

**Jacob Wismer (JW) Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)
Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2013**

President's Report: Kathy Leis called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. All attendees introduced themselves. There were 16 people in attendance.

Secretary's Report: Erin Ertz sent around minutes. Wendy Gibson and GERALYN Kerprich moved to approve September's meeting minutes. Minutes were approved with no edits and will be posted in the hallway and on PTO site.

Principal's Report: Joan McFadden

- Third grade has received a new teacher; Teresa Carleton. Teresa Carleton has 10 years teaching experience and her addition to the third grade has brought the class size down to 26-27 students. The transition is going very well.
- State Report Cards for all public schools will be released October 10th. Jacob Wismer is Level 5 (top 10% of schools) The focus on academic achievement is Reading with 92% met or exceeded; Math 94.5% met or exceeded. The focus this year will be on students with disabilities; English language learners (ELLS). Jacob Wismer's demographics are 53% Asian, 36% white, 7% multi-racial, 3% Hispanic/Latino, <1% African American, <1% Native American, <1% Pacific Islander/Hawaiian. Two years ago, Jacob Wismer had 17 different languages spoken. Today there are 30 languages spoken. The demographics are changing the number of ELLS.
- Site Council/CEC – Community Partnership Team. Joan has announced a district change in the Community Engagement Committee. The new committee name (which will be replaced on the PTO Meeting Agenda) will be "Community Partnership Team." Within this group, the focus will be on the school as a whole community with the goal of coming together to work on a project for the school.
 - The Community Partnership Team is going to form the Jacob Wismer "Friends of JW Literacy Projects" and will be recruiting people from all areas to be a part of this group. This committee will recommend/review new books for the library, review and recommend whole class or small group sets of books for different grade levels, review and recommend authors for author visits, help our volunteers and teachers implement existing projects such as OBOB, One School One Book, birthday books, read-ins, writing festivals, recruit community reading buddies, and partner with local libraries on year

round reading programs. The three district meetings will be October 25th, January 23rd and April 17th. Let Joan McFadden know if you are interested.

- Conference sign up in main office hallway is going really well. 2/3 of class conferences are already filled. Sign up through October 23rd. Teachers will send out notices to confirm conference times.
- WE buttons are now available for volunteers at the front desk. Joan McFadden had requested 800 buttons from district, but so far they have given us 300.

VP of Fundraising Report: Wendy Gibson

- Wendy Gibson will be meeting with the 5th Grade Send-off Committee next Thursday, October 17th for lunch at Bethany's Table to talk about efforts to raise money for the 5th graders. The consensus around school is that everyone really wants to have a roller-skating night for entire school, rather than for just 5th grade. Wendy will provide an update on the roller-skating night after the luncheon.
- Piccolo Mondo shopping night will be done differently this year. Previously, there was one shopping night designated for Jacob Wismer. This year Piccolo Mondo will have four shopping nights on November 19-22nd. Jacob Wismer will get credit for those purchases.
- SCRIP (aka gift cards) will be ready to send out the last week of October and the cards will be distributed the second week of November.
- Due to all the fund raising efforts currently taking place, the Sweet Tomatoes fundraiser will be tabled until December.

VP of Community Events Report: Anne Daniels

Anne Daniels has sent emails to event chairs. No meetings have been scheduled yet. No further updates.

- OBOB – Nina Kelley provided update that fliers were distributed for Battle of Books to 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes and that teams are forming. Contracts are due on Friday October 18th. Battles will be held in the conference room and in Mrs. Wallace's old kindergarten classroom (which is currently empty.)
- Author Visits – Jillian Starr provided update that the books "Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made" by author Stephan Pastis have been ordered. There will be a contest to have a small group meeting with Stephan for about 5-10 minutes. The author visits for the rest of year have been given to Tracy Bariao to share with some of the teachers.

