

Jacob Wismer Elementary School (JW) Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)
Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2013

President's Report: Kim Beaton called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. There were 14 people in attendance.

Secretary's Report: Wendy Gibson motioned to approve the November PTO minutes. Jillian Starr seconded. The motion was voted on and passed.

Principal's Report: Principal Joan McFadden said that she has been receiving excellent input regarding security at JW. The JW safety committee has met and approved a variety of measures. Joan reviewed new security procedures that had been distributed to parents. Joan answered questions about security steps, processes and procedures. Joan noted that JW had a security drill today and that it went very well. Joan described other security measures that have been in place and are being taken at JW. She said that a Washington County Deputy is assigned to JW and is quite knowledgeable about the school. Parents can sign up for alerts through the District website.

VP of Fundraising Report: Wendy Gibson said that there will be restaurant fundraiser at Si Señor Restaurant in Cedar Mill on February 18th. 20% of profits from the day will be donated to JW PTO. A co-owner of Si Señor is a JW parent. There will be a restaurant fundraiser at Sweet Tomatoes 5-8 p.m. in March. 20% of profits will be donated to JW PTO. Wendy said that Piccolo Mondo will tell her how much the JW PTO will get from their fundraiser by March. The 5th graders had a pizza night fundraiser. Wendy and other volunteers and staff are checking into an American Girl grant.

VP of Community Events Report: On January 30th, volunteers at Clothes Closet are particularly needed from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Kim Beaton said that a teacher is interested in helping. Joan said that would be ok after 3:30 p.m. Karen Patsy noted that Family Movie Night will be on January 25th.

Volunteer Coordinators Report: Nina Kelley reported that OBOB is about halfway done, is going great, and has great volunteers and help.

Member at Large Report: Jillian Starr said that author Deborah Hopkinson will be reading *Apples to Oregon* to K-1 and grades 2-5. Ms. Hopkinson will also read *Sweet Clara* and the *Freedom Quilt* to the 2nd-5th graders. She'll talk about what makes a writer and about history. Other authors will be Eric Kimmel on March 7th and Barry Deutch, a graphic novelist, on May 2nd. There is \$3,000 in the Author Visit budget; \$2,670 will cover fees. The remainder will cover books and related expenses.

Treasurer Report: Karen Patsy and Chitra Tovinkere gave Kim Beaton permission to present. Kim said that the JW PTO has over \$54,000 in its checking account. After paying all of its expenses, the PTO will still have \$25,700, even with no other fundraising. Kim asked teacher Dan Silver to present regarding a grant for which he has applied. Dan said that he applied for a Young Audiences/Far West Fibers grant regarding stop motion animation. Dan's own kids did stop motion Lego animation and loved it. Dan thought this would be a good way for kids to use multiple intelligences and would be a way for children to learn about, for example, the Oregon Trail.

Dan researched vendors and chose the ICreate Company because he thought the software would be accessible to the kindergarten level and interesting through fifth grade. The software and web cams will stay at JW and will be on all of the school's computers. Dan reviewed the budget breakdown to do the project. Dan requested \$1,000 from the PTO for a stop motion professional to come to JW and provide instruction on stop motion animation. The professional is Sara Negy, who has been vetted through Young Audiences and is well respected. Five classes will do the project initially. Dan will teach the others. Once the students know how to use the software, they could use it if they're done with other work during Technology. Joan suggested the entire staff be trained during a staff meeting.

Kim Beaton said that a safe is needed in order for the PTO to do Scrip fundraising. The cost would come out of the administration budget. Kim said that last school year the PTO budgeted \$150 for

each JW teacher for this school year. It wasn't known last school year that JW would have a student supervisor. Student supervisor Tracy Bariao-Arce has requested \$50 to use for the JW Leadership Club.

After introduction of the topic by Kim, suggestion by Joan and discussion, Geralyn Kerprich motioned that the PTO give each grade \$1,000 to benefit the whole grade. Chitra Tovinkere seconded the motion. It was noted that the request for reimbursement from the budgeted \$1,000/grade will go through each grade liaison. Motion passed. It was noted that the District will provide technical support for the stop motion animation software. Wendy Gibson motioned that \$1,000 be given to support the stop motion animation project that Dan Silver is leading. Karen Patsy seconded the motion. Motion passed. Lynn Hartigan motioned that \$200 be spent for a safe for the PTO; Chitra Tovinkere seconded. Motion passed. Geralyn Kerprich motioned that \$50 be given for Leadership Club; Megan Schnell seconded. The question was raised during discussion of whether \$50 was too little. Geralyn amended her motion to \$100 for Leadership Club; Chitra seconded the amended motion. Motion passed. It was noted that the requests for the \$1,000 should be submitted by March.

Art Literacy: Lynn Hartigan read a report from Liz Caswell: "We had our third unit training yesterday for living American artist, the "Father of Minimalism", Frank Stella. Color schemes (monochromatic, complementary, and adjacent color groupings) and non-representational art are the learning targets for this unit. The project is an abstract geometrical design using a "compass" the student will make out of simple string and a pencil. The student then chooses a color scheme and uses markers for a clean, geometrical look. The project is inspired by Stella's "Protractor" series of paintings from the 1960's and 70's. This unit will run until Feb. 22nd.

Our previous unit on the Art of Mexico was very well-received, and the owl paintings were colorful and a lot of fun. Many classes were doing science units on birds and owls, so there was a nice tie-in there as well. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers for teaching that project so successfully."

PTO Liaison: Dan Silver reported:

5th Grade: Going to Stoller for "Fly-up" on Jan 15, accepted to the Clean Water Festival at the U of Portland--a free field trip with a grant to pay for the buses. Starting a new science rotation.

4th Grade: Native American unit/Lewis and Clark/Oregon Geography, science-energy, Bottle Bill from Recycling Consortium to visit, math--multidigit multiplication strategies

3rd Grade: butterflies, numbers in the millions etc., informational writing

2nd Grade: presentations by Intel, Tualatin Valley Water District & PG&E. Solar energy, water sources, being safe around electricity. All fun, engaging & hands-on. Solar system unit included amazing projects & speeches. Next up: weather.

1st Grade: big Arctic Research Project starting, with children giving puppet show & speech about the animal that they have chosen.

Kindergarten: Martin Luther King, hibernation, migration, Chinese New Year, observing our backyard in the winter-seasonal changes, and working on executive function skills: focusing, following directions, delaying gratification etc.

Kim asked how the \$2,700 for buses gets to the school. Joan said she would check.

Nina Kelley asked who the musicians were who were in the 4th grade music class one day. Dan said that they were through Young Audiences and focused on Oregon Trail. They had won a free workshop. Through myvoicemusic.org.

New Business: none

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.