

**Jacob Wismer (JW) Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)  
Meeting Minutes  
November 5, 2014**

**Welcome and Introductions**

**President's Report:** Kathy Leis called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Introductions were made. There were 12 people in attendance.

Anne Hao, a BSD school board member, as well as a parent of a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Stoller and 3<sup>rd</sup> grader at Jacob Wismer, came to speak to the PTO to make sure we are aware of the current issues being discussed concerning the overcrowding at Stoller Middle School and what options are on the table being discussed to reduce the overcrowding. The main solution being discussed and debated is to move the Summa program to Meadow Park. This would alleviate the overcrowding, however would impact many families in negative ways and many believe this is not a good solution. Currently, there is an online petition where parents can voice their opinions to reject moving Summa students to Meadow Park. Regardless of what your thoughts are on this issue, it's an important one and one that will impact our JW students who will inevitably funnel into Stoller.

- **Volunteer name labels vs. badges:** Kathy Leis reported that we've received the new label maker and it's ready to use. Because Sarah Plocher is currently unable to facilitate the implementation due to her concussion, Nina Kelley will help out and contact Mark from HelpCounter to get further detail on how to pull volunteer names to get the label maker ready for use. More specifically, Nina will find out how to exempt names from use, such as all Chair and Co-Chairs, and PTO board members who will still use the lanyard badges due to the amount of time they are in the school volunteering.
- **Student Directories:** The current draft is up and in the hallway for parents to review for accuracy. There were 140 creative entries for the cover contest. The entries have been narrowed down to 16 and are in the staff room. Voting will happen over the next week.
- **Giving Tree:** The Giving Tree from last year is no longer up in the hallway. Kathy Leis spoke with I-Shuan Warr, who had made the original tree, and will brainstorm ideas to create a new tree. Hoping to have new Giving Tree up soon.
- **Pull Tabs:** Alexandra Wiedholz has connection and works with The Ronald McDonald house. All pull tabs that our school collects will be donated to

The Ronald McDonald house and “cashed” in for a good cause. Currently working on creating a box for tab donations and to get the word out.

**Secretary’s Report:** Erin Ertz had no updates.

**Principal’s Report: Joan McFadden**

- **Conferences:** Joan McFadden reported that the first conferences of the year went really smoothly and would love to hear feedback and suggestions. Bradi Gates brought up the time issue and wondering if 20 minutes provides enough time. Dan Silver thought, at least from a teacher’s perspective, that 20 minutes seemed like enough time, although it is difficult for teachers to power through them all with no break. If more specific issues need to be discussed, most teachers and parents are willing to schedule this for another time and everyone seems to understand and respect this.
- **New Copy Machine:** Kathy Leis had asked Joan what needs the school has this year that the PTO could help with. Joan responded that the oldest copy machine is beyond its last legs, and that this is the top need for the school at this time. The recommended copy machine to replace the old one is a Konica Minolta. This would come in at the district cost of \$6,739.02, per Lori Secker. Latsy Walker will review the budget and we will discuss again at the December PTO meeting.

**Community Partnership Team:**

Joan McFadden provided an overview of the new school wide coding residency. Students are getting familiar with coding and some of the kids are very interested and excited about it. The Community Partnership Team has decided to look at more opportunities where kids would have an opportunity to do more coding. The team will be working on asking for volunteers for specific time slots during the day (rather than before or after school). Bradi Gates mentioned that other schools have heard about our coding residency and are very interested in implementing something like this in their schools. The feedback is that kids are loving it. Joan asked Bradi to provide her with the names of the interested schools so that Joan can provide more info to them.

**VP Fundraising’s Report: Bradi Gates**

- **Amazon Smile:** Jacob Wismer PTO is now registered on Amazon Smile. When families shop and are linked into Amazon Smile, a percentage of sales will come back to our school. We need to get the word out.
- **Employer Matching:** Working on getting the word out on Employer Matching to all families.