*Side note to author visits: Joan McFadden brought up the Personal Services Contracts that each person must obtain who comes into our school to work with our children. Previously, it has been a difficult process to secure with tremendous paperwork and loopholes that the school has to jump through. This leads to a lot of time (and headaches) in managing these contracts. Joan McFadden had brought up the idea that in the future, the PTO host the visitor, and therefore take on the responsibility, liability, as well as handling the direct payment to said person providing the service. The question was brought up that according to Lori Secker, it was thought that all services and money paid must go through the school. Joan McFadden to double check with Lori Secker and let the PTO know. Karen Patsy to review our PTO liability insurance to see how much, and what, it covers.

- Beaverton Clothes Closet – Sara O’Donnell is in strong need of volunteers on Wednesday, November 6th between 9:30-4pm to help at the Beaverton Clothes Closet. Volunteers can sign up on HelpCounter.
- Scholastic Book Fair also needs volunteers on November 20-22nd from 9-6pm, 9-4pm on the November 22nd. Volunteers can sign up on Help Counter.

Volunteer Coordinators Report: Geralyn Kerprich and Sarah Plocher

- Classroom coordinator training went well. All coordinators for all classes, with the exception of the new 3rd grade class, is up and running.
- The PE Jogging program would like a volunteer from each classroom to help out on jogging days. Issue was brought up as to how to notify volunteers of a “rain-out” day, so that they wouldn’t need to come that day. Geralyn Kerprich brought up the idea of having a Jacob Wismer Volunteer Facebook page that could be updated daily to keep volunteers informed of any “rain-out” cancellations and/or changes in that day’s jogging schedule. Joan McFadden was fine with this idea. Geralyn Kerprich will run the idea by Chelsea Sanderson and provide update next month.

Member at Large Report: Shanna Lonquist

Received a comment from the 2nd grade teachers that they didn’t like the sticky pads received from the EPI school supplies. EPI has apologized and is sending new sticky pads.

Treasurer Report: Karen Patsy

Funds received so far this school year are looking good. Write-a-check at the beginning of last year was \$14,000; this year is \$16,754. Have deposited Matching Funds of \$302. PTO received generous donation of \$1,000. Wendy Gibson to send thank you note. Karen Patsy has sent all teachers and staff \$125 to spend for their classrooms. Tina Oki Le is allocated \$500 for the library, however she is no longer able to purchase books per the district's new policies. There are many other items that Tina needs and can use the money for. Karen Patsy should have final numbers for Innisbrook and Jog-a-thon by next month's November PTO meeting.

*Side note regarding purchasing books: Per the district, book purchases must be in line with the new Common Core Standards. Book purchase recommendations will come from Joan McFadden's "Friends of JW Literacy Projects" which will be sent to the district. The district will order books and send them to us. This is a completely different process. Joan McFadden would like everyone to have a say in books that are being purchased, and will budget for new books within the school budget. Most likely there will be several different book orders. The Birthday Book Program will look a little bit differently and all books will cost \$10.

PTO Liaison: Dan Silver

- Field Day. Dan Silver passed along some questions from Colin Arnold regarding Field Day funds. Karen Patsy explained that Field Day falls under Activities and that we have a budget for that. Dan relayed that teachers have requested having more involvement in Field Day to liven it up. Tracy Bariao will be overseeing Field Day.
- Recess Equipment. Dan Silver had expressed need for some new recess equipment. Joan McFadden had bought some new recess balls at the end of last year. Colin Arnold to review his current equipment and let PTO know what he is in need of. Funds are broken out as follows: \$300 for Field Day, \$100 for recess equipment and \$100 for PE.
- Grade Level Reports.
Kindergarten: Talking about problem solving, being kind, respectful and safe. Making graphs in math, studying trees, beginning word sounds, rhyming words, and writing. Discussed and read about fall and apple trees, as well as learning what it means to be a community of learners.
1st Grade: Spent the first few weeks learning procedures and routines along with how to be an "Exceptional Eagle." Explored what it means to be safe, respectful and responsible. Inspiring students to think about long-term goals and importance of education (and graduation) to reach those goals. Each

student gave some thought as to what they want to be as a profession. Answers ranged from basketball player to president! Pictures were taken in caps and gowns – the class of 2025! Pictures are on walls outside 1st grade rooms.

