

Jacob Wismer PTO Meeting - 9/13/16

Meeting called to order 7:00pm

### **President's Report (Bradi Gates)**

#### EcoSchool Network

- Guest speaker Rebekah Chou from EcoSchool Network presented information on what the program is, and can be a resource for us if Jacob Wismer Elementary would like to set up a student team. Currently there are 10 schools involved in the program.
- There will be a meeting on Oct. 5th at Rebekah's house with members there to answer questions and talk about projects such as school gardens (and possibly using harvested produce in the cafeteria), improving recycling efforts, and no idling campaigns.
- Anyone interested in getting involved or wanting more information can visit <http://www.earthleaders.org/eco-schools/beaverton-network/>

#### Back To School Night

- PTO Tables will be set up at entrances both upstairs and downstairs and will provide information and volunteer sign up sheets for the immediate upcoming events of Jogathon Challenge Run, Barn Dance and OBOB (Oregon Battle of the Books).
- We will also have samples of this year's spiritwear with examples of new shirt designs.
- Cub Scouts will also have an information table set up.

#### General Fundraising Goals

- This year, the Jogathon will be the school's main fundraising event ("Write-A-Check" campaign and Charleston Wrap fundraising have been discontinued starting this year). Charitable donations to the PTO are still always welcome and are tax-deductible.
- We will still have other non out-of-pocket fundraising options that include Box Tops collection, Scrip (also known as gift card program), Amazon Smile, and restaurant/shopping nights. With these options, the companies involved donate a portion of proceeds for products and services that families may likely be purchasing anyway.

#### General Volunteering Needs

- Volunteering is very rewarding and the kids love it! There are a lot of options within the PTO as well as the classroom. Some are during school hours, some things can be done from home, so we encourage everyone to be sure they've completed the background check and then review volunteer opportunities on [myvolunteerpage.com](http://myvolunteerpage.com).
- Would also like to encourage anyone who wants to be involved in a program to consider co-chairing with another person as we understand it can be intimidating to manage an event individually. It also provides a good shadowing experience for anyone looking to get started and learn the ropes of a program or event.

### **Secretary's Report (Merideth Manwiller)**

Great to see all the new families attending, you can keep updated on PTO happenings by reviewing the PTO website at [www.jacobwismerpto.org](http://www.jacobwismerpto.org).

Any event/program chairperson can let me know if there is information they would like to highlight on the website, or the PTO Newsletters. First PTO Newsletter will be sent September 19th, and I will send out a request for anything to be included on the Friday before each newsletter is scheduled to be sent.

### **Principal's Report/Community Partnership Team (Joan McFadden, Tracy Bariao-Arce)**

#### **Outdoor School**

This will be the last year for 5th graders to attend outdoor school through Jacob Wismer. Outdoor school is moving to middle school, so that all 6th graders will be able to attend. This change will start in 2018, so 5th graders that go this year will not go again in 6th grade. 5th graders will go to Biztown this year to learn about different businesses, spend a day as a grownup in the real world, and learning about business operations like banking/finance, etc.

#### **New Elementary School - Boundary Adjustment Process**

- Construction is underway for the school in the north Bethany area located on Kaiser road.
- District has determined that only Jacob Wismer and Springville school boundaries will be affected by the new school.
- A boundary adjustment committee is being formed now and will include 3 parents from each school as well as the principal from each school.
- The committee work will begin on October 6, 2016 and will conclude by November 2016. The committee will meet two times per month (date/location TBD) from 6-9pm. Two meetings will be held at Springville, 2 at Jacob Wismer.
- The committee will make a recommendation to school board and district. The district superintendent will make the final boundary decision.
- Anyone interested in applying to be a part of the committee needs to submit a letter by Sept. 23rd. (See the information and flyer in the Sept. 12th issue of JW Journal for more information on how to apply - <https://www.beaverton.k12.or.us/schools/jacob-wismer/school/Documents/Journal%209.12.16.pdf>)

One of the committee meetings will be held on Nov. 17th, which was the original night for the school's first STEAM event (replacing Science Expo). That event will be moved to January 26th - more information to come on the STEAM event as it gets closer.

**Question:** What is the boundary map bulletin board that is in the front office now? **Answer:** It is the current boundary map.

