

Jacob Wismer Elementary School PTO
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2011

President's Report: Kim Beaton welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Art Literacy: Liz Caswell, Art Literacy co-chair, said that the Art Literacy laptop needs to be replaced. The Beaverton Education Foundation is doing an art literacy digital transition fundraiser. Right now, Jacob Wismer is slated to receive a new laptop computer from that fundraiser. \$900 is needed for a new laptop. It would be fully supported by Beaverton School District IT and would be loaded with Office etc. \$300 has been raised so far. The Beaverton Education Foundation fundraiser will go to about the end of September. If the \$600 balance isn't raised, there is \$600 in the Jacob Wismer Art Literacy budget that was carried over from 2010-2011. Liz asked the PTO to fund the remaining \$600 from the PTO budget. The current Jacob Wismer Art Literacy laptop goes black, gets error messages, & is used almost every school day Jan. - May.

Tobey Nelson motioned to use \$600 carried over from last year to buy the laptop GERALYN KERPRICH seconded. A question was asked in relation to the technical problems & how the laptop was connected. Liz responded. Lynn Hartigan asked what remains in the Art Literacy budget. This year's Art Literacy budget is untouched, so \$900-some is left. An inquiry was made of what the laptop is used for: media presentations to support Art Literacy. Tobey's motion noted above passed with no one opposing.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Julia Gaynor said that the PTO received a thank you note for its \$300 donation to the school district's Clothes Closet. The minutes from the last meeting were distributed for review. Carol Fandell motioned to approve the minutes without edit. Tobey Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Principal's Report: Principal Joan McFadden said thank you to anyone who helped with JumpStart. She said that overall it has been a very smooth opening for this school year. She has received great feedback on having the two bells at the start of the school day. With the children coming in to school and going to classes with the first bell at 8:20 a.m., students are at their desks and ready to learn earlier than they had been with the one bell system. Jacob Wismer had a projected enrollment of 717 students; there are 747:

- 102 kindergarteners with four classes averaging 25.5 students per class
- 120 1st graders with five classes averaging 24 students per class
- 134 2nd graders with five classes of about 27 students per class
- 136 3rd graders with five classes of about 27 students per class.
- 130 4th graders with four classes averaging 32.5 students per class
- 125 5th graders with four classes of about 31.2 students per class

There is a half-time guidance counselor, Ryan Sticka, who is at Jacob Wismer 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Beaverton School District got a grant for a Safe Routes to School program. The district is trying to get "walking school busses" going. Half of Jacob Wismer's students ride a school bus for transportation. The goal is to get more children who are driven to and from school walking instead. A Safe Routes to School survey found that parents feel people driving too fast, especially on one street, is a problem. The Safe Routes coordinator is trying to work with Washington County Sheriff to get speed under control.

Jacob Wismer School is holding a flair pen drive. It has been found that using flair pens really improves writing. The pens average about \$1 each. School budget has bought many, but more are needed.

Mrs. McFadden emphasized that completed (pink) dismissal forms really need to be returned.

VP of Fundraising GERALYN KERPRICH said that, besides tonight's Divine Yogurt restaurant fundraiser, the Innisbrook catalog sale is the school's next fundraiser event. It is optional. A Pizza Schmizza night is

scheduled for Oct 27th, also optional. (Divine Yogurt and Pizza Schmizza donate a percentage of sales to the school on a special Jacob Wismer night at the business.). Please read the Free and Easy flyer if you haven't.

There has been talk of selling gift cards and we would get a percentage of the sale. The program is called Scrip. Scrip is where people can buy a gift card to one of a variety of stores and a percentage of the sale of the gift card can go to the school. Anyone interested in being on committee to explore the idea of the Jacob Wismer PTO using Scrip please contact Geralynn.

VP of Community Events Lynn Hartigan stated that the Jacob Wismer Carnival is on Oct 7th. Many volunteers are needed for the Carnival. There will be high school and middle school volunteers supervised by parent volunteers. The Carnival organizers are trying to get it so that a parent doesn't spend all night volunteering. Money-related tasks will be done solely by adults. Adults with a food handlers license are needed. There will be an online way of getting the license. A Raffle Chair & someone to help with decorations are still needed. There will be a balloon splash (not a dunk tank) for teachers. Please encourage your teacher to participate. Raffle prizes are needed.

Volunteer Coordinators Report: Co-Coordinator Nina Kelley said many families came through JumpStart and the volunteers were great. Co-Coordinator Margaret Littman said that there will be a workroom training Sept 28th. Volunteer orientation is on Sept. 19th. Margaret explained how to use HelpCounter. Responding to Brian Hamilton's question, Margaret explained that HelpCounter can be accessed online by getting a link from the PTO home page and explained how to do.

Nishita Vora asked if HelpCounter can be used for class volunteering, too. Margaret said not yet and that teachers will distribute a form to complete for class volunteering, each class coordinator will plan along with teacher and volunteers will be scheduled from there.

Member at Large Crysta Dorkin said that she and Sheri Kraus have been in contact for staff appreciation lunch for staff on non-teaching work days. The Jacob Wismer lunch leader told Crysta that there is a shortage of volunteers to deliver leftover food from the cafeteria to shelters.

Treasurer Reena Akkal said that for 2011-12, \$35,000 is needed to run all the programs and that is what is budgeted. Write-A-Check program has taken in \$9,771 so far.

Site Council/Community Engagement Group (formerly LSC) Report: Principal McFadden said she had nothing to report other than the fact that the District has changed the name of the Local School Committee to the Community Engagement Group.

Arts Edge Committee: Art Teacher Pam Edens said that the committee hasn't met yet. She is looking forward to another program this year and said that people love the art installation from last year.

PTO Liasons: Principal McFadden introduced two of this year's liaisons, 1st grade teacher Allison Guilfoyle and librarian Jane Hamilton. The third liaison, continuing from last year, is 3rd grade teacher Debbie Starr.

New Business: Carol Fandell, School Directory Chair, said that the new directory format includes email addresses. There is also an alphabetical list in the back of the directory. Like last year, this year there will be an art contest for a picture to use for the cover. Carol asked the PTO for \$100 for thank you ribbons for every participant. Tobey Nelson motioned to use \$100 for a thank you award for Jacob Wismer students who submit an entry to the school directory cover art contest this year. It was noted that a little money is made selling the directories. Nina Kelley seconded the motion. Geralyn Kerprich asked how many drawings there were last year. Carol said there were about 60. Tobey asked what the cost for color would be. Carol said she would check. Tobey asked if families can opt out of their email address listed in the directory. Carol said that there will be a way to opt out of providing any information for the directory through the Jacob Wismer main office.

Adjournment: Kim adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

(Notetaker's note: contact information can be found on the PTO Web site: jacobwismerpto.org and on the school's Web site: http://www.beaverton.k12.or.us/jacob_wismer)