2nd Grade: Thanks for the Mobi! Still using it for instruction of the online math components, for interactive science components, Storytown vocabulary, PowerPoint slideshows, Starfall, and occasionally during Art Lit. Also doing a punctuation unit and students have enjoyed doing “noticings” where they learn about punctuation marks and their rules through self-discovery. Have had some great speakers and presentations lined up for 2nd grade this year: Zoo (animal adaptations/insects,) Tualatin Valley Water District (5 presentations per class about water,) and Intel for a solar energy interactive presentation. Last year grade level PTO money was spent on 2nd grade level multiple book sets, which allowed us to build a 2nd grade library of book sets to use with reading groups. So grateful for these! Shout out to the laminating lady – 2nd grade loves you! So thankful for the \$125. Have purchased educational posters, classroom books, back-to-school start up items, science supplies, etc.

3rd Grade: Settling into smaller class sizes. Math: working on word problem strategies, finishing up some work with elapsed time, addition/subtraction strategies. Science: Basics of science inquiry. Social Studies on Communities and Writing on narrative and/or Informative

4th Grade: Writing workshop with realistic fiction and narratives. Big part of everyday is the CCSS transition, especially in math. Oregon geography and using new science books.

5th Grade: Has been doing hands-on science using the supplies provided by the district. For example, 5th graders have just made glue and are testing their concoctions. Working on answering questions such as "How do you design a strong glue?" "What is technology?" "What transport system works best?" "How does technology mimic living things?" and "How can you make and redesign a model of a robotic arm?" Have been switching for math this unit based on pretest scores, and that's gone well. Have reviewed mapping skills and we will be beginning world explorer unit soon. Leadership Club was chosen based on applications, resumes, and recommendations and that is up and running. Great group of kids!

- **Music Room Updates:**

Kindergarten and 1st: Exploring classroom instruments, singing songs, recognizing simple musical elements, creating movements to music. 2nd grade: Playing xylophones in unison and two parts, singing and dancing, recognizing musical elements when listening.

3rd grade: Recorders. Concentrating on good breath control, proper fingering and a nice, rounded tone. Performing in groups of two, three, or four.

4th grade: Playing xylophones in unison, two, and three parts, adding recorders and voices.

5th grade: Clarinets! The unit is almost over, and the kids have done quite well. Many should consider continuing in 6th grade! 4th and 5th graders will start a violin unit at the end of this month 5th grade choir: Starting out strong with 27 -- they sound great!

- GERALYN Kerprich brought up to Joan McFadden and Dan Silver to think about any needs they might have for large purchases that the PTO could support. Joan McFadden brought up the need for a new copy machine, as the current copiers are almost done.

New Business: Boy Scouts relationship with PTO - Teresa Fornia

- Teresa Fornia introduced herself and talked about the Boy Scouts organization, and more specifically how it relates to the Jacob Wismer PTO and our community. Teresa Fornia's Cub Scout Pack is #769. There are 40-50 families in the pack with 8-10 boys in each den, which is each grade level. There are 10 registered adult leaders, always at least two for each den. Teresa's Pack is chartered by the PTO. All Cub Scout Packs are chartered by a hosting community organization, and operate as an independent committee, with its own fundraising, planning and budget committees.
- Teresa Fornia is the Charter Organization Representative (liaison with the PTO,) and also serves as the Chair of the Committee and the Den Leader for JW 3rd graders in the Bear Den. Bob McMillan is the Cubmaster and the Assistant Den Leader for the 5th graders in the Webelos II Den.
- The Boy Scouts give back to the community by performing service projects, such as hosting school clean-ups four times per year, which includes picking up litter, weeding, pruning, raking leaves, or whatever the custodian and grounds crews need extra help with. They also help out where they can by stacking chairs, setting up folding tables, etc. Occasionally the Boy Scouts coordinate with the local Girl Scout Troops at neighboring churches to increase turnout at school clean-ups.
- The Boy Scouts would like the Jacob Wismer PTO to know that their services may be utilized for any future projects or events where help is needed. You can contact Teresa Fornia at pack769pdx@gmail.com for further information.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.