**Question:** What year is the new boundary change effective? **Answer:** Next Fall (2017)

### Early Release/Teacher Collaboration (starting in 2017-18)

It was decided that Beaverton School District will implement a weekly early release for students in elementary school to allow for more teacher collaboration and professional development time. Currently, they are only allotted 45 minutes 2 times a month for this work, and needed more time.

**Question:** There is concern over the loss of instruction time for students (18 hours), how is this decrease in instruction time being addressed so students are not impacted?

**Answer:**

Instruction hours will be made up by adding additional contact days over the next 3 years. Also, the intention is that instruction quality improves by giving the staff this development time, which would minimize the impact of the decrease instruction time in the first year.

Dan Silver (current 4th grade teacher) added that it critical for teachers to collaborate on challenging issues. Team collaboration is critical in any industry, and it is difficult to carve out time that works for all teachers. This will provide that time, which ultimately benefits the students.

In addition to collaboration on existing curriculum/students, new materials will be introduced and Yvette Wallace (Intervention Specialist) will be able to share what she is learning through professional development events that she attends via this time.

Concerns were raised about working parents and what families will do for child care on early release days. Joan communicated that all of the after-school childcare providers have been notified and will be prepared for the change. The intention is that since there will be fewer whole days off of school, the financial impact of having extra childcare due to early release would be the same as before the change or minimal.

Amy Charon suggested an idea that could also help with after school care, which would be to re-implement a student running club that could happen during this time to help with families needing childcare during the early release window. In the interest of time, discussion was tabled for the moment, and this topic can be revisited in the future as needed.

**Question:** Are teachers required to use that collaboration time? **Answer:** Yes and more information can be found in the Early Release FAQ at

[https://www.beaverton.k12.or.us/PS/Documents/Early\\_Release\\_FAQ\\_August.pdf](https://www.beaverton.k12.or.us/PS/Documents/Early_Release_FAQ_August.pdf).

Dan Silver reiterated that teachers understand that this is a big responsibility and appreciate the trust in them to implement this change. Teachers are dedicated to making it a successful change for all.

### Picnic Tables for Playground

A contractor is now available for the PTO sponsored picnic tables that were donated last year. The original spot for the tables will not work, so instead the plan is to move the existing benches into the shaded area, and put the tables where the benchers were. Plans are being drawn up.

### Fundraising Report (Amy Charon)

### Jogathon

- Starting jogathon advertising around the school. Sarah has done a beautiful display case and is working on the PE board and a second case. Jogathon banner to go up outside this week. Wendy created adorable flyers to be posted around the school and will be distributed at drop-off/pick-ups closer to the event.
- Jogathon envelopes will be given to the teachers this Friday for Monday distribution.
- Challenge run is Friday Sept 23rd. We are asking for parents to get involved, team captains are point of contact for each grade level and will be asking teachers to participate too. Will be doing a relay this year in hopes to make this a more exciting and fun event!
- Working on thermometer indicator posters for each classroom to track daily participation percentage.

**Question:** what are the next steps for determining how daily cash pickup of jogathon money for classes will be handled? **Answer:** There is no definite plan yet, still looking for way that will be least impactful for teachers, and will make teachers most comfortable (concern over money being left in the classrooms). One idea is to pick up during brain boost time 8:30-8:40. Details still need to be worked out, and will be communicated. Joan suggested talking to Lori Secker about the regulations, and for ideas on how to handle it.

### Taekwondo Fundraiser (Happening now)

Master George, owner of World Class Taekwondo in Bethany, offers a one-month long program of classes and donates the entire \$49 fee back to school. He is able to work with any families who came in late on this month's session for possible make up classes. He will offer another fundraiser in February. It's great fun, such a win/win for the school and community.

### Spirit Wear

There will be samples at back to school night with some new t-shirt designs this year. Order forms are available in the office or the website and need to be submitted to the front office by September 23rd.

### Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) Fundraiser

Charlie Hagseth (principal at new North Bethany Elementary) reached out to Jacob Wismer to create a fundraiser where the proceeds would go to the Leukemia and Lymphoma society in support of Barb Yarnell (3rd grade teacher currently in remission from Leukemia) as well as a student in remission at Stoller. There will be a spirit assembly on Oct. 10th to raise awareness for LLS and kick off the fundraiser. There may possibly be a restaurant night to go toward it as well. This will take the place of Pennies for Patients this year. Info will be coming home after Jogathon.

