

**Jacob Wismer (JW) Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2014**

President's Report: Kathy Leis called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves. There were 9 people in attendance.

Secretary's Report: Erin Ertz sent around the February minutes. Anne Daniels motioned to approve the minutes and Sarah Plocher seconded.

Amended Bylaws: Last month an amendment to the bylaws was presented and posted for a 30 day review. The amendment would allow for PTO meeting minutes to be posted in a more timely fashion. Shanna Lonquist motioned to approve amended bylaws. Sarah Plocher seconded. Amended bylaws will be written into the current bylaws and uploaded on the PTO site.

Removal of Financial Reporter in Bylaws: Last spring, the "Financial Reporter" position was eliminated, and thus any mention of the Financial Reporter position was to be removed from the bylaws, however our current bylaws have mention of the position. Kathy Leis, in working with Julia Gaynor, will remove this position from the bylaws and provide a final version. The amendment would also modify language in Article 10, Section B, removing the 10 day notice period for additional board meetings.

Principal's Report: Joan McFadden expressed a huge thank you for flowers and card the PTO gave on her birthday.

Variety Show: Thank you to Loni Kissin and everyone who helped! The program ended very late, after 9:30pm, so discussions were had on ways to organize the show in the future, such as breaking up the performances and having K-2nd from 4-5:30 and 3rd-5th from 6:30-8:00pm, possibly moving the instrumental performances to Celebrate the Arts, etc. No decision was made, but will revisit in future.

May 20 Bond Measure: Need to form a Jacob Wismer team for canvassing, phone bank, etc. Please consider helping with this effort. Joan was informed by IT that if the bond passes, all schools will be receiving new student computers or laptops based on enrollment numbers. Other Jacob Wismer benefits would include: fire alarm system and roofing repairs.

Kindergarten Lottery: For the first time, a lottery was needed this year for full day placement. There are 9 students on the wait list. Families were notified Wednesday, March 12th at 4pm by email.

Parent Input Forms for 2014-15 Class Placement: Will be available April 1st; due by April 30th. Cannot name specific teachers; just provide student's learning style, optimum environment and other pertinent information.

Building Use Applications for 2014-15: Available May 1st on a first-come, first-served basis for non-school/non-PTO users. We need to meet in April to decide on PTO events to reserve the dates before opening the building to the public.

Art Installation: Estimate for art installation came in at \$3,400. This cost is higher than estimated. Joan McFadden getting more quotes.

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.

The last all-district Community Partnership Teams meeting is scheduled for April 17th at the Nike Tiger Wood's Center.

Assistant Principals Report (Tracy Bariao): Tracy Bariao was absent, No updates.

VP Fundraising's Report: Wendy Gibson:

Restaurant Night: Wendy Gibson was absent. Kathy Leis provided update that Wendy is currently working on April Restaurant Night. Final date is not nailed down yet.

Innisbrook Fundraiser: Discussion was had as to whether to keep doing Innisbrook. Kathy Leis pointed out that Jog-a-Thon did so great in the fall as the key fundraiser. Innisbrook brought in \$5,500 this year, but was up against Jog-a-Thon and Write-a-Check, which could have hurt fundraising efforts. Feedback was that some people felt too many fundraisers at once in early fall. Some suggestions were to keep Innisbrook as an online option, since teachers seem to really like it, or move it to the spring. Looking to Innisbrook rep to provide suggestions or alternatives. No future decisions were made at this time in regards to Innisbrook.

VP Community Events Report: Anne Daniels reported that she was happy with the Variety Show. No other updates.

Fall Community Event: Kathy Leis presented the idea of hosting a fall community event. Ideas discussed were an ice cream social, luau, fall harvest square dance, but something small level like the sock hop with lots of interaction and participation. No decisions were made.

Author Visits: Jillian Starr was absent so Kathy Leis provided the update that the next author visit will be Roland Smith on April 14th. Jillian Starr is requesting additional funds of \$280 to purchase books for each classroom. Discrepancy around final Author Visit budget was discussed with Karen Patsy. UPDATE 3/14:

Final budget for Author Visits is \$200, therefore Jillian Starr is requesting \$80, which is currently being voted on by the PTO Board.

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

Jogging Club: Amy Charon provided the update that Jogging Club is having a great turnout. So far 241 kids have signed up and are really excited. Geralyn Kerprich brought up the idea to reward kids and provide incentive for reaching milestones, such as Jacob Wismer water bottles from Spirit Wear. Geralyn Kerprich made a motion to give Jogging Club \$200 for rest of the school year for water bottle purchase and administrative costs (such as providing boxes, paper to track, etc.) Karen Patsy seconded.

Scholarship Deadline: Geralyn Kerprich reminded attendees that the High School Seniors Scholarship PTO deadline is April 4th.

Member at Large Report: Shanna Lonquist – No updates

Treasurer's Report: Karen Patsy provided the update that the Sock Hop budget was \$2,000 and only \$746 was spent. Concessions made \$189 for 5th Grade Send Off. Had to pay Pizzicato \$60 dollars for leftover pizza. 5th grade events total \$4,800. Letter went out March 11th that the cost for 5th Grade Send Off was brought down to \$85, which includes memory book, tshirt, and party. Cost was \$150 before grant was received for outdoor school.

SCRIP: SCRIP is doing okay with about 20-30 orders in. So far, SCRIP has made \$1,700 dollars this year. SCRIP proceeds for the rest of year will go to next year's 2014-15 outdoor school fund.

