

**Jacob Wismer (JW) Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2014**

Welcome and Introductions

President's Report: Kathy Leis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Introductions were bypassed. There were 29 people in attendance.

- **Volunteer name labels vs. badges:** Kathy Leis spoke with Lori Secker regarding the issue of having so many volunteer badges hanging in the office, and if there is a better way to identify volunteers without the badges. Stoller Middle School has a label maker they use where a name is printed out each time a volunteer checks in. Kathy presented a photo of what one would look like. After looking into it, it would be an expensive alternative due to the high volume of volunteers that come into Jacob Wismer on a daily basis. Lori is doing further research on it and hopes to have a decision soon. For the time being, volunteers will still have their hanging badges.

Secretary's Report: Erin Ertz had no updates.

Principal's Report:

- **First week of school:** Joan McFadden reported that it was a really smooth start to school this year, probably the smoothest start in all her years. Kids seemed happy, kindergarten worked really well downstairs, etc.
- **Class Sizes:** The class size for each grade is currently: Kindergarten: 26, 1st grade: 24, 2nd grade: 28, 3rd grade: 25, 4th grade: 29, 5th grade: 30. These are better numbers than last year.
- **Computer lab:** There is a new computer lab that was purchased with the bond money. It was a tremendous effort in putting all the computers together. Everyone is excited about technology residency replacing the art residency this year. Joan has a meeting with a teacher who does Saturday Academics on September 17th.

Community Partnership Team:

- **Technology Team:** Joan McFadden reported that a new team will be forming with the focus being on technology this year.
- **Glass Fusion:** The glass fusion art installation has been completed and looks wonderful!
- **Back to School Night:** There was a whole new format this year and the feedback is that it was a great way to meet new teachers, specialists, and was overall very valuable for the parents.
- **Lockout:** On Friday, September 5th, Jacob Wismer went into Lockout mode for the first time. Joan spotted a suspicious looking person and vehicle that happened to match a description of a vehicle that police were looking for. The Lockout was lifted after 20 minutes. Joan was impressed that everyone in the school acted quickly and efficiently. Had it been a real emergency, the notification email would have gone out more quickly. Joan to look into using text alerts via cell phone to notify parents.
- **Target Check:** Target sent Jacob Wismer a check for \$750.99. Joan graciously handed it over the PTO.

VP Fundraising's Report:

- **Write-a-Check:** Bradi Gates reported that the initial count for Write-a-Check came in at over \$11,000, which is more than it was at this time last year. More donations were received this week that have yet to be counted.
- **PTO website/Online Donation:** The PTO site now has a button where people can donate online. Bradi's husband Josh Gates is a web developer for marketing systems and he implemented the online donating capabilities on the PTO website's backend. His initial feedback in looking at the backend of the site is that there are many limitations to the current website and there are many ways to streamline the user's experience, both from the back and front end. Josh has offered his time to rebuild the PTO site incorporating a new standard platform, WordPress, and overall better look and feel. The only expense would be an annual hosting fee of \$65. Users would then be able to manage their own pages, and would make the whole process of keeping information up to date much more manageable.

Erin Ertz will reach out to the initial PTO website developer, Erik Voldengen, regarding ownership of site to see if he would be open to handing it off for a rebuild.

- **Jog-a-thon:** Mary Kelly Rossow reported that packets will be going home Friday, September 12th. The Jog-a-Thon will be on Friday, October 3rd. There will be a challenge run on Friday, September 19th. Everyone is excited about Mr. Arnold being dedicated to running the Jog-a-Thon this year. Because of this, there will be a full day substitute for PE that day. Marlo McIlraith will be publishing the Jog-a-Thon schedule.
- **Restaurant Nights:** Bradi Gates reported that she is going to hold off having any restaurant nights for a little bit due to other fundraisers/activities going on. Bradi is currently working on adding Bethany Public House to the future list.
- **Box Tops/Labels:** Alexandra Wiedholz took over managing this program this year. Alexandra proposed some ideas for the winning class prize, such as a certificate for jumping time at Sky High. She is currently working with Sky High to see what they would be willing to donate. Alexandra has inherited a lot of Campbells soup labels. Currently, it takes 3,000 labels which need to be counted and sorted to secure one book. Because of the amount of time this would take and minimal return, Alexandra has proposed to donate these labels to the The Ronald McDonald house. All were in favor of this being a great idea.
- **Innisbrook Fundraiser:** This event kicks off on Monday, September 15th and runs for 2 weeks. Amy Charon reported that the Innisbrook catalogs will feature wrapping paper, chocolates, food, etc. This year we will try to get the teachers involved by setting up some of the food items in the teacher's lounge to sample.

VP Community Events Report: Ann Daniels had no updates.

- **Fall Event:** Wendy Gibson reported that preparations for the Fall Barn Dance on October 17th (6-8 pm) are underway! There will be square dancing, DJ (who is confirmed), wooden steer roping, prizes, photo booth, food and western themed decorations. Wendy will need lots of volunteer help! Donations for the Beaverton Clothes Closet will be set up and will request coats, as well as new socks and underwear.

- **Author Visits:** Jillian Starr reported that we'll be starting off the year with an early author visit from Aaron Becker on Tuesday, September 16th. Aaron's first children's book won a Caldecott award, and he is now doing a west coast tour, with his Portland stop being Jacob Wismer! The next author visit is scheduled in November. Laika animation studio will be coming in and talking to the kids about taking a story and making it into a movie. Laika is a stop-motion animation studio specializing in feature films, such as *Coraline* and *ParaNorman*.
- **Beaverton Clothes Closet:** Sara O'Donnell reported that each school in the Beaverton district is responsible for providing volunteers on their designated day once a year. This year, Jacob Wismer will be volunteering at The Beaverton Clothes Closet on October 8th from 9:30-4pm. Sara is requesting volunteer help and there time slots available for 2 hours each.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report: Sarah Plocher reported that the Volunteer Training is on Monday, September 22nd from 8:45 – 10:15. The Classroom Coordinator Training is on September 29th from 9-10.

Member at Large Report: Tammy Robb reported that there was a good turnout for the New Family Welcome.

Treasurer's Report: Latsy Walker reported that the dollar amount we've collected thus far has been encouraging. Twenty two people have gone online. The rough count from the first Back to School night was about \$2,000. Will do another final count on Friday, September 19th.

PTO Liaison: Dan Silver reported that all of the teachers have been very busy this first week of school getting to know their students, establishing routines in their classrooms and getting settled in, etc. In talking with the other teachers, the consensus is that it's been a very smooth start to the year.

New Business: Community building ideas to embrace the diversity of the school were brought up by a few parents. An idea of an International Day was brought up, as was a parade and possible online auction. Joan McFadden encouraged the parents to get together and present these ideas to the PTO at future meetings.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:18.