

**Jacob Wismer (JW) Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)  
Meeting Minutes  
April 8, 2015**

**Welcome and Introductions**

**President's Report:** Kathy Leis called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Introductions were made. There were 14 people in attendance. Kathy reported on the following:

- Nominations are being accepted for the following open PTO Board positions: President, VP of Community Events, Secretary, Co-Volunteer Coordinator and Member-at-Large. Kathy has appointed a Nominating Committee consisting of Mary Kelly Rossow, Valerie Ditchfield and herself. Any questions or nominations of potential members should be directed to someone on the Nominating Committee. We should have a proposed PTO Board in May and vote the new members into the board at the June PTO meeting.
- Joan McFadden and Lori Secker have come up with an idea to dedicate the display case in the front of the school for the Cherie Pun Memorial. Joan presented some ideas of what the proposed letters could look like above the case. Joan felt this was a great spot because this space is usually dedicated to Art Literacy, which Cherie was a great supporter and volunteer of. Other reasons being that it's highly visible when you walk in and everyone would see it.
  - Kathy Leis added that just recently Kim Beaton had mentioned some of Cherie's close friends might want to be involved in the decision for a Memoriam. They have floated an idea around about purchasing/acquiring a piece of artwork for the school with an inscription and dedication in memory of Cherie. One of Cherie's friends will present the proposed artwork to Joan. Joan will then work with the PTO to make a decision.

**Secretary's Report:** Erin Ertz reported that she met with both Josh and Bradi Gates last month in regards to the rebuild of the PTO site. Josh has a great deal of knowledge and background as to the recommended platform for the new site, and through this meeting has a better understanding of what the PTO site will be used for, etc. The goal is for the new site to be ready by the time the new Secretary and board start their positions.

**Principal's Report:** Joan McFadden reported on the following:

- Ken Derbenti conducted a survey to get a feel for how the Coder-in-Residence was received this year vs. the Artist-in-Residence in previous

years. Joan presented the results of the survey and based on 91 responses, 89% of those who responded said the Coder-in-Residence was a good or excellent idea. The big question is should we continue looking into teaching coding? The Artist-in-Residence/Coder-in-Residence programs are funded by the PTO, therefore the PTO will review the results of the survey and decide which direction to go.

- Started Smarter Balanced Testing and its going well. Out of 400 students, 96% who took the interim practice test said they felt very thankful for the opportunity. They are taking this test very seriously and like that is challenging them, however they would have liked to have had more time on the Writing Performance section. This is the first year for Smarter Balanced Testing in Oregon, and is based on the Common Core Standards. Standards are raised higher because these kids need to learn more to prepare them to have reached a certain level at high school graduation. Currently, many kids are not academically prepared for college.

**Community Partnership Team:** Joan McFadden had no updates.

**VP Fundraising's Report:** Kathy Leis reported in Bradi Gates absence that she has been in touch with Master George of US World Class Taekwondo Bethany and they will be donating around \$350. Bradi has contacted Piccolo Mondo and they don't have the pay out yet. She is also working on a restaurant night fundraiser for Sweet Tomatoes.

### **VP Community Events**

- **OSOB Update:** Anne Daniels reported in Nina Kelley's absence that we will be having an all school assembly on the morning of April 27<sup>th</sup> to announce the name of the One School One Book this year. The books will be distributed that afternoon so that students, teachers, and staff, can start reading that night. Tshirts will go home that night too.
- **Author Visits:** Kathy Leis reported in Jillian Starr's absence the following:
  - Kindergarten made a beautiful bunch of thank you cards for Carson Ellis and they've been well received! Her publishers are so pleased that we enjoyed Carson's visit so much. They plan to keep us updated on what Carson is doing
  - A Children's Place bookstore granted a 20% discount for the Carson Ellis books. This means out of the \$55.63 surplus, Jillian would like to reimburse Mrs. Gilchrist and Mrs. Sippel \$15.99/each for their payment for "Home". They plan to use their books every year as part of the Kindergarten curriculum. They've outlined the Common Core

Standards and how this fits in with Kindergarten curriculum (AST 7.3 observations of the natural world; ALT8 Create structures; AST 1.1 Same and different; ALT 7 Observations of the natural world; ALT1 Contrast of past and present) This leaves Jillian with a Carson Ellis surplus of \$21.65.