- **SCRIP (gift cards):** SCRIP has started and so far has brought in over \$500. The SCRIP program will run bi-weekly and proceeds will fund the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor School.
- **Box Tops** – Class competition for collecting the most box tops is underway!
- **Piccolo Mondo** – Jacob Wismer shopping days for Piccolo Mondo will be Monday through Friday all week, November 10-14<sup>th</sup>. Both locations will be participating. Shoppers just need to mention they are shopping for JW.
- **Restaurant Nights:**
  - Working on getting the final date for Munchies frozen yogurt. Right now it's looking like it will be the entire weekend of January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Bradi is working to pair it with another restaurant in the area.
  - Bethany Public House: Bradi is working on setting a date, most likely will be end of January.

**VP Community Events Report:** Ann Daniels had no updates.

- **Author Visits:** Anne Daniels reported, in Jillian Starr's absence, that Mark Shapiro from Laika will be speaking to grades 3-5 on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. He's just returning from a worldwide tour promoting Boxtrolls and we're excited to have him! Also booked is Carson Ellis, for grades K-2 for March 10<sup>th</sup>. Carson is a local artist and will be talking about her new book "Homes". She has illustrated for Lemony Snicket and for the books Wildwood and The Mysterious Benedict Society. She's also the artist in residence for The Decemberists. Both visits are free.
- **Barn Dance:** Wendy Gibson reported that we made \$277.96 on pizza and water sales which will benefit the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor School. Overall, the first Barn Dance went well and kids and families seemed to have a really good time. Wendy provided some of her observations, both positive and negative, as to how the first Fall Barn Dance went.
  - Having the square dance caller and DJ going on at same time was too conflicting. Next time, possibly have alternating designated time slots, or just do one or the other.
  - Not having Mr. Arnold there was a disappointment and really made a big difference. At the Sock Hop, kids really responded to his enthusiasm, as he was out of the dance floor leading the dances, etc. This year, there was a miscommunication that Mr. Arnold would be teaching line dancing prior to the dance. This didn't happen.
  - Not very many staff members attended. Students really respond well and enjoy seeing their teachers and staff supporting these events. The absence of most of the staff set a different tone.

- In spite of Wendy filling out the Building Use forms, none of the tables or chairs had been moved, therefore Wendy and team had to do this themselves. Joan recommended talking to Mike Boell and Cari Shaw beforehand, prior to the next event.
  - Bethany Daycare was not very cooperative and not willing to move or accommodate the Barn Dance crew during the dance set-up. Joan recommended to start the conversation with Bethany Daycare a week before the next event to make it all very clear what we'll need from them. Joan recommends working with Kathy, the owner, and staff to let them know the arrangements ahead of time.
  - People were entering the Barn Dance in two locations. In future for Sock Hop, let's set up two entry locations for greeting and donations.
  - On a positive, Wendy took all of the clothes donated to the Clothes Closet and they were extremely happy!
    - Stoller Volunteer Day at the Clothes Closet is Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. This is the busiest day at the Closet and they really need volunteer help. Spread the word and talk to Sara O'Donnell with any questions.
    - The Clothes Closet had mentioned that they are really in need of women's socks, boy's jeans and girl's jackets and coats.
  - As a side discussion, when needing to use the school kitchen refrigerator or freezer for any dance event or Jog-a-thon, the kitchen staff needs lots of advance notice. Mary Kelly Rossow suggested including this in the Chair Training for next year.
- **OBOB:** Nina Kelley provided the update that OBOB meetings have started with 2/3 of each of the grade levels on Friday. They each get a form to help them remember the books, details, etc. Teacher order forms are due November 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Volunteer Coordinator's Report:** Mary Kelly Rossow had no updates. Sarah Plocher was absent.

