

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

Welcome and Introductions

President's Report: Kathy Leis called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Introductions were made. There were 12 people in attendance. Kathy reported on the following:

- Cherie Pun Memorial Ideas: At February's PTO meeting, ideas were discussed in ways to honor Cherie Pun. In follow up, Kathy Leis spoke to Tina Le about finding a special place within the library to place a piece of furniture such as a bench with a plaque. Kathy presented a couple photos of furniture options that Tina liked. Kathy reported that Jillian Starr suggested using her remaining Author Visit budget to fund the purchase of whichever furniture option is chosen/approved. Joan McFadden mentioned they were working on clearing out space in the library and will be moving things around. Joan will follow up with Tina about space options/recommendations.

Secretary's Report: Erin Ertz reported that she will be meeting with Josh Gates on Sunday, March 15th to begin talks on the PTO website rebuild.

Principal's Report: Joan McFadden thanked everyone for the birthday card and flowers. She also expressed a big congratulations to the Variety Show committee. The show ran seamlessly, the kids did a great job, and it even ended early! Joan also expressed a congratulations to Nina Kelley and the OBOB teams.

- Author visit with Carson Ellis was one of the best Joan has seen. It was outstanding!
- Joan also reported that Tracy Bariao-Arce would like Celebrate the Arts to have a cultural element this year, and there are lots of ideas to make this really unique and fun.
- Science Expo survey results show that 39% would like to see the Science Expo held at OMSI, 44% would like it to stay at Jacob Wismer, and 17% said they would like it to be at both places. Joan recommends to keep the Science Expo at Jacob Wismer and work with OMSI to have them host the activity tables.
- Joan reported that the state budget proposal is quite a bit less than the 7.5 billion which would just maintain our current programs and services. State legislators are proposing 7.235 billion. This would mean a loss of \$4.1 million for next year which is about \$90 per student. There is a movement

and request for all voters and superintendents to flood state representatives with letters, emails and phone calls requesting and urging support in a reinvestment of education for K-12 education.

Community Partnership Team: Joan reported that starting next year, the focus will be on starting a Jacob Wismer Computer Club. The club would meet in the mornings, when the computer labs wouldn't be taken up by students during the regular school day. The Club could take advantage of field trips to Intel, and Intel could also come to Jacob Wismer to give talks to students. Planning on this is happening now.

VP Fundraising's Report: Bradi Gates reported that she received a check from the Bethany Public House fundraiser for \$174, which is one of the top fundraiser's the Bethany Public House has had thus far. The fundraiser for Bethany US World Class Taekwondo is coming up and registrations need to be in by the end of March. This is a great fundraiser, as they donate 100% back to Jacob Wismer. There will be one more restaurant night in May. Bradi working on securing the restaurant.

- **Box Tops:** Alexandra Wiedholz reported that the Box Top competition went really well, and that we will probably receive \$1,200 or higher for our school. Cooperation with Sky High was really easy. There will be one more Box Top competition before the end of the year that has already started. Every class that collects at least 200 Box Tops would be able to have a picnic lunch outside. Maybe this time it would be a grade level competition, so that everyone works together.

VP Community Events:

- **Variety Show:** Kathy Leis reported in Anne Daniel's absence that the Variety Show went really well and that Anne really appreciated all the volunteer effort and help!
- **Author Visits:** Kathy reported in Jillian Starr's absence that we have finished up the last author visit with Carson Ellis for grades K-2. Carson was fantastic! Next year, we're at 99% probability of securing Nick Bruel during the week of October 19th. Nick does the "Bad Kitty" books. Waiting to hear confirmation from his publishers regarding his West Coast tour and then will start signing contracts. His cost will be \$1,200 for full day, plus \$300 in travel expenses. He will likely be speaking at McKinley and Findley, which would divide the total cost between the schools. Also, we're moving toward 85% probability with Jarrett K (he does the "Lunch Lady" series among others). Jarrett has a *fantastic* TED talk online and is a phenomenal and inspirational speaker. Right now Jillian is working on finding him a literary

conference or teaching conference to speak at in addition to our school. Jarrett will likely cost around \$2000 for a half day (his speaking fees for 2015-16 not yet finalized).

- **OBOB:** Nina Kelley reported that OBOB is done! Team Book Circuits went to regionals and made it to the Sweet 16. All kids who participated had popsicles and entered a raffle for next year's OBOB books.
- **OSOB:** Nina Kelley reported that the book title will be revealed on April 27th. Nina has some great ideas to generate school-wide excitement and participation in the book, such as having students and staff wear the same t-shirt every Friday, doing scavenger hunts, bingo idea, etc. All teachers and staff will be given an OSOB t-shirt, where students have the option to purchase theirs for \$5.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report: Mary Kelly Rossow was not present. Sarah Plocher reported that the Variety Show and Sock Hop went really well. Sarah is working with Vilay Fortner on staff appreciation and ice cream social coming up.