### Box Tops

- Martine Ayers provided an update that Labels for Education program will be closing down next year, but we can still submit them until that time.

- Last year Box Tops raised ~\$1200 (the program pays out twice yearly). Will have another collection contest this year, and extra efforts to get the word out to kindergarten.
- Example products include ziplocs, kleenex, betty crocker, and even some clothing items. Check [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) to find out what products have them.

### Class Party Funds

In the past this came out of the Write-A-Check funds, this year we are going to have the teacher's request the class party funds directly to parents. Suggested amount is \$6-8 dollars per student to fund the 3 parties throughout the year. We are thinking that a single request from teachers for the party funds for the year is all that would be required, and students would be directed to turn in the money at the office. Bradi will figure out the best way to communicate it out so that it's easy for teachers. Funds collected will continue to be pooled and dispensed equally among the classrooms (with supplementation from PTO as needed), just as we've done in past years.

### **Community Events Report (Sarah Sperbeck-Koenders)**

#### Barn Dance (chairperson Wendy Gibson)

- Barn Dance is October 13th, 6-8pm (a Thursday this year, but there is no school Friday).
- Will include the most popular event of the Cake Walk. Wendy will solicit donations of baked goods from surrounding businesses as well as parents as this is such a hit with the kids!
- There will also be 30 minute shifts at each of the games. There will be a DJ and Free Photography at the photo booth.
- No entrance fee, instead we ask that students bring a donation of new packaged socks/underwear to donate to the Beaverton Clothes Closet, which provide school clothes 2 times per year at no cost, for families experiencing financial hardship. A gently used coat or sweatshirt can also be donated.
- This event will need a new chairperson starting 2017 school year. Also need to find new home for carnival and dance decorations and props.

### **Volunteer Coordinator's Update (Amy Roskowski and Jen Politsch)**

- Back to School picnic and school supply drop off/meet the teachers was a great success. Thanks to the teachers and all who planned and prepared for the event.
- Currently have 417 volunteers registered in the new system.
- Amy Roskowski will be sending out a note to chairs to send her any shifts needed to put into myvolunteerpage.com.

### Open Chair Positions Update (Jen Politsch)

- 5th grade activities chair - Amy Charon to send info about some people interested in this.
- Staff Appreciation - Napoor Saxena did the first staff appreciation event by bringing donuts, and hung a nice banner already this year, but we still need an official chair for this.

- One School One Book (OSOB) - This year we may split it into two books k-2 and 3-5 - This is a good program for co-chairs.
- Library Help - Need volunteers to work with Library Specialist Tina Oki Le. Will have a sign up sheet at Back To School Night
- Oregon Battle of the Books - No chair needed, just parent volunteers to work with Tina.
- Clothes Closet/Lost and Found - May 31st 2017 is Jacob Wismer's assigned day to provide volunteers at the Clothes Closet.
- Variety Show - Chairperson needed
- Bollywood Dance - Replacing the Spring Dance. Have not heard back on a chair for this yet.
- Author Visits - Krishnamurthy Woonnmani will organize one visit in 2016

Question: Could we create an online Amazon Gift List instead of the Giving Tree this year? Jen P. will look into this.

#### **Treasurer's Report (Angela Babst)**

- In the process of converting to Quickbooks online.
- \$60 matching funds has been received this month.
- Will check on Directory money received so far.
- **Question** - Have we received a check from Amazon Smile? No, Bradi is thinking that in the past this has always been a direct deposit into the PTO Account. Angela now has access to online banking and will check on this.
- We had budgeted \$200 class spending for 28 classrooms, but we only have 27 this year, so we have an extra \$200. Angela asked if there are any other new staff/positions that could use this money? No ideas were brought forward, so we will revisit this in the future.

#### **Member At Large Report (Jyothy Vemura)**

New Family Welcome is completed, and it's great to be seeing lots of new faces at the PTO Meeting tonight!

#### **PTO Teacher Liaison (Dan Silver)**

Parents will get updates during Back to School Night Events on Wednesday and Thursday. Staff is busy preparing and getting to know their students!