- Margaret Littman reported that the flier went out for December 2<sup>nd</sup> Pizzicato night. There will also be a morning announcement. Posters will be provided by Pizzicato in the next week to post at school. 20% of the profits will go towards 5<sup>th</sup> grade events.
- Margaret Littman reported that a letter was sent to those who expressed interest by checking 5th Grade Activities in Help Counter asking for volunteers to help with Outdoor School, Fundraising, Year-end party, Memory/Yearbook photos, Class Photo. Margaret has received a reply from about 6 parents and hoping for more responses in the coming weeks. An

announcement about the cost of outdoor school and the planned fundraising events will follow at the start of the new year. Margaret has been in contact with Tracy Bariao-Arce and Mary Getty about the event, costs, etc.

**Member at Large Report: Tammy Robb was absent.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Latsy Walker reported that all of Jog-a-thon donations have been counted, which total \$23,369.12. This is \$6,000 above last year. Innisbrook so far is totaling \$2,374, which is \$3,975 down from last year. Amy Charon said that we haven't received the check yet from the online orders, so there should be a bit more coming in.

- As a side note, there was discussion that a lot of fundraisers happen at once, and that people get confused or overwhelmed as to what they should be donating to. Decision was made to table discussion to talk about possibly spreading out fundraisers.

**PTO Liaison:** Dan Silver started out by thanking everyone for making time to come to conferences and that is so important to have face to face with parents. Grade level updates for November are as follows:

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Between Thanksgiving and winter break, we will be completing our Arts for Learning lessons. This is an innovative, supplemental literacy program that has been proven to be effective in engaging students and helping them develop important reading and writing skills, as well as essential 21<sup>st</sup> century learning and life skills, by integrating the arts. In this unit, titled "Graphic Story Adventures!" we will use the visual art and literacy genre of graphic stories to ignite students' imaginations and motivation to read and write. Students will then use the strategy of visualization and apply their understanding of story elements to comprehend text and create their own graphic adventure stories. Once complete, students will then be able to exchange their completed stories with others.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Fourth Grade recently had a Washington County Mobile Museum presentation on the Willamette Valley's first inhabitants, The Calyapuya. This was a combination of a lecture presentation and hands-on activities. Also, a travelling trunk of artifacts and hands-on activities from the Chinook people is making the rounds through each classroom.

The kids are really getting into all of the leadership opportunities being offered them. Each class participates in Kindergarten Bus Buddies. Last month (October)

students from each class were selected to create posters advertising the Barn Dance. Each class was also given a turn having two students make the Friday announcements.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:**

We are all working on a multiplication unit and working on problem solving and making claims to support answers. We have a veteran (Mrs. Wallace's brother, Norm) coming to speak to our classes about what being a veteran means. In science we are working on what is matter, volume, and mass.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:**

Second grade has been using a variety of STEM and engineering activities/challenges: nose warmers, catapults, spaghetti towers, spider webs, a simple machine to ring a bell- These activities require teamwork, planning, tests & improvements, retesting, reflection, and communication.

We have several guest speakers coming this month: PGE Hazard Hamlet to demonstrate electrical safety, Doernbecher Hospital General Injury Prevention Safety Presentation (bike safety, fire safety, poison control, etc), Intel presentation on solar energy. We look forward to these connections with our community and the engaging presentations for our students.

\*\*As part of the Doernbecher presentation, second graders were able to order quality, custom size helmets for only \$10!

### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade:**

We have just completed our STEM exploration about sound and bats. First graders can tell you all about megabats, microbats, and echolocation. Our students were able to use our first sets of PTO books that we purchased last spring.

Now, we set our sites on Plymouth Colony as we look at pilgrim life from England to the New World through the eyes of pilgrim and Native American children. We will compare them with children today. Video games - no. Lots of chores - yes!

