

Jacob Wismer (JW) Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)
Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2014

President's Report: Kathy Leis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Introductions were conducted. There were 13 people in attendance.

☐ **Volunteer name labels vs. badges:** Bright yellow labels will soon be arriving in the office for volunteer name badges. The PTO, event chairs, and any other high-volume volunteers will have permanent yellow name badges. This change will occur in the next upcoming weeks. Kathy asked Sarah if she could let her know of any other volunteers who will need a permanent name badge based on the helpcounter volunteer hours. The change-over from the blue badges to the yellow labels/badges will occur in one day.

Secretary's Report: Erin Ertz not present, no updates. Mary Kelly Rossow took the meeting minutes.

Principal's Report:

☐ **Community Partnership Team:** Joan McFadden reported that the first meeting will be Oct 16. The focus will be on technology and Mary Kelly Rossow, PTO volunteer coordinator, will be attending.

☐ **Tech-in-residency:** JW will be doing a tech-in-residency this year rather than an artist-in-residency. We will be working with Saturday Academy. The program will begin on Monday, October 13th and continue through December. The cost is \$5,000. Ken Derbenti may be requesting that the extra PTO money allocated, but not used, for the residency may be applied to purchasing coding and/or robotics products so we can continue these more advanced technology programs after the residency.

☐ **Bethany break-in:** Recently there was a house break-in in a nearby neighborhood home. A man knocked on the door loudly, assumed no one was home, then broke the front window to enter the house. The house owner was home and called 911. The intruders quickly left.

VP Fundraising's Report:

☐ **Library fundraiser:** Bradi Gates reported that JW will have a library fundraiser sponsored by Barnes and Noble on Friday, October 31st. A percentage of the sales will go to the school.

- **Box top effort:** The class coordinators are contacting classroom volunteers to ensure each class has a box top representative. Alexandria Wiedholz, the coordinating chair, will try to do monthly collections and begin classroom incentives.
- **Scrip:** Bradi Gates reported that Scrip will be started next month.
- **Pizza fundraiser:** Bradi Gates reported that there will be a restaurant fundraiser at Pizzacato on Dec 2.
- **Website:** Bradi Gates reported that the PTO website redesign will occur in November. She will be soliciting feedback at that time.
- **Innisbrook:** Amy Charon reported that the team is still collecting and counting money. The total amount of money made is down from last year and may be closer to \$2000.
- **Piccolo Mondo fundraiser:** Bradi Gates reported that the Piccolo Mondo JW shopping days will be Nov 10-14.
- **Jog-a-thon:** Bradi Gates reported that the jogathon went very smoothly. Money will be collected and counted starting next week. Mary Kelly Rossow thanked Joan and Tracy for hiring substitutes for Mr. Arnold and Mr. Van Volkinburg. The PE teachers led a fun and successful event with the PTO chairs.

VP Community Events Report: Ann Daniels had no updates.

- **Author visits:** Jillian Starr reported that the next author visit for 3rd-5th graders will be by Laika animation studio scheduled tentatively on November 12. Laika animation studio will be coming in and talking to the kids about taking a story and making it into a movie. People can purchase books through the library fundraiser.
- **Fall Event:** Wendy Gibson reported that preparations for the Fall Barn Dance on October 17th (6-8 pm) are continuing. Anyone that brings in a donation for the Beaverton Clothes Closet will be entered in the pumpkin raffle. Pizza Schmizza will be providing and serving pizza. Volunteers are needed to handle cash boxes as well as fill the event shifts on helpcounter. There was a question regarding the appropriateness of plastic cow skulls for a possible decoration. Joan McFadden will follow-up to ensure that is acceptable.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report: Sarah Plocher reported that the Volunteer and the Classroom Coordinator trainings are complete. She will send out an email to all volunteers informing them of upcoming events and where help is needed. Wendy Gibson reported that the current helpcounter does not show the new teachers as a classroom option. Sarah will follow-up to ensure all of the teachers are listed.

□ **Fifth grade events:** Margaret Littman reported that the yearbook will need help from the class coordinators regarding picture-taking throughout the year. She will send a help request to Mary Kelly Rossow to forward on to the fifth grade classroom coordinators.

Member at Large Report: Tammy Robb was not present, no updates.

Treasurer's Report: Latsy Walker reported that most of the write-a-checks have been collected and counted at \$18,800. This amount is approximately \$1600 over from last year; however, class party collections are down from last year. The classrooms may have a smaller party budget. Twenty people have paid on-line for jogathon. The PTO will be giving each teacher \$150 for classroom supplies.

