

**Jacob Wismer (JW) Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)  
Meeting Minutes  
January 15, 2014**

**President's Report:** Kathy Leis called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. All attendees introduced themselves. There were 17 people in attendance.

- New copier training – Kathy Leis asked if people have had the chance to use the new copier machines that were received in December. Dan Silver said he has used it and that he found it easy, convenient, and intuitive. Kathy Leis will work with Lori Secker to schedule a new training for people who either missed the first one, or who were unable to attend.

**Secretary's Report:** Erin Ertz sent around the November minutes. Geralyn Kerprich moved to approve minutes. Wendy Gibson seconded. Minutes will be posted in the hallway and on PTO site.

**Principal's Report:** Joan McFadden

- Tracy Bariao-Arce, the former student supervisor, was made Assistant Principal in December. All Student Supervisors at large elementary schools were made Assistant Principals through the end of this school year to assist Principals with the new district initiatives.
- New PE teacher, Jacob Whitehead, started on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. The district gave us the new APU so we can have a certified PE teacher who is able to plan lessons and evaluate students. He will work with Colin Arnold to plan units and make sure that all district PE learning targets are met. They will share the gym, portable and cafeteria (in the mornings before lunch). Mr. Whitehead will take the place of Chelsea Sanderson's special rotation slot. Chelsea Sanderson will be providing academic support in kindergarten.
- The Jogging Club will continue, but will look different. Thinking about having students jog one day a week; Tuesdays and then possibly adding Thursday later, during lunchtime. We will need help from parent volunteers. Tracy Bariao-Arce and Joan McFadden will work with Geralyn Kerprich as plans develop.
- Lisa Wilcke began her art residency this week. Feedback has been wonderful so far, hearing that she is a wonderful teacher, really great with the kids and teaching them about the history of glass, how it's made, etc. The installation project will be hung in the library windows and will be a

series of six seascape murals. The students are researching sea animals in technology and making their paper animals in the library.

- Celebrate the Arts and We Care: We Care management backed out due to an issue with providing proof of liability insurance. Joan McFadden would like to propose using the money designated for We Care from the PTO to pay for a professional art performance that all Jacob Wismer families can enjoy at Celebrate the Arts. On the last day of school, the normal specials rotations would be in place of We Care.
- The AED (automated external defibrillator) will be moving to outside the office, so that it will be available to building users when the office is closed (it currently resides in the office). The move was recommended by the Beaverton School District Risk Manager.

**Community Partnership Team:** Joan McFadden, Team is composed of Joan McFadden, Tracy Bariao-Arce, Nancy Spaulding (Cedar Mill Library), Tina Oki Le, Jillian Starr, Nina Kelley, Marnie Sadek, and Catherine Kerrigan.

- WE School Project: Tracy Bariao-Arce reported that they had a meeting to discuss doing a project around the district's WE goal. Teachers will be working with students to bring meaning and understanding to the districts individual student goals. The goal is for every student to graduate with many options and be prepared to: THINK: Creatively & Critically, KNOW: Master Content, ACT: Self Direct & Collaborate, GO: Navigate Locally & Globally
- WE Buttons: Students will each make a button that will represent them in the "WE" of our school community. Jacob Wismer staff will be making their buttons first so students can get inspiration and ideas. Jillian Starr has offered to make all the buttons. Everyone is encouraged to wear their buttons on the February 21<sup>st</sup> WE assembly.

### **VP Fundraising's Report: Wendy Gibson**

- Sweet Tomatoes fundraiser will on February 25<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm. 10% of the proceeds benefit the entire school.
- The 1950s themed Sock hop will be on Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. Wendy Gibson reported they had their first meeting and have a DJ reserved for \$450. This cost includes lighting, speakers, hula hoops, and limbo sticks. Wendy Gibson suggested having a photo booth, as well as providing fun props, such as funky glasses, hats, etc. There will be dancing, cake walk, games, hula hoop contest, 50s and current music, as well as the hand jive

(instruction will be provided). There will be a need for volunteers to help with the event. Pizzicato to provide the pizza. Volunteers will help make root beer floats, as well as serving snacks and beverages. Reminder that someone present should have food handler's license. A week or two prior to the Sock Hop, Wendy Gibson will try to get a few kids to dress in costume to talk to students about it and create excitement.

