

Jacob Wismer Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization

Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2013

President's Report: Geralyn Kerprich led the meeting in Kim Beaton's absence. Geralyn called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. There were twelve people in attendance.

Geralyn said that Artist in Residence Lisa Wilke will be visiting JW Wednesday and meeting with members of the PTO Board.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made, seconded, and approved to approve the minutes from the February 2013 PTO meeting.

Principal's Report: Joan McFadden said that there will be a Local Option Levy on the May ballot. 100% of funds raised through the Levy will go to funding certified staff. Anyone who would like to help with campaigning in support of the Levy can contact Principal McFadden.

Joan said that students that meet or exceed standard for the State tests cannot retest without special State permission. 4th and 5th graders results will be compared with results by students who have had similar scores in the past. If the student doesn't meet that goal, the students' parent(s) will be consulted on whether to retest.

Community Engagement Committee: Joan said that the Committee plans to meet on Monday. (Joan had to reschedule the previously scheduled meeting due to a required District meeting.)

VP of Fundraising: Wendy Gibson said that the Si Señor fundraiser made \$350.00. The Piccolo Mondo fundraiser made \$321.77, the greatest amount made of any school that participated. Wendy is picking up the checks on March 13th. On March 21st there will be a Sweet Tomatoes fundraiser.

VP of Community Events: Lynn Hartigan said thank you to Margaret Littman and Angie Kirschman for running the Variety Show. Another parent volunteered to help next year.

Celebrate the Arts: Avi Huelskamp said that Portland Taiko will perform 7-7:15 p.m., so nothing else will be planned for that time. They will be in the gym. Tracy Bariao-Arce, Carol Gatewood and Carol Stewart will coordinate the music part and it will be in Ms. Stewart's and Ms. Gatewood's classrooms. Mr. Parker will lead performances by groups of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Kelly Cruickshank will arrange the flowers, which Avi is helping to donate.

New Business: Music Teacher Joel Parker presented a request for money for music instruments. Mr. Parker said that in current music education practice, there is a greater percentage of time recommended where students actively create music via instruments. The instruments are the tool for the children to gain ownership of the music: xylophones, ukuleles, drums, autoharps and recorders. Each type of instrument helps develop a different set of skills. Ex. third graders are using the recorders and have achieved a level normally achieved at 4-6 grade level. Mr. Parker said that using instruments in elementary schools greatly accelerates how quickly they learn instruments in middle school. Three children currently share one ukulele. The school that Mr. Parker was at had 15 ukuleles; they've added 15 more this year.

Mr. Parker asked for \$3,700 from the PTO to get \$5,950 worth of instruments; he has a connection for quality used instruments. Ex. instead of 6-7 students sharing an autoharp, two would. The instruments would arrive within 2-3 weeks.

Nina Kelley presented a proposal requesting money for a new program this year called One School One Book. An option with the OSOB organization membership would be \$3,744.65; without would be \$188.70 total less. It would include a book for every JW family and staff person, prizes, a hamster and supplies, Ziploc bags for the book and materials, photo processing, a toy plush Humphrey hamster, office supplies and bulletin boards and the OSOB membership. The OSOB membership one time membership fee provides access to all of OSOB's documents, ideas, forms, etc., posters, a 30% discount off books ever ordered through OSOB, a bookmark with every book ordered and possible give-aways.

Geralyn Kerprich presented a request for funding for a My Voice Music program where the students would create their own song for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade during May and June. My Voice Music would provide two teaching artists to run songwriting sessions. Total cost would be \$2,400 at the most.

Treasurer: Geralyn presented. Total income was \$57,751.69, expenses were \$46,169.42. Net is \$11,582.27. Funds raised through Jog-a-thon and the restaurant fundraisers would be added to this amount. There is \$45,800 in the PTO bank account, but many expenses haven't been paid out.

It was motioned, seconded and approved to spend \$3,744.65 for the OSOB. It was motioned, seconded and approved to spend up to \$2,400 for Geralyn's My Voice Music proposal. The PTO Board and any interested PTO members present at the meeting will meet regarding Mr. Parker's proposal and respond to Mr. Parker promptly.

Member at Large: Jillian Starr said that Eric Kimmel was here last week and it went fantastically. Author Barry Deutsch will be here on May 2nd.

PTO Liason: Allison Guilfoyle provided a report of what each grade has been doing. Though JW didn't get the STEM grant, the Abhi and Reshma Basu still led classroom projects with parent volunteers for the 1st grade. Thanks from 4th grade teachers for funding for Washington County Museum presenters to visit.

New Business: No other new business.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.