PTO Liaison: Dan Silver was not present; however, he provided the following report read by Joan McFadden.

Kindergarten

The Kindergarten is enjoying their new downstairs location and the children are getting used to the routines of our schedules. Our over-arching theme this year is "In our backyard," focusing on the environment (backyard, neighborhood, city, state, and country) that we come in contact with and how it impacts our lives. To showcase that theme, we are building a garden by the recess stairs and are planting a variety of plants that will attract hummingbirds and butterflies, animals that we study. We would also like to thank the PTO for their generous contribution of funds that have gone into the fabrication of our garden. We aren't done yet, so keep watching the construction!

1st grade

We have just completed assigning our students to different classrooms for walk to math. We started doing math this way 2 years ago with wonderful results. It has

allowed us to better meet each student's needs according to areas of strengths and weaknesses.

In October we have our bat study, which will be starting soon. It is a STEM unit meaning it includes science, technology, engineering and math while we have fun learning about these cool but creepy mammals.

Our garden beds have all been weeded by the grandmother of a student in Mrs. Guilfoyle's class. We plan on planting bulbs soon.

2nd Grade

2nd grade is very appreciative of the \$150 teacher donation! This helps us to buy necessary supplies, classroom books, engaging materials, and classroom décor.

We are going to try Walk to Math this year. We start next Monday.

We have scheduled several classroom presentations for the year such as: the Zoo, TVWD, (team- what else? I know I'm missing some)

Students are learning the Scientific Method. We did a fun Gummy Bear science project where students learn to go through the entire process.

3rd grade

- Multiple strategies for larger addition and subtraction problems in math
- Beginning physical science (matter in science)

4th grade

We have been discussing multiple intelligences and will have a Superhero theme this year. We have talked about learning types, learning strengths – our super powers – and learning weaknesses – our kryptonite. 4th grade has also been working on Oregon Geography. The Arts4Learning curriculum is set to start as well. The focus will be narrative writing in this arts infused unit for which the teachers have been receiving special training. Thank you so much for the generous \$150 per classroom!

5th grade

1. We are super excited to welcome the BSD science specialists into our classroom where they did a two-part lesson on wind turbines and airfoils this week and last.

2. While the specialists were in our class, we had a planning meeting on implementing the Arts for Learning grant in our classrooms. This fall, fifth grade will be doing a unit on graphic novels.

3. We have just started a unit on World Explorers.

Music- Welch

Here are a few of the activities in Mrs. Welch's music room:

Kindergarten and 1st: Exploring classroom instruments, singing songs, keeping a steady beat, echoing rhythm patterns, recognizing simple musical elements, and creating movements to music.

2nd grade: Playing xylophones in unison and two parts, singing and dancing, echoing and creating rhythm patterns, and recognizing musical elements when listening to music.

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

4th and 5th grades: Playing xylophones in unison, two, and three parts, adding recorders and voices. Learning songs and dances from different cultures. Creating "speech pieces" in groups (4th), and composing very short xylophone pieces in 4/4 time, notating rhythms (5th).

5th grade choir: Starting out strong with 46 (36 girls, 10 boys) dedicated kids!

Music – Belgique

Students in my music classes are working on learning Solfege, (which helps people sing on pitch and memorize music), rhythm notation, singing, reading music.

P.E.

First month went well in working on the idea of being flexible: having to use multiple areas of the school when displaced by assemblies, meetings, etc. All the classes did great in being flexible and understanding if they were in the cafeteria, under cover area, portable classroom or on the field. Our hope is that the classes continue that way throughout the year.

Both of us are working on cooperative/problem solving/team building activities with all the grade levels while incorporating locomotor skills with the K-2 and fitness concepts with grades 3-5.

We hope to get in a couple of dance practices for the upcoming Barn Dance.

Friday's Jog-a-thon was fabulous.

The first month's selections for "PE All Stars of The Month" are on the bulletin board outside the gym. Please check those out as well as on the PE website.

-Brent and Colin

New Business: Kathy Leis asked if there are any ideas for a possible PTO gift for the staff. Joan McFadden will talk with the teachers at the upcoming Staff Development Day regarding any needs. Wendy Gibson asked when will the fifth grade class picture be put up in the school. Kathy will follow-up with Karen Patsy regarding the picture location. The next PTO meeting will be Wed November 5 at 7:00pm.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.