PTO Liaison: Dan Silver provided grade level reports.

5th Grade: A HUGE thank you to PTO for our grade level funds! We haven't spent all of our money yet, but are giddy with the opportunity to help our classes in a myriad of ways we wouldn't be able to do otherwise. Thank you!

2. We just returned today from the 2014 Children's Clean Water Festival. This was an exciting field trip that was sponsored and paid for by different water agencies in the Portland metro area. Students got to attend several sessions throughout the day at the University of Portland campus, and in each session, they learned interesting facts about the water cycle, our local water streams, wildlife habitats in our area, etc. 3. We are pumped to go to Outdoor School! The paperwork went home Tuesday. While we're not going until May 19, we're getting the ball rolling on getting ready for this exciting venture. Thank you to PTO for helping us fund raise through different activities. We were able to bring the cost down significantly because of fundraising efforts. Now that it's the third year we're going, I think it's

safe to say going to ODS as a JW fifth grader is now a formal tradition! :) 4. We are in the throes of learning all about the original 13 colonies. This unit culminates with our Colonial Fair, scheduled for 3/20. During the fair, kids will go from class to class and experience life as a colonist. They will play traditional colony games, make corn husk little people, make a silhouette, do some quilling, "churn" some butter, etc. It's a highlight of the year for many fifth graders.

4th Grade: 1. Field Trips to Cathlapotle cedar plank house in Ridgefield, WA is in the works thanks to grade level funds from PTO! (April 29 trip hopefully) 2. Purchased Books – 20 graphic novels, 5 picture books for Oregon Trail 3. Finishing up Ecosystems, Finishing Opinion Writing 4. Math: working on fractions, perimeter, area

3rd Grade: 1. Fractions, Geometry 2. Wax Museum a big success 3. Beginning Opinion Writing, finishing up informational writing 4. 3rd grade is preparing for our Portland walking tour

2nd Grade: is excited to go on a field trip to OMSI this month. We feel very lucky to get to see the planetarium show which goes along nicely with our unit about space that we recently finished. Next we will be learning about life cycle and we will be observing the life cycles of frogs and meal worms. We are currently using our new magnets that PTO bought for our grade level to explore magnetism. THANK YOU!

1st Grade: We had a visiting science teacher from the District come to give us a lesson about designing and making a habitat for pill bugs (also called roly pollies, potato bugs...). We used some of our PTO money to purchase live bugs for our habitats. The instructor said that we were the only school that has actually had the live bugs and a special journal that we made for the 2-day session. The kids were super charged about their "pets" and they learned a lot of facts that we were able to get from the internet. This also provided a springboard for a lot of great writing - fiction and non-fiction. Thanks, PTO! P.S. We found out that pill bugs are not actually bugs at all. They are crustaceans which makes them more closely related to shrimp and crabs than insects! It's amazing what you can learn in first grade!

Kindergarten: In addition to our core curriculum, we are enriching their experiences with community singing. We have a grade level "pet" and we are reading *The World According to Humphrey*. We are using different mediums in art. We are about to begin our unit on Poetry. We are about to start a unit on engineering and design. P.E. We have done a ton of different fitness activities since I have been

here, along with a dance unit that finished with the sock hop. Recently we have been working on teamwork and collaboration through different cooperative activities. Some classes have been in the gym with double classes – which has gone well, but if the weather starts improving we will start going outside and making use of nice weather.

From the Music Room:

Kindergarten and 1st: Students continue to look at quarter and eighth note rhythm patterns and demonstrate their understanding by clapping, drumming, or tapping rhythm sticks as they read the notations. Students are practicing their songs for their “Celebrate the Arts” performance! Next week, the kids will be creating music and movements to Maurice Sendak’s *Where the Wild Things Are*.

2nd Grade: If ever there was a group destined for Broadway, this is it! The kids are always ready to belt out a song. They have been singing songs from a play called *Lights, Camera, Action!* The kids love it, and work together to create movements. It is so fun to watch them sing and dance! While they continue with the songs, students have just begun a recorder unit. They are definitely looking forward to playing “real songs!”

3rd Grade: Third graders have returned to recorders, but this time they are playing along on the xylophones. This takes lots of concentration, focus, and listening skills. Students are also using their note-reading knowledge. In tandem with the xylophones and recorders, the kids will learn some American folk songs in the next few weeks.

4th and 5th Grade: Students are composing class compositions on the xylophones. All classes were introduced to a simple phrase of music, and students work together to come up with additional phrases. The process can be somewhat chaotic and arduous, but the results are phenomenal! One of the goals for this unit is for students to reflect on and appreciate the time, energy, strength and conviction the great composers had in order to create their masterpieces that are still heard and loved today.

Choir: I can’t say enough about these kids who have stayed together all year, coming to school early and singing together! We have a few venues in which to sing this spring. I am hoping to invite 4th graders to join us once a week to see what the choir is all about, and hopefully plan to be in choir next year. Thanks PTO! I am so grateful for your generous funding this year. I have just completed ordering supplies for the music room, which I have carefully selected. Among the

items:

Colorful scarves for movement activities.

New mallets for the xylophones.

A historical composer timeline, word wall, and tempo posters.

10 small bell sets, perfect for little hands.

Song collections for all ages.

Thank you very much!!

New Business: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.