

Jacob Wismer Elementary School PTO
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2012

President's Report: Kim Beaton called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Attendees introduced themselves. There were 10 people in attendance.

Beaverton Eco-School Network: Emily Klavins, guest speaker from the Beaverton Eco-School Network, spoke. A group of parents from eight Beaverton schools formed the Beaverton Eco-School Network in 2012 under the umbrella of the Center for Earth Leadership. The Network is meeting regularly with plans underway to expand the network by involving parents from unrepresented schools. An informational meeting will be held on December 11th and interested parents from Jacob Wismer are encouraged to join. Other schools already involved are Bonny Slope, Ridgewood, Sexton Mountain, Raleigh Hills. Sue Shade is a resource conservation specialist; she attends the meetings. The Sustainability Advisory Committee approved and supports the Beaverton Eco-School Network. Emily will put up posters at Jacob Wismer.

President's Report: Kim Beaton had the opportunity to purchase flair pens that could be given to JW school for students' use. Wendy Gibson motioned to approve \$80 from the PTO funds to pay for ten packs of flair pens (120 pens) for JW students @ school. Karen Patsy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Kim Beaton is forming a committee for the Artist in Residence for 2013/14. Persons interested in joining the committee should email Kim Beaton. Typically the committee alternates between choosing a music artist and a visual artist. Kim mentioned working with an artist who does glass work, but she welcomes suggestions. Artist in Residence is the PTO's biggest budget line item at \$10,000.

Portland Taiko is the artist in residence this year (April through May) and they will teach kids to use Japanese drums.

Wendy Gibson stated that we are in the running for a McMEnamin's grant: 50% for the entire day's receipts at Oak Hills Brewpub. This grant is available every year for enrichment programs to the schools. This year's grant for Jacob Wismer listed our Artist in Residence as Portland Taiko.

Secretary's Report: Jillian Starr filled in as PTO secretary for Julia Gaynor at this meeting. Jillian made the October 2012 meeting minutes available for review. Nina Kelley motioned to approve last month's minutes, seconded by Lynn Hartigan. The motion passed.

Principal's Report: Principal McFadden conducted a presentation on learning teams. Exit tickets about learning teams were handed out to meeting attendees and turned in at the end of the meeting.

Principal McFadden supports learning teams. The superintendent is a big supporter of learning teams. Although it will not happen in 2012/13, Principal McFadden believes it will come around for a vote again or come around in another form.

The presentation discussed the district goals as well as getting students college ready.

There are 4 options the district looks at when they discuss a full option graduate:

1. Contextual Skills and Awareness (how to navigate college, live on their own)
2. Academic Behaviors (studying)
3. Key Content Areas (academics)
4. Key Cognitive Strategies: (can they interpret, look at text, write a meaningful paper?)

What is a learning team? A small team of teachers who meet regularly to collaborate about student learning. Teams focus on the effectiveness of learning. During a school day 90% of the time a teacher is working with their students and not with colleagues, therefore limited to quick meetings in the hallways. Learning teams gives the opportunity to brainstorm with other professionals. Also learning teams work on agreed upon targets and assessments.

Jacob Wismer does currently have some learning teams: every 7th day kids have 2 specials that allows time for teachers to collaborate. Learning teams are a new national phenomena over last 5 to 10 years, started by a husband and wife team.

The school board will vote how the parents feel and listen to the teacher's union. There has been some support from parents but concern about early start and study hall. Also a concern if it's not implemented correctly or if they don't use that time well.

PTO Liaison Allison Guilfoyle stated that teachers did feel like it was too many changes, especially in the middle of the year. She said it is amazing to collaborate with co-workers, that time is so valuable especially when you're new to a grade level and you need the experience and expertise of co-workers.

Principal McFadden stated that some schools buy substitutes three times a year but it drains the total budget.

Attendees at the meeting suggested: current climate not right, children learn best in the morning so morning study hall is not a good idea, concern students would be losing valuable learning time. Parents also asked if we could find that collaboration time somewhere else, fit it in without losing valuable instruction time.

Principal McFadden stated that teacher's contract time after school is until 4:00 with 45 minutes for lesson plan and grade papers. It is hard to get everyone together at that time.

Community Engagement Committee: Principal McFadden stated that no one from the community can use our fields during the winter, they would suffer too much damage.

VP of Fundraising: Wendy Gibson stated that TaeKwonDo went well, Master George said we have 30 kids and Jacob Wismer PTO made \$500. He's going to do it again in the spring, come up with ideas how to promote it. A problem might be that kids are already so committed to other activities. \$49 kids can get a month worth of classes and uniform, he would give us \$39 from that.

