

**Jacob Wismer (JW) Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2015**

Welcome and Introductions

President's Report: Kathy Leis called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Introductions were bypassed. There were 13 people in attendance. Kathy reported on the following:

- New copier: Arrived last week. Lori Secker is thrilled with the new purchase. This totals three new copiers.
- Label maker/badges: Been using for about a month and have had really good feedback. There are a few people who will need permanent badges, due to them having to sign in multiple times a week. Lori Secker is making the permanent badges.
- Cherie Pun Memorial: After Cherie's passing, the PTO would like to honor Cherie and all she has contributed to Jacob Wismer. Many ideas were discussed:
 1. Within the school, suggestions were brought up such as to rename the PTO and/or Volunteer board after Cherie, place a plaque on one of our current benches in her honor, bookshelf in library donated to her, reading corner, etc. The bookshelf in the library was a popular idea. Kathy Leis will speak to Tina Le about this idea. Jillian Starr will also speak with Krista Toevs to see if she has any ideas to add. Will revisit at next meeting.
 2. Renaming one of our (two) PTO scholarships in Cherie's honor was an idea previously discussed and very well liked. A motion was made by Anne Daniels to rename one of the scholarships to The Cherie Pun Memorial Scholarship. Sarah Plocher seconded. The name change was unanimously approved.
- JW Scholarship: Previously, it was brought up to increase the two PTO scholarships (one scholarship goes to Sunset, and one goes to Westview) from \$250 to \$300 each. Latsy Walker made a motion to increase each scholarship \$50, for a total of \$100. Anne Daniels seconded. Unanimously approved to raise the Cherie Pun Memorial Scholarship to \$300 and the PTO Scholarship to \$300.

Secretary's Report: Erin Ertz asked Bradi Gates if she had any updates to provide on her husband, Josh, rebuilding the PTO site. Bradi said that Josh is starting to get a list together of the current needs of site, hosting costs, etc. Rebuild of website will start soon.

Principal's Report: Joan McFadden reported the following:

- Beaverton District asked each school to have some parents complete a survey about the report cards. Input will go into the hands of the person who is designing report cards. Joan passed out the survey.
- OMSI Science Expo: Couple of staff people have asked about doing the Science Expo at OMSI next year. The cost would be \$2,000 and would include OMSI opening up their doors to our school for a night, as well as hosting our Science Expo. Would most likely be held on a weeknight from 6-8pm. It was brought up that transportation to the eastside on a weeknight is tough and could dissuade some from attending. Joan will put a survey out to the parents regarding interest in the opportunity, as well as if time of the event would be an issue. Possible glitch is there is a 1500 person limit in the OMSI space and Jacob Wismer could exceed this number (based on high attendance). Joan requested people to email her with ideas.

Community Partnership Team: Joan McFadden reported that the computer lab will be taken up during testing and that coding won't be able to take place. In lieu of this, an Intel parent suggested to Joan the possibility of having guest speakers from Intel come in to speak to the kids about corporate history, strategy, do some hands on activities, show kids what the engineers do, software programming, etc. An idea of a Technology Club that could take a field trip to Jones Farm to witness them making chips was brought up. Could possibly do this school year on a small scale. Please send Joan any ideas.

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

- Menchie's frozen yogurt fundraiser was pretty small and brought in \$40. Everyone Bradi spoke with really liked Menchie's and had good things to say.
- Bethany Pub's fundraiser will be held February 23rd and will be all day for lunch and dinner. You do have to bring in the flier for Jacob Wismer to get credit.
- March fundraiser will be with Bethany US World Class Taekwondo. Dates to come.

VP Community Events Report:

- **Variety Show:** Anne Daniels reported that the Variety Show planning is underway. Will be held on March 6th from 5-8. This year some changes have been made to the submissions portion. All submissions will be done online. Performances will be capped at 60. Currently, there are 52 entries. So far the online submission process is going well. Another change this year is that rehearsals will be broken up into two nights. If performers don't show up to rehearse, they will not be allowed to perform. Many ideas and suggestions were discussed as to how best manage the evening, including volunteers, etc. Sarah Plocher asked Anne to let her know of her needs so that she can help get shifts set up on HelpCounter, etc.
- **Sock Hop:** Wendy Gibson reported that she had sent out a request for Sock Hop committee members and no one responded, therefore Wendy will be a committee of one. Wendy felt the process this year won't be as daunting because she knows what to buy based on last year's sales. All of the decorations from last year have already been purchased. Wendy still needs volunteers and all shifts are up on HelpCounter. QFC and Safeway have agreed to donate cake sales. Kathy Leis suggested putting out the "Cake Donation" box (or table) to get people starting to see it. This year there will be just one entrance to Sock Hop.
- **McKinley Elementary volunteering:** Jillian Starr reported that she is the McKinley Volunteering Chairperson and has some ideas to help with their volunteering needs. They currently need help to set up a book swap, and would also like to do a Passport program. McKinley is looking for volunteers to help with one-time projects instead of being just a once a week volunteer. Current need is someone to help with typing the 3rd grade poetry project.
- **Author Visits:** Jillian Starr reported that the next Author visit is coming up in March and will be Carson Ellis for grades K-2. Carson will be here in the morning and has graciously offered to stay and meet with contest winners afterwards. She has illustrated for the *Wildwood Chronicles* books and *Lemony Snicket*. She is also free! Next year Jillian is seeking out Nick Bruel of *Bad Kitty* and is waiting for our academic calendar to come out to nail down a timeframe. Hoping for mid-October to come visit. Nick's expenses are \$1200 + travel cost. Jillian is 90% sure she will be able to secure him. Another author is Jarrett Krosoczka of the *Lunch Lady* series. Jarrett Krosoczka would be \$3,000 day and would be open to splitting cost with another school.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report: Sarah Plocher reported that Margaret Littman, who is in charge of 5th grade activities, is having a really difficult time recruiting volunteers. Ideas to help with this would be to email the 5th grade classroom coordinators with her specific needs, as well as talking to the teachers to help convey the importance of volunteer help. Another idea is sending a note home with the 5th grade students outlining a few of the items that need volunteers, such as concessions at the Sock Hop, coordination of send-off party, etc.