- Gift Card program (Scrip): Karen Patsy reported that the last 2 months of the school year was really successful and brought in a significant amount of money that went into the general PTO fund. November gift card sales were \$776, December gift card sales were \$375, and \$500 was raised from Pizzicato Restaurant night. Discussions were brought up about what, and how much of the Gift Card sales should go towards 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor School. Estimated cost is between \$85-90 per child with 150 students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. GERALYN Kerprich proposed and motioned that gift card sale proceeds go towards Outdoor School in an amount not to exceed the cost of Outdoor School. Anything above would go into the PTO general fund. Karen Patsy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved that proceeds from Scrip go towards 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor School in an amount not to exceed the cost of Outdoor School.
- Brady Gates had mentioned that the program could be defined more clearly and could be advertised better to get more participation. Dan Silver offered to send a note out to all the teachers with the information and to get the word out. It was agreed to redo the marketing communication to make clearer. Also need to make sure and phrase it as a school wide fundraiser for Outdoor School. Helen Sixta and Wendy Gibson to manage communication.

### **VP Community Events Report: Anne Daniels – no updates**

- Family Movie Night, January 31st: Karen Patsy reported that the movie will be Despicable Me 2. The doors will open at 6:00pm and the movie will start at 6:30. There will be popcorn and candy to purchase for \$1, with proceeds going towards Outdoor School. Decided not to do a student store this year.
- Author Visits: Jillian Starr reported that on February 25<sup>th</sup>, Elizabeth Rusch will visit and will be talking to K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade from 8:45 – 9:25am, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades from 10-11am. There will be contests where the kids can meet the author, enter to design their own martian, or design mars rovers. There will be one winner from each grade level that will get to speak to the author. There will be a separate contest where Dr. Steven Squyres has volunteered to answer selected questions from the students. Jillian Starr has inquiry out to next author regarding visiting Jacob Wismer.

- Author Visit Budget for 2013-14: \$2,850
- Total Rusch visit: \$1,292.51
- Remaining Author visit: \$1,557.49
- OBOB: Nina Kelley reported that OBOB is going very well. The battles are taking place during 3, 4, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade lunches and will continue through January. There are 66 teams, and each team battles twice.

**Volunteer Coordinator's Report: Geralyn Kerprich, Sarah Plocher**

- JW Facebook page: Geralyn Kerprich reported that Sarah Plocher is home sick and that the Sock Hop shifts will be up on HelpCounter soon. There will be a staff luncheon sometime before Valentines Day that will be up on HelpCounter as well. Geralyn Kerprich also reported that we no longer need a facebook page for jogging rainout updates since that is now set up on HelpCounter and is working fine. There are more logistics to figure out regarding privacy, ownership, and groups before deciding if/when to set up a facebook page. Kathy Leis proposed waiting until next year and then revisit facebook idea.

**Member at Large Report: Shanna Lonquist** – No updates to report

**Treasurer's Report: Karen Patsy**

- Karen Patsy reported that last year when going through budget, there were two new speech pathologists that had requested some money. Full time ESL receives \$125, part-time ESL receives \$65. Karen Patsy motioned to provide \$65 to each speech pathologist. Megan Schnell seconded. Total of \$130 to be provided to speech pathologists was unanimously approved.
- Classroom funds reminder for teachers: Classroom funds Request for Reimbursement forms are due March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Grade Level funds Request for Reimbursement forms are due April 1, 2014.
- Innisbrook fundraiser total is \$5,547
- Jog-a-thon fundraiser total is \$16,595
- PTO book fair fundraiser is \$3,001.78. Funds will be used to buy new books for the library.

**PTO Liaison: Dan Silver provided grade level reports.**

**Music: Kindergarten and 1st:** We learned holiday songs and dances. We continue to read and echo rhythms, and also create our own rhythms that are played on top of a steady beat. We are listening to music and identifying various elements such as form and melodic direction.

Students listen for “clues” that help us predict what might come next. We use the xylophones for rhythm activities. We are very active and don't like to sit for long. We spend lots of time moving, whether creating our own movements to music, playing games, or performing one of our dances.

