

Jefferson Parents and Teachers (JPAT)

General Meeting

Tuesday June 5, 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 6:32pm. Board members present were Cat Newsheller, Patrice Jones, Susan Hetherington and Peter Gelser.

A quorum of members as stated in the Standing Rules was present.
A sign-in sheet is attached to these minutes (*see attached*).

Approval of Minutes: Andrea Surfleet moved to accept the May 8th, 2007 minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded and approved.

Principal's Report: Principal Denise Gorthy reviewed the staffing lineup for the 2007-2008 school year. She has completed 6-7 hires for the upcoming year, and is still in the process of interviewing for a half-time 5th grade teacher, so that Kristin Silbernagel can enjoy time with her new baby.

Principal Gorthy is also looking to fill a paid supervision position for the lunch and recess hour. Please contact her if interested.

New music instructor, Dow Yeh, was also present at the meeting to introduce himself and express his excitement for the new school year. He expressed his appreciation for the initial show of support from JPAT. He is a longtime resident of Corvallis and gifted pianist. He has been working in Willamina as a music teacher, and plans on writing grants to help grow the music program at Jefferson. He also submitted a wish list of items for the music department (*see attached*).

Principal Gorthy also expressed her thanks to the current JPAT board for their efforts this year, and also thanked Laurie Chaplen for taking on the role of JPAT president for the 2007-2008 school year.

President's Report: None

Financial Report: Peter Gelser announced that Jog-A-Thon funds in the amount of \$1,400 showed up unexpectedly, which in turn raised the question of whether or not to leave the fundraising goal for the Jog-A-Thon at the original amount of \$10,000. The last Dine Out event at McMenam's brought in \$900 for JPAT. In total, the year-end's influx of last minute funds allows for an additional \$2,300 to be allocated for next year. Discussions opened up as a continuation of last month's meeting, where it was decided that funds would be distributed evenly between science and music (in May, this was \$15,211 total; approx. \$7,500 for each program). Meeting participants discussed whether to further fund the two programs, or to use the moneys elsewhere, such as the library.

Andrea Surfleet, the incoming librarian and JPAT parent, discussed the library needs such as what/how many/quality of books that she will be purchasing. She indicated that the library at Jefferson currently has about 30% of the titles used in the new reading curriculum. She will be needing to purchase library bound (highest quality) books for several well-loved favorites that will see a lot of wear and tear. For others, she welcomes gently used book

donations from the community, and agreed to compile a listing of requested titles that parents could donate to add to the library's collection.

Possible scenarios for the additional funds include: a) further music equipment funding, b) further science program funding, c) further library funding, and d) Principal's discretionary-- to be used anywhere by Denise and not locked into a specific budget category.

Laurie Chaplen made a motion to use half of the remaining funds for science and half of the remaining funds to go to music. The motion was seconded, while more discussions ensued and therefore not approved. Laurie Chaplen then made an amended motion for the \$2,300 in remaining funds to be put into a discretionary account for Denise Gorthy, with the intent for it to be divided evenly between music and science, and if needed, to the library. The motion was seconded and approved.

Dow Yeh announced that he would be donating a life-sized chess set to the school, in hopes to spark interest in the game at the school. The chessboard grid would need to be painted onto the blacktop surface.

Committee Reports: Laurie Chaplen reviewed the open volunteer positions for JPAT. A JPAT Newsletter chair is needed to collect/edit/layout information to be included in the newsletter. Chairs are also still needed for the Multicultural Potluck and Walk to School Day.

Unfinished Business: The JPAT calendar for 2007-2008 was submitted for review (*see attached*). It was decided to try and adjust the Sock Hop or Spring Carnival to a Thursday evening so more families could attend. Chrissy Lucas added that more Site Beautification dates were to be determined. Laurie Chaplen made a motion to accept the JPAT calendar with some dates needed to be modified as TBD for further refinement in the fall. The motion was seconded and approved.

New Business: Bonnie Bailey, incoming Direct Donation Drive chair, reviewed fundraising goals for the event. It was decided to keep the goal the same as this year: \$16,000 with 100 families contributing.

Oregon Kicker checks are to be distributed in November. A suggestion was made to have parents donate either all or a portion of their refunds to JPAT. Another suggestion was to create an incentive program for individual classes raising the most amount of funds.

Selina Heppell is continuing work on the New Parent Packet. Denise Gorthy would be working with Joanne Geissler to determine all new incoming Jefferson students, to pass out the new family information to. A further suggestion was made to provide a New Family link to the Jefferson website (Wilson Elementary already does this). This could be viewed as a supplementary way for families to get more information. It was determined that informational packets would be supplied to the district office, to be distributed to any new families over the summer break.

Patrice Jones is working with Martin Main on revisions and updates to the JPAT website. In the meantime, Martin will be adding the supply list for each grade to the website.

A recent Oregon PTA newsletter announced that individual dues would be increasing from \$5.25 to \$9.00. The current JPAT membership of \$6 would not be able to cover this

increase. Laurie Chaplen made a motion to increase the JPAT Membership dues to \$10, effective July 1, 2007. The motion was seconded and approved.

Adjournment: Cat Newsheller adjourned the meeting at 7:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Hetherington, Secretary

Approved as written / corrected _____(date)

President Laurie Chaplen _____(signature)

Next Meeting Date – Tuesday, September 11th, 6:30pm in the Jefferson Library