Mary Kelly Rossow reported that she has found a Chairperson for EPI school supplies, and is still looking for a co-chair.

Member at Large Report: Tammy Robb had no updates.

Treasurer's Report: Latsy Walker reported that half of the teachers and specialists have utilized the PTO money. The deadline to use the funds is mid-March, so Latsy has sent out an email to the people that haven't used it, to please do so. The Book Fair was a success and the library is getting \$3,000. Movie Night brought in \$468 in donations and concession earned \$450. The PTO received a \$500 donation check for 5th grade activities from a local family. Latsy to provide Erin with the address to send a thank you note on behalf of the PTO. Latsy has worked with Nike so that it is now possible for them to do employer matching.

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

Kindergarten: In kindergarten we have been busy little Beavers with focus on the concept of hibernation and animal adaptations in winter, literature study of the story The Mitten, math concepts of equations to 10 and recognizing tens and ones, increasing sight word recognition, experience in writing opinion writing and using conventions and learning about nation symbols and presidents. Phew! All that and we are having FUN!

1st Grade: First grade is finishing up their study of polar regions with "The Polar Pet Parade" in which all of the first graders parade through the office and the kindy and fourth grade classrooms (our buddies) with puppets they've made of a polar animal. You will see the puppets displayed on the wall outside of the first grade pod. Just look for "The Arctic".

February is a busy month: Groundhog's Day, Presidents' Day, Valentine's Day and it's National Dental Health Month. We will be learning about taking care of our teeth what causes cavities and how to properly brush and floss. Do you know the length of time that is recommended by the ADA for brushing? We are expecting toothbrushes and toothpaste packets for each student Colgate.

2nd Grade: Second grade is FULL of life (literally and figuratively!). We have mealworms, tadpoles, crickets, and caterpillars. The students are observing, making comparisons, and learning so much about life cycles. We recently had a guest speaker from the Oregon Zoo that brought live animals and taught the class about habitats and how animals protect themselves from danger (adaptations and animal coverings). We are using close reading strategies to dig deep into informational texts to learn about insects and frogs. Children are inspired and engaged in this fantastic science unit.

3rd Grade: Our annual Wax Museum is coming up on Feb. 20. The children have been researching historical people, writing informational speeches, and will present this to an audience at the Wax Museum event. We are having a guest architect come to present architectural concepts and provide hands-on experiences for all 3rd graders. This will happen weekly from February through April. In math we are studying geometry and fractions. The Port of Portland came and presented information to third-graders on the imports and exports coming in and out of Portland through our many ports. Third graders are participating in the Interim Testing for SBAC. This is practice testing for the state testing coming up in the spring.

4th Grade: We recently received 500 trout eggs from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. We have a chiller unit, a 10 gallon fish tank, bubbler, and all that is necessary to hatch and raise the 500 trout from eggs to fry. We will observe firsthand the beginning life cycle of trout and will take a field trip (with free busses!) to Hagg Lake in Forest Grove to release the fish. We are connecting science (trout life cycle) with our study of Native Americans of Oregon via an art project (quilling). Continuing along these lines with the study of habitats and food chains/webs, several classes will soon be dissecting Owl Pellets.

5th Grade: Here at fifth grade, we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our newest team member, Baby Girl Liesinger. Other than that, we are fully embroiled in colonial times and are planning on a grade-level "Colonial Faire" to be happening in March. It's a new tradition we are hoping to start where each fifth grader learns about a colonial job and we will be creating a mini colonial town in our wing of JW - details to come home soon for those who have fifth graders. Should be fun!

Music – Maralyn Belgique

In music we've been teaching the violin unit. It's been 4th grade's first shot at it, and they're doing well. All are motivated and interested learners! This is the 2nd exposure for 5th graders and we see that in how they're making progress.

3rd grade students continue work on a musical about Portland. Students in grades K-2 have been learning a singing game called Mrs. Macaroni.

Music – Marilyn Welch

Kindergarten/1st: Taking a look at simple (AB and ABA) forms in music, developing good listening skills. Students are reading and clapping rhythms, and also singing and dancing. A favorite song is *One Hundred Days!* This celebrates the 100th day of school. The kids loved listening to excerpts from two operas, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and *The Magic Flute*.

2nd Grade: Exploring form, texture, and melodic line in music. Students learned a game called *Down by the Banks* and an early American song and dance, *Alabama Gal*.

3rd Grade: Wrapping up with recorders. Students are very excited to have come so far in a matter of months. Playing in small groups keeps students focused on good sound, rhythmic accuracy, and intonation.

4th Grade/5th Grade: Violins! Our unit is almost over, and I think the students have really enjoyed the challenge of learning to play. Students are encouraged to move beyond “Hot Cross Buns” and try more difficult pieces, ultimately performing for the class. Those students who already play the violin take on a leadership role to help their classmates with fingering, posture, and tone. They are also asked to bring in solo or chamber pieces to perform. Note: Current research on music study and the brain addresses the brain's "total workout" when one is learning a string instrument.

P.E. Colin and Brent are combining classes and working on some dance stuff in preparation for the sock hop!

ESL: Our parents are amazing!!!

New Business: There was no new business to report.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:32.

The next PTO meeting will be on Wednesday, March 11th.