- Nick Bruel ("Bad Kitty") is scheduled for Portland on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>. Dates should be finalized by the May PTO meeting.
  - "Lunch Lady" author update: Jarrett Krosoczka's assistant moved on and he has a new assistant so things have gone a little slower as she gets up to speed. As it is right now he is available to be in Portland on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> but they're also looking into coming out in March or April. Jillian's opinion is that that Nick and Jarrett are as close to definite as can be without having contracts signed. She hopes to start finalizing dates and start the contract process in the next few weeks.
- **Celebrate the Arts:** Melody Stringer reported that Celebrate the Arts this year will be on May 7<sup>th</sup> and will be an hour and a half, as opposed to two hours last year. The Metropolitan Youth Symphony will be sending a string quartet this year, and also for next year. The theme this year will be Diversity. Parents will be invited to make a billboard, poster, or trifold with any kind of cultural display of your family's background, etc. These will be displayed around the edge of the gym. There will be a craft in the middle of the gym where kids can make a flag reflecting their family's country of origin. There will be different rooms where a variety of languages will be spoken for people to listen to. Mrs. Welch will be doing a choir recital, and there will be a ukulele performance, as well as a pioneer dance in traditional costumes. Melody will be asking each teacher to ask for volunteers from their classroom to help set up and tear down at the beginning and end of the evening. Melody will send shifts to Sarah Plocher to put on HelpCounter.
  - **Fifth Grade Planning:** Margaret Littman added the following report via email on April 10th to Erin Ertz:
    - **5th grade send off Party:** On Thursday April 9th - Tricia Ball set up a meeting for the 5th grade party planning volunteers to meet and discuss budget with Latsy. Food and entertainment costs are being researched. It was attended by: Tricia Ball, Tanya Bae, Latsy Walker, Heather Fulk, Meriah Barnes, Antonette Caren, Nina Kelley, Shanna Lonnquist, Heather Johnson, Kori Taylor, (Deanna Levenson could not attend - but expressed willingness to buy food/supplies when list is avail), and Margaret Littman.

- **Day of Party:** Volunteers signed up for June 10th: Meriah, Heather, Nina, Marlo, MK, Steffanie, Ekta, Latsy, Dawn, Antonette, Melanie, Nanda, Samantha, Shanna, Stacey, Shannon. This should be plenty of help for food prep, games and supervision that day.
- **5th grade Outdoor School:** Outdoor school will cost \$14,014. There are 143 5th graders going to outdoor school. Volunteers for dropping off luggage are confirmed (Lakshmi, Teresa, Veena, Nanda, Deanna, Mairead, Marlo, Shikha, Ekta and Kori). Lee Davies Realty has graciously donated their truck so we can use it May 18th and May 20th. Driver/passenger pairs for U-Haul are confirmed, but paperwork with Lee Davies will be done in the next couple of weeks: Margaret, Tanya, Nanda and Mary Kelly. When luggage returns, volunteers are confirmed: Antonette, Mairead, Steffanie and Latsy. I want to thank also Veena Chandranna and Lakshmi Bhupalam for helping with sorting, cutting and binding the flip books for 5th grade.
- **5th grade Yearbooks:** We had an estimated budget based on prices from last year (\$1599 based on 150 books). According to Sara Elms and confirmation with the other 5th grade teachers will need to order 157 books. (147 students, 6 teachers, Office, Library, 2 extra copies). I-Shuan Warr has one quote of \$1594.50 based on \$10.63/book x 150 books (157 books would be \$1668.91). I-Shuan is awaiting another quote for comparison. Margaret and Tammy Robb discussed some editing tasks for the 5th grade photo taken on April 8th. Yearbook Point of Contacts are done or almost done tallying the photos they have received or taken this year for the yearbook and will continue to get a few more group shots as needed: Michelle Hall, Rodney Olson, Steffanie Seiler, Marlo McIlraith, Margaret. Stacey Marshall also helped put the surveys together and type them up.

**Volunteer Coordinator's Report:** Sarah Plocher and Mary Kelly Rossow had no updates.

**Treasurer's Report:** Latsy Walker reported that the PTO Board will be proposing the 2015/16 budget next month at the May PTO meeting. The PTO Board will be voting in the new budget at the June meeting.