**1st Grade:** Has been learning about family holidays and traditions around the world. There were many activities and songs about Diwali, Las Posadas, Christmas, Hanukkah and Ramadan. For example, we made dreidels and played the game and sang "Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel", made a 3-D Kwanza table piece with a woven mat, kinara (candle holder) a bowl of fruit and vegetables, and an ear of corn for each child in their family. We are currently launching our big polar study. Look for the Arctic and Antarctica coming to our hallways soon! We have started reading "Charlotte's Web" in preparation for our field trip to see the play early next month - courtesy of our wonderful PTO. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

**Music: 2nd Grade and 3rd Grade:** Holiday songs and dances. Students formed groups and created movements for an African song called “Hashewie,” (Huh-Show-E-Ay), or “Going Round,” from Eritrea. Students used movements from other dances learned throughout the year and put them together to match the words of the song. The results were wonderful! This trimester, we will learn several new songs, study musical form, play xylophones and form drum circles. Third graders will return to recorders, and both grade levels will study the lines and spaces of the treble clef.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** We had a visit from a representative of the Port of Portland. We learned about local imports and exports, and connected local ports and products with our Social Studies learning targets. Students enjoyed working with local and world maps, and taking notes on their learning. We also found that the tags on our shirts all list where the shirt was made. It was interesting to mark these places on our world maps and see how far away our clothing came from.

**Music: 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Both grades are now working on several pieces on the xylophones. Currently, we are composing ostinatos (a persistent repeated melodic and/or rhythmic pattern) and will begin to improvise on our tunes. I usually save improvisation for National Jazz Month in April, but I thought we would start early.

**Music: 4th Grade:** We finished our violin unit with great success! Fourth graders just finished working on composing music to accompany a poem about Northwest Native Americans. The students formed groups and each group had a section of the poem to accompany. They worked very well together, gathering instruments that would “match” their poem section, appointing a reader, and performing their part. Some groups even added a movement piece.

**4th Grade:** Microscopes – Thanks PTO! Mobile Museum – thanks PTO! Comic Artist started this month in Leahy, Feb/Mar Yarnell/Gueverra, April Silver/Johnston, Starting Lewis & Clark, Life Sciences – owl pellets soon!

**5th Grade:** Enjoying learning algebra through the Hands-On Equations curriculum. This is the grant we received from BEF this year. Kids are loving it! We are also excited because we were among the lucky grades to be chosen to attend the 2014 Children's Clean Water Festival held at University of Portland. This is a field trip that is completely funded through donations (the bus ride is also funded). We are totally digging the NEW COPIER -especially the one installed in the lower workroom - THANK YOU for that!!

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Music:** Learned the Shaker hymn “Simple Gifts.” We also learned and performed the dance to this well-known song. The students had to project themselves back into the 1830s, into a very different time and culture. The dance itself is slow but very distinctive, and the kids proved themselves up to the task.

**5th Grade Choir:** Our mall performance in December was fantastic. The kids did an amazing job, and represented their school well! We also sang at the school assembly in December. We are now working on our Spring set. Hopefully, we will have a few different venues in which to perform.

**Music Listening:** All grade levels have a listening component during our music classes. Whether we listen to opera, symphonies, chamber music, ballet music, jazz, or rock & roll, students are asked to listen for various elements in the music and be prepared to use musical terms when discussing what they heard. Unfortunately, I feel time does not permit me to mount units to study one particular composer from the classical realm, so I try to highlight several composers from all the historical periods throughout the year.

**Music Task Force:** I am one of three teachers on the District's Music Task Force, formed last fall and continuing through the school year. On the District's website, you can take a look at our current proposal that was presented to the School Board Monday evening. The proposal will be turned in to the Internal Budget Committee for review. Please take a card if you would like to share any stories, thoughts, or ideas about music education in the District. The psych PLC is putting together a comprehensive list of behavioral interventions to try with students who need more support, more encouragement or more structure to participate fully in classroom activities. I'll be putting together a booklet of ideas for our building.

**ESL:** As a new staff member I have felt very welcomed by everyone...That I am so happy to be a part of this amazing community where staff, parents and students are so happy learning and sharing their learning that I often don't have words to express about how lucky I feel to be here. – Heidi Corchran

**New Business:** No new business to report.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.