- **5th Grade Report:** Margaret Littman reported that realtor, Lee Davies will donate a van to take bags to Outdoor School. Another volunteer for riding back from Vernonia with the luggage is still needed on May 20th. Yearbooks are coming along! A parent has offered to type up the student surveys this year. Most of the baby photos have been received. The yearbook point of contacts for each class have been receiving photos this year to include in the book. Tricia Ball has volunteered to do the party planning and many others have volunteered to help on the day of the party. We will be meeting with Mrs. Ewert and Mrs. Lary about the party on March 19th. Class photo has yet to be announced. The Yearbook artwork submission has yet to be announced with Mrs. Scoggins.

Member at Large Report: Tammy Robb was not present.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Leis reported in Latsy Walker's absence that there were no updates.

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

5th Grade: Fifth grade is all about colonies at the moment! We have sent out our Outdoor School packets and everything is due this Friday, which means we're getting excited for Outdoor School! We'd like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to PTO for underwriting so much of our Outdoor School expenses. We really, really appreciate the hard work and dedication of parents to bring in as much money as

they did through fund-raising. Without their efforts, we wouldn't be able to go to ODS, and so we are so very thankful.

4th Grade: We are very excited for our trout release field trip tomorrow! We will release about 490 trout fry into Hagg Lake, take a tour of Scoggins Dam, and complete a nature scavenger hunt created by our two amazing and wonderful student teachers, Danielle Leveridge and Julia Hitner.

We also recently started a new Arts4Learning unit focusing on everyday heroes, using close reading to cite evidence from text, and integrating art into literacy by making of collages. We have a local artist coming right after Spring Break to lead our classes in a final and culminating collage project.

3rd Grade: Third grade is embarking on creating a hybrid unit on fractions using two math programs, Everyday Math and Engage NY. They are working with an architect plans engineering and design to see what cities will look like in the future. Third grade is also doing their second Arts4Learning unit, combining poetry and creative movement.

2nd Grade: Second grade has released the adult butterflies that we've been raising since they were caterpillars. Some of their mealworms have pupated and are now turning into adult darkling beetles. Frank, from TVWD, is rotating through classes doing several lessons about water. Students have already learned about the parts and functions of water pipes underground. They also learned the difference between tap, distilled, and spring water.

1st Grade: In first grade, one of the things we have been learning about is dental health. Not only have we reviewed how to brush and floss, but we have also found out what a tooth is made of and how bacteria in your mouth will eat the sugar from sugary foods which makes plaque which produces acid that eats away holes in the enamel of our teeth. We did various inquiry-based classroom experiments to show how bacteria will grow and multiply when there is sugar present (we used yeast) and the importance of calcium for your teeth. We also had a visit from a dentist - Dr. Call, father of first grader Henderson Call. He demonstrated how baby teeth (standing students) get pushed out by in-coming permanent teeth (kneeling and rising students), how to properly brush (with an industrial-sized dustpan brush), and how to properly floss (with a long piece of rope). The students really enjoyed his visit and he gave every student a toothbrush, toothpaste and floss. We heard from parents that their children became quite diligent about brushing and flossing!

Kindergarten: Kindergarten is a happy place! The children are full of zest. The past month was a busy one – 100's day, a trip to China, and Valentine's Day

parties. The kids and teachers have been busy with assessments and everyone is making progress towards being successful first graders!

Music: Belgique: In 4th and 5th grade we're playing ukulele--singing and playing songs that require only two chords--so that's been fun. We've got some new instruments in (unpitched percussion) and we've been using these in grades K-3. Singing and dancing games continue throughout.

Music: Welch:

Kindergarten/1st: Learning new songs and providing creative movements. Listening to music and describing what we hear. Kindergartners recently chose instruments and provided original music to accompany the book *Where the Wild Things Are*. (I loved the smiles that accompanied this activity!) First graders worked together to perform *Early in the Morning*, moving around a circle of xylophones and playing specific rhythms while reciting the poem.

2nd Grade: Practicing two-part songs on the xylophones. Students must focus on keeping a steady beat while listening to both parts and “entering” with their part at the right time.

3rd Grade: Learning about improvisation and trying it out on our own! *I Got A Letter This Morning* is an African American spiritual that provides a great opportunity to improvise.

4th Grade: We just finished composing music for a poem about Northwest Native Americans. Students worked in groups to create a suitable accompaniment for their section of the poem. Adding a movement piece provided just the right touch! We are now learning some early American pioneer songs and dances. If we can just get over the horror of having an opposite gender partner...

5th Grade: Listening to symphonic music and critically analyzing what we hear. Creating a “listening map” for younger grades. We will begin learning colonial songs and dances as we study the colonial period in American history.

Art Work: Check out the fabulous “Fantasy” recorders and violins – created by 3rd, 4th,

- **ESL Grant:** Dan Silver presented a proposal put together by Heidi Cochran. This grant includes a request for extra funds from the PTO to purchase materials that ESL feels are critical for newcomers to our school. These would be used mainly for students that are brand new to the country, new to the culture, and new to the English language. The total cost of materials is

\$349.50. Sarah Plocher made a motion to approve the purchase of the ESL supplies. Bradi Gates seconded. It was unanimously approved to use PTO funds to purchase the additional ESL materials outlined in Heidi's proposal.

New Business: Bradi Gates asked if/when the computer lab area will be enclosed. Joan responded that the 5ft x 5ft panels (10 in total) have arrived. They will be working on Friday, March 13th to map out how the enclosure will work.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:21.