### **Kindergarten:**

The kindergarten has settled in nicely into their new home downstairs. In fact, we love it! Our "kinder-garden" is almost complete and we have our fingers crossed the plants will weather the winter. On Thursday and Friday of this week we will go on our yearly field trip to Tryon Creek State Park to expand our knowledge of "plants and animals in our backyard." This field trip meets numerous Common Core Learning Targets and we are very excited to go. If only we could do a better job of planning the weather. (It's supposed to rain!)

## **Music:**

### **Maralyn Belgique:**

A couple of weeks ago, the group Musicality Network (a consortium of music teachers in the area) came to play a concert for half of the students in 4th, 3rd, and 2nd grades. The other half of the students will hear the same group in January. Students really enjoyed the music they shared and lots of questions were answered about all the various instruments MN brought and demonstrated. In case you get any questions about why 5th and K/1 weren't included, MN presents these concerts free of charge, and their schedule was 9:30-12:40 at this time.

At the October inservice, I attended an Oregon Music Educators Association (OMEA) workshop by John Feierabend. I used PTO money to purchase teaching materials from the workshop which are designed to help students be "tuneful, beatful, and artful" and to teach them to read and write music. I want the PTO to know I have great appreciation for them and their support. Thank you!

### **Marilyn Welch:**

#### **Kindergarten and 1st:**

Learning about locomotor/nonlocomotor movements, dynamics, and high/low sounds. Students are learning to read rhythms represented by various symbols, and echoing rhythms on instruments. A favorite activity this month is a song/movement activity, "Bow-Wow-Wow," which incorporates rhythm reading, singing specific intervals, and moving with the beat. But let's not forget: having fun with lots of laughter! (If your 1<sup>st</sup> grader is in Mrs. Knighten's class, you may have heard about Mrs. Welch's bracelet flying through the air!)

#### **2nd grade:**

Learning about quarter notes and eighth notes in rhythmic notation. We are having fun with more and more challenging rhythms. We are also learning some early American songs (e.g. *I Bought Me a Cat*) and dances (e.g. *Knock the Cymbals*).

#### **3rd grade:**

Continuing with recorder. We have learned five notes: B-A-G-C-D! Students love playing with CD and/or keyboard accompaniments. Our listening skills are honed as we play in two parts. We also feel a great deal of accomplishment as we move on to more challenging pieces. Not only do we need to decipher rhythmic notation and pitches, we must translate what we see on paper to fingering the correct notes on the instrument and concentrating on producing a good sound. We are listening to recorder ensembles and learning that the recorder is not just an

instrument introduced in elementary school, but is an historical instrument widely used today on the concert stage.

**4th grade:**

Working on a xylophone piece called “Scooby Dooby Do.” This is a fun rock-and-roll song with a part for everyone: students choose their “comfort level” so that everyone contributes to a finished product.

**5th grade:**

Finishing our xylophone compositions in F Pentatonic. They are fabulous! Students notate their rhythm and pitches, and are charged with playing what they have written. We may turn this project into class compositions!

**5<sup>th</sup> grade choir:**

Working on our set for a Washington Square mall appearance in December. We have decided on our 2014-2015 T-shirt design. A total of 46 opinions were taken into account before a final decision was made – by majority vote. (Wow -- a true test of my patience!)

**PE:**

The PE department has been continuing to focus on cooperative activities to promote teamwork and good sportsmanship. We have also been working on fitness concepts. All students are identifying the changes in the body as a result of vigorous exercise (ex. fast heartbeat, heavy breathing, sweat, etc.). 3-5 grade are also learning about the components of fitness (cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility) as well as identifying activities that could help them to improve in each component.

We are also into our second session of intramurals with 4th & 5th grade. We are currently doing a floor hockey league that will take us almost all the way to winter break.

**New Business:** Nina Kelley volunteers at The Oregon Food Bank. Thanksgiving is coming up and they are in desperate need of food. Nina presented the idea to the Food Bank to have a Thanksgiving Food Drive at Jacob Wismer, where each grade would be asked to bring specific items. The idea was well received by all and will be communicated throughout the grade levels.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:18.