Shreve, coordinators for Fork It Over, explained the program, which is a food rescue program that began a few years ago. Now every Beaverton District school is part of the program. Volunteers go to a Web site, look for route available, sign up, do route. Ex. Volunteers show up here Tues & Thurs at 1 p.m. Food will be ready to pick up. Go other couple schools and deliver food to Sunshine Pantry near Hall and Hwy 217. This is one of 15 routes. Only run on school days. Looking for more volunteers to drive routes. Not committing for every week; sign up for however often you want, just expect that if signed up, will do (or remove name so school doesn’t expect). Reduces waste. Can do with pretty much any size car—fit in trunk. There will be background checking.

Delaram Adyani thanked Liz and Beth for coming. Walk to School was very successful. 424 walked. All students who walked got a pencil or a sticker thanks to a grant. The goal is to continue promoting walk to school. It’s healthy and reduces pollution. This was the first time Jacob Wismer participated and it made top 10 of percentage of kids walking.

Liz Caswell said Jacob Wismer choir (4th & 5th grade) started.

Treasurer’s Report Reena Akkal presented a document showing Profit & Loss Oct 1-Oct 11. There were \$49,867 in deposits made so far since JumpStart. Kim asked if there is any more than the \$6,500 from the

carnival that was counted as of yesterday. Reena estimated that it's close to \$7,000. The PTO has paid about \$4,000 on expenses.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.