

**Jacob Wismer (JW) Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)
Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2014**

Welcome and Introductions

President's Report: Kathy Leis called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Introductions were bypassed. There were 6 people in attendance.

- Label maker: Nina Kelley is working on inputting names in HelpCounter, as well as disabling the printer for those that won't need a label printed. The new label maker should be up and running after winter break.
- Student Directories: The directories are done and currently displayed in hallway. Extra directories are \$6 each and can be purchased in the main office for exact dollar amount or check.
- Pull Tab Collection: We now have a blue, five gallon container across from the office where pull tabs are being collected. Alexandra Wiedholz will donate the tabs to the Ronald McDonald House.
- New Copier: At our last PTO meeting, the need for a new school printer was brought up and discussed. After researching options, Lori Secker has recommended the Konica Minolta as the best replacement. The cost is \$6,739.02. Nina Kelley made a motion to purchase the printer for the school. Bradi Gates seconded. It was unanimously approved that the PTO will purchase the new copier.

Secretary's Report: Erin Ertz had no updates.

Principal's Report: Joan McFadden

- Staff Luncheon: Joan McFadden thanked everyone for the delicious staff luncheon. It was such a treat for the staff and the food was wonderful.
- The Specialists (2 PE teachers, 2 Music teachers) scheduled a meeting to meet with Joan requesting more money from the PTO's budget. Their point of view is that there are now doubled in size from what they were last year and therefore their budget allotment should reflect this. Joan let the group know that the PTO budget for the following year is set and approved in spring. She informed them that if there are any needs for new equipment, program curriculum, etc, that they would need to make a proposal outlining the costs and the dollar figure they are requesting. This would then be

presented to the PTO in spring to take into consideration while budgeting for next year. Joan acknowledged to the group that they have grown and that there are things they need. Therefore, to address the need in this current school year, Joan has given them a budget to work with out of the Building Use Fund.

- Science Expo: Joan presented a proposal from Tracy Bariao-Arce for bringing OMSI in to host some tables at our Science Expo this year on January 22nd. This would be a great benefit for students and families. The cost would be \$575 for approximately 3 hours, although Tracy is still trying to negotiate the details and final cost (since our event is only an hour and a half) and there is a chance the cost could come in lower.

Community Partnership Team: Joan McFadden is currently recruiting and also working on doing just doing the 3rd grade recess option. The next breakfast meeting will be in January.

VP Fundraising's Report: Bradi Gates reported the following:

- SCRIP has brought in \$689.
- Munchies frozen yogurt fundraiser will be January 24 and 25th.
- Bethany Pub fundraiser is looking like it's going to be early February. 15% of total bill will be donated to Jacob Wismer.
- Pizzicato 5th grade fundraiser was last night, however the turnout was pretty low. There were a few reasons for this, such as people not being able to get through on the phone, people being told by Pizzicato staff that the fundraiser for Jacob Wismer was not that night, and overall some confusion and miscommunication on part of Pizzicato staff. Pizzicato was very apologetic of the missteps and have offered to have it again. This fundraiser only brought in half of what it did last year.
- Scholarship: Bradi is working with GERALYN Kerprich (who moved last summer) on the hand-off of the scholarship management to Bradi. Bradi might propose raising the amount of the scholarship, which is currently \$250 to \$300. Students put a lot of time into completing the extensive application, and it seems like a good idea to increase the amount.

VP Community Events Report: Ann Daniels had no updates.

- **OBOB:** Nina Kelley reported that this is her 3rd and final year running OBOB, and while she has always tried to run the battles exactly as they do at regionals, she has realized that some of the rules are not working to the benefit of the students/groups. There is really no set way how to do the battles, and that schools can do them how they want. However, the current

systems don't really work for our school because it is so big (as is Findley.) Also, some of the kids who work really hard and know their stuff aren't benefitting by going up against other kids who also really know their stuff. Therefore Nina has decided to tweak the rules a little bit to benefit teams that have worked really hard. Changes to OBOB are as follows:

- All teams still battle twice. The change is they will not be allowed to steal answers. Typically if Team A missed a question, Team B would get a chance to steal and vice versa. We decided to change this so that students would only get points for their own questions. With over 60 teams, it was getting to the point that you could only get in the Sweet 16 if you went up against a team that wasn't prepared. This was very unfair for teams who came to their battles very prepared and then went up against another equally prepared team. They couldn't rack up a huge amount of points like those other teams were. This change will benefit teams who come to their battles prepared.
- There will not be any parent volunteers. Tina and Nina will be running all of the battles so help with all of the battles will be run the same. There were some problems last year with continuity.
- Since there will not be a huge spread in points because teams can't steal, there may be more (a lot more) teams that qualify for the Sweet 16. We are going to wait and see how it all plays out.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report: Mary Kelly Rossow and Sarah Plocher were absent. No updates.