**Member at Large Report:** Tammy Robb had no updates.

**PTO Liaison:** Dan Silver provided the following grade level updates:

**Kindergarten:** Our team will start working on our big engineering and design project this month: We will be building fairy houses. Great creativity and critical thinking goes into these amazing projects. In addition we will be studying animals that come from eggs, poetry and Earth Day. Practice for our spring music program also begins this month. It is a lot to do, but well worth it, as our program is quite spectacular. It is probably going to be on the morning of May 28th (in case anyone wants to attend!).

**1st Grade:** First grade has been learning about maps and world geography. We have sent Flat Stanley (or Felix in Mrs. Knighten's room) to friends and family around the world for a visit. We hope to be hearing back from everyone about their stay and will track on a world map where their adventures have taken them. Monday we had our annual puppet show about recycling put on my Metro. It's always a popular, and FREE, event.

**2nd Grade:** We are preparing to start our grade level Ramona Quimby novel study. We will culminate our unit with a field trip to the play in downtown Portland and lunch at the Beverly Cleary Sculpture Garden near Grant Park. Beverly Cleary is still alive (98 years old!) and living in McMinnville, OR. Her birthday is April 12th. We are going to celebrate it with a grade level Read-in.

**3rd Grade:** Third grade has begun state testing. The students have been working hard at their first time taking state tests. Students have been busy working with multiplication, division, and area topics with geometry being an upcoming topic. Plans are in the works for the May 12 field trip to downtown Portland where classes will take walking tours and learn all about the history of Portland.

**4th Grade:** Fourth grade is also engaged in SBAC testing, which two of the classes started last week, with the other three classes working this week and next. We are currently working towards completing the language arts performance task. Also last week, we had the district science specialists come in to conduct an engineering and design task with our classes. Yesterday and today we finished up our Arts4Learning Unit on everyday heroes. A local artist came in and led our classes through collage activities as students reflected on how they themselves have qualities of everyday heroes. Our grade level selected the theme for the upcoming spirit day on April 10, 'dress as a superhero.' Finally, we are kicking off our Oregon Trail unit with a covered wagon that will come tomorrow.

**5th Grade:** Fifth grade is crazy busy! After completing the Science Oaks tests, we too have begun Smarter Balanced testing. Outdoor school is on the mind as ever, as this is coming up at the end of next month. Math topics include algebraic patterns, understanding volume, and geometry topics.

## **Music: Belgique**

The upper grades are working in small groups to arrange and perform songs on the ukulele. Some groups are learning songs that are new to them, some groups are reworking songs we've learned in class, some are thinking up original compositions. The emphasis is on playing together in their ensembles, knowing the chords in your song, and executing chord changes.

The lower grades are learning Sansa Kroma (an Akan singing game from Ghana), A Qua Qua (originally from Jerusalem, a singing game much like "Down By the Banks"), and Round and Round (a circle game collected in the 70's from an island in the West Indies).

## **Music: Welch**

**Kindergarten/1st:** Creating simple songs using our knowledge of beat, rhythm, and form. Learning about jazz. Making sure we move -- a lot! 1st graders are learning a rap song about sharks.

**2nd Grade:** Rhythm games and lots of singing this month! Also, creating music and movement to poems.

**3rd Grade:** We have been learning some new songs, playing rhythm games, and creating movements to songs from different cultures.

**4th Grade:** We learned two – and, as it turned out, fun – pioneer dances, Bingo and She'll be Comin' 'Round the Mountain. We are now turning our attention to some class compositions for xylophone ensemble. Students work in groups to produce a section, then we put them all together, rearranging the sections so that the entire piece “makes sense.” We really get the creative juices flowing! Students are delighted to see how individual ideas can be arranged linearly or vertically to produce exciting sounds. Dynamics, tempo, and form are discussed during this unit.

**5th Grade:** Placing listening selections in historical context. Singing some fun songs, learning some colonial-era songs, and playing xylophone songs from Zimbabwe.

**5th Grade Choir:** Last month, we surprised fellow classmates during lunch with a flash mob, singing, This is America. Never would I have believed that 42 young people could keep such a secret – it was a total surprise! Now, we are preparing for our final concert of the year.

**Celebrate the Arts:** This year, 1st through 5th grades will perform at Celebrate the Arts(May 7th). A form will be sent home this week for students to indicate if they will be performing with their grade level. That way, Ms. Belgique and I will be able to plan.

**New Business:** There was no new business.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:50

*The next PTO meeting will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup>.*