FroZone: They brought in \$600; Jacob Wismer PTO received \$62.50. Wendy suggested not having it every month, people might burn out on it, instead offer it every 3 months. She suggested doing something that has a bigger return, 20% or greater. It's great that they're trying to help us, but \$62.50 is hard when you're printing fliers and putting time and energy into it.

At Piccolo Mondo, kids can make a wish list. Piccolo Mondo keeps it on file, when shopping night comes around relatives can order over the phone and Jacob Wismer PTO receives the credit on Jacob Wismer/PM night. Coupons will not be accepted. The PM shopping night will be on November 29th, 3pm to closing. Between 6 and 8 p.m., drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Wendy will check into the possibility of the night being extended to earlier in the day so parents can go while kids are in school. She will do another eblast and announcement over the school loudspeaker.

Helen Sixta signed up to do scrip for our school, she's going to be working with Angie Kelly at Findley to get started and send the forms to classes. With scrip people can purchase gift cards, the purchase will give between 1 and 10 percent to the school.

VP of Community Events: Lynn Hartigan reported that Beaverton Clothes Closet is operated by volunteers through the Beaverton School District. It provides clothing to low income families. In the first 5 weeks there were 740 visits, a 20% increase from last year. Jacob Wismer's day at the clothes closet is Jan 30th between 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Volunteers will work in the sorting room (sort through donated clothes) and shopping room. If you volunteer you will be placed in either the sorting room or shopping room. Volunteers are needed for that day. The PTO donates \$300 to give socks and underwear, other basic items. Also the Jacob Wismer lost and found is checked on certain dates then washed and sent to the clothes closet. Volunteers can sign up on help counter or contact Sarah O'Donnell.

Mrs. Bedrick's classroom is doing a coat drive. Adult coats are needed too because high schoolers come. Taking coats til Nov 20th. Coats go to the Clothes Closet the Wednesday after Thanksgiving.

Volunteer Coordinator: Nina Kelly stated nothing new to report.

Member at Large: Jillian Starr stated that we are considering authors including Deborah Hopkinson and Eric Kimmel for author visits. Visits will be finalized after a meeting with Principal McFadden.

Treasurer's report: Kim Beaton state our current income from fundraisers is \$43,100, which is only \$50 away from our goal. Expenses have been low, we're in a good position. People have been generous.

We haven't gotten expenses back from classroom supplies to reimburse them.

Scholarship fund: \$250/ea for Westview and Sunset.

We are in a position where we want to make a donation to the school in some way. We're going to take suggestions from teachers and parents.

\$6,000 (approx): It could be divided (maybe give teachers extra \$100, then still have money left over)

PTO Liaison (Allison Guilfoyle) will gather information from teachers to see what would benefit the school.

New Business: Parents discussed emergency preparedness, suggested having a safety kit for every pod area (flashlights, bullhorns, hand tools, first aid kits, battery powered radios). Findley every year has emergency blankets, glow stick, water, granola bar for each student.

Principal McFadden stated it's not the district's practice to store large stocks of emergency supplies.

In case of an emergency kids currently are moved to Meadow Park. Principal McFadden is working on changing to Stoller. If Stoller's is also affected by an emergency then move to Westview.

Wendy Gibson asked if teachers go to an emergency training so they know what to do if there's a serious emergency.

Art Literacy: Kim Beaton read a note from Liz Caswell: Training was held on Monday November 5th. The New unit is the Folk Art of Mexico. It has been very popular!

PTO Liaison: Allison Guilfoyle thanked the PTO for lunch on the in-service day.

Kim Beaton asked if it is beneficial for teachers to have lunch during parent/teacher conference time or in-service day. Allison suggested maybe next time during parent/teacher conference since everyone's on site.

Allison also thanked the PTO for the extra \$25 for classroom supplies.

Kindie went to Tryon Creek State Park had a great time! **1st grade** doing rotations based on pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians. **2nd grade** is learning about communities, urban rural and suburban and studying the election process. A new science unit on tools and technology incorporates engineering. **3rd grade** passport is going great and starting biography unit. Students will portray a person in our wax museum. **4th grade** is studying animals and animal classification and owl pellets. **5th grade** just started explorer unit for social studies getting ready for wax museum on Nov 20th.

Nov 29th outdoor school science camp meeting, in the evening 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Getty has painted a very large sign for the Winter Wonderland and the Portland Raceway, winning class wins \$1000, go and vote for her class! It will be labeled with our school our theme "Sharing is Sweet".

December 2012 PTO meeting canceled.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.