Member at Large Report: Tammy Robb was absent. No updates.

Treasurer's Report: Latsy Walker was absent. Kathy Leis provided the update that the PTO had voted and approved the donation of \$627 to the classroom party funds. This would give each classroom \$45 for each of the 3 parties.

PTO Liaison: Dan Silver was absent. Joan McFadden provided Dan's classroom updates.

5th Grade is implementing the Arts 4 Learning unit between now and winter break: We are excited to implement "Arts for Learning Lessons" (A4L), an innovative, supplemental literacy program that has been proven to be effective in engaging students and helping them develop important reading and writing skills, as well as essential 21st century learning and life skills, by integrating the arts. This is a

uniquely-designed program that: focuses on important literacy and arts objectives that align with National Core Standards; uses the arts to leverage learning of literacy concepts and skills, and uses an instructional sequence that helps students become more self-directed and independent learners. This unit culminates with students sharing their personal graphic novels with each other.

4th Grade is working on finishing up their study of Oregon's First Inhabitants, Native American Indians. Coding residency is starting for the last two classrooms and all have enjoyed/are enjoying learning Scratch. All classes have now signed up for ALEKS, an intuitive math teaching/learning program.

2nd Grade has tadpoles! We'll be starting our life science unit by observing the life cycle of a frog. We just had an amazing presentation by Intel about solar energy. The kids had the opportunity to explore solar powered toys and experiment with different light sources.

1st Grade has just finished learning about Pilgrims by seeing their voyage and settlement as a Pilgrim child might have. We found out that the trip on the Mayflower was pretty unpleasant, that Pilgrim boys and girls had a lot of chores and that many children had parents who died during their first winter.

We will continue with our "Immigration to America" theme this month by researching our family ancestry to find out who was the first relative to come here and why. It's quite a concept for children that all of the people in America are immigrants, unless they are Native American.

The kids have each made a paper doll in the native dress of their ancestral country. Look for them on the wall outside of the first grade pod and see where they all came from!

Mrs. Belgique Music Room

Our learning targets for November were "I can improvise, compose or arrange music within a given framework at a capable level", and, "I participate in all parts of the lesson and show persistence when tasks are challenging". We did several readiness activities--games that involve rhythmic and tonal readiness and help students decode familiar and unfamiliar musical text/notation--to help us meet the first learning target. Moving forward, we'll be working more on reading and writing music.

Upper grades are singing a mix of patriotic songs. All grades will begin to include holiday/winter themed music in singing time. Third grade is working on

the music from a play about Portland. Lower grades did November poems and a Thanksgiving canon and learned three songs (The Noble Duke of York, Little Johnny Brown, Old King Glory) that each involve a game/dance and we'll add that part in December.

Mrs. Welch's Music Room

All grade levels are enjoying singing – and moving to – winter holiday songs and dances. Here are a few other activities:

Kindergarten and 1st: Students are practicing rhythm reading and creating movements to music. One activity the kids love is “mirroring,” or following closely a partner’s movements. Adding scarves to the mix promotes free and imaginative expression. We also listen to a wide variety of music, then compare and contrast the pieces.

2nd Grade: We are adding melody lines to our rhythm sheets, creating class compositions for the xylophones. The kids are very proud of these original works! As a treat, the kids love playing a song called “I Want a CCC!”

3rd Grade: On recorders, a big accomplishment has been “Jingle Bells,” which uses all five notes we have learned. We will be adding even more notes in the next few weeks.

4th Grade: Working on an early American song, “Cedar Swamp,” which is also an alley dance. Students learned the words and dance moves, and are creating movements to make the dance more interesting. (Next spring, as the kids study the Oregon Trail, we will learn more songs and dances. This is a little sample of what is to come!)

5th Grade: Partners are forming groups of four to extend their xylophone pieces. During this project, we incorporate many elements of music, such as melody, harmony, rhythm, form, dynamics, and texture.

5th Grade Choir: To showcase our winter set of holiday and other songs, our upcoming holiday concert will be at Laurel Parc Assisted Living Center on December 15th (rather than the mall). This is a wonderful community service, and the residents and choir members are equally excited about the performance! (By the way, our T-shirts finally arrived — you can imagine how excited the kids are to have them!)

New Business: There was no new business to report.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

There will be no PTO meeting in January. The next PTO meeting will be Wednesday, February 11th.