

# Jefferson Parents and Teachers (JPAT)

General Meeting

Tuesday February 13, 2007 – 6:30 p.m.

A copy of these minutes may be obtained from JPAT website at <http://www.CorvallisPTA.org/jefferson>

**Call to Order:** President Cat Newsheller called the meeting to order at 6:37pm. Board members present were Cat Newsheller, Susan Hetherington and Peter Gelser. As of December 1, 2006 Jeff Brandt has stepped down from his position as JPAT President, with Cat Newsheller stepping up from her Vice President position for the remainder of the school year.

**Approval of Minutes:** Karen Misfeldt moved to accept the November 14th, 2006 minutes, with typographic corrections. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Principal's Report:** Principal Gorthy has added additional art instruction with Claudia Hall through the end of the school year with help from JPAT funds. Initially the funding was to also include additional music time for all students and the 5th grade musical. Unfortunately, scheduling conflicts between Sandy Coolen and Carole Nelson prevent the additional day of music. Carole Nelson is, however, interested in doing the 5th grade musical. As a result of the conflict in scheduling, there will still be an overage of funds in the amount of approximately \$2,500-3,000. Proposed uses for these funds include: saving for next year, adding a science in residence program, filling some technical needs, new playground equipment, or a paid wildlife stewards coordinator. Cat Newsheller proposed to make a note for the next JPAT Newsletter to discuss at the March JPAT Meeting.

The Corvallis School District visioning process is having a culminating event on March 13th, 2007 at Corvallis High School from 6pm to 9pm.

Kindergarten registration for the 2007-2008 school year has already begun. The following Kindergarten events are:

Feb. 14: Parent Coffee in Library, 8:30am

Mar. 1: Kindergarten Night

Mar. 9: Transfer Deadline

Cat Newsheller inquired if the school boundaries were going to be changing, and Denise replied that the boundaries would remain unchanged for the 2007-2008 school year. Denise also invited Jefferson parents to review the proposed district calendar for next year (*see attached*) and provide input as soon as possible.

Principal Gorthy provided an update for the additional \$3.5 million reserved from the district from the PERS settlement. The superintendent of the Corvallis School District has made the following recommendations to the board:

- adding 4 hrs/day of classified time for each elementary school
- adding more time for a behavior specialist in order to make a more consistent schedule

Final decisions for the funds will be made in the upcoming weeks.

Finally, Denise Gorthy made a request to the JPAT members for funding for two specific opportunities. The first was to have the entire school attend a Tears of Joy puppet theater performance at CHS on March 12. The approximate cost for the performance and bussing of students is \$500. The other is for staff development workshops. Cat Newsheller proposed to postpone the discussion until New Business.

**President's Report:** Cat Newsheller apologized to those present for the cancellations and rescheduling of JPAT meetings in January. She also complimented JPAT for a successful Sock Hop on January 26th.

**Financial Report:** Peter Gelser presented the JPAT Budget to date (*see attached*). The Direct Donation Drive totals are at \$17,230, although he is waiting for the Foundation to send all the funds. The Sock Hop costs were all donated by Shari Kern and Karen Faux -- THANK YOU! Scrip funds have since caught up since December, making sales close to last year at this time. There has been no word from Rhonda Soulé as to the results from the February Dine Out event.

Selina Heppell suggested providing Jefferson families with the option of donating their Kicker checks directly to the Foundation for Jefferson funding. Susan Hetherington will be emailing the list serve to suggest that option.

**Committee Reports:** Angie Chiodo, from the Benton County Health Department, was present at the meeting to provide survey results for a walking program entitled *Safe Routes To School* (*see attached*). She would like to coordinate a countywide Health and Safety Night for kids and parents in early May, in order to promote Spring Walk To School Week, also in May. Brenda VanDevelder suggested that she coincide with the city's Get There Another Way Week. She also invited Jefferson parents to contact her regarding walkability issues (i.e., traffic signs, crosswalks) that affect the school; she will be working alongside city engineers with suggestions for change and writing a grant for funding. She can be contacted at (503) 421-0008 or [Angie.CHIODO@co.benton.or.us](mailto:Angie.CHIODO@co.benton.or.us).

*Jog-A-Thon:* Brenda VanDevelder spoke on behalf of chair Lisa Tostberg, simply inviting parents to show up when available to help count laps for the children.

*Carnival:* Gail Howe, new this year as chair, requested ideas for next year regarding safety and prizes. Suggestions provided included having more tokens and putting up caution tape to divide the kitchen and bowling alleys. Since this event is a community builder, the committee is trying to break even.

*Silent Auction:* Karen Misfeldt announced that the auction date has been changed to Friday, April 27th, as the Unitarian Universalist Church was unavailable on the original date. A committee meeting is scheduled for Feb. 20th in the library. They have the music and auctioneer in place, and are currently working to collect items for auction, and obtaining corporate sponsors. Approximately \$1,000 is needed to run the event. Monday, April 2 is the deadline for items to appear in the auction catalog. Michele Wilkinson, Regional Director for Oregon PTA and present at the meeting, confirmed that Jefferson's PTA insurance will cover the liability for the offsite event.

**Unfinished Business:** Andrea Surfleet announced the profit from the Jefferson T-Shirt sales was \$315.20, with 334 items sold on 144 orders. She has received great compliments on the design of the t-shirts, and the printer has agreed to save the silkscreens as a cost-saving option for next year.

Box Tops for Education labels collected approximately \$70 for Jefferson in December. Suggestions for increasing the success of collections in the future included advertising to neighbors of Jefferson students as well as asking members of local senior centers to collect box tops on behalf of Jefferson.

As Spring approaches, the nominating process for the JPAT Board will be getting underway. The Direct Donation Drive still has a vacancy, as well as JPAT President and Vice President. Cat Newsheller would be talking to Laurie Chaplen in regards to getting next year's committee in place by May.

Brenda VanDevelder reminded the JPAT Board members that all submissions to the JPAT Newsletter needs to be in by the 15th of the month for the first of the month delivery.

**New Business:** Deborah Bella made an amended motion to have the unused funds from both the Sock Hop and Welcome Coffee (\$500) be used to pay for the Tears of Joy performance in March. The motion was seconded and approved. The staff development funding request was unanimously approved, as JPAT had already set aside funds in the budget for teacher support.

**Upcoming Events:** A Dine Out event is scheduled for March 14 at Papa's Pizza to help benefit the 5th grade camp at OMSI.

Michele Wilkinson, representing Oregon PTA, reminded members of a legislation convention in Salem on April 12-14 ([OregonPTA.org](http://OregonPTA.org)). She also suggested visiting the website for scholarship information and recognition programs that the school is well qualified to receive.

**Adjournment:** Cat Newsheller adjourned the meeting at 7:43pm.

**Next Meeting Date – Tuesday, April 10th, 6:30pm in the Jefferson Library**