

# Jefferson Parents and Teachers (JPAT) General Meeting

Tuesday, January 10, 2006 – 6:30 p.m.

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

## Call to Order

President Jeff Brandt called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. All officers were present.

## Approval of Minutes

Sheryl Stuart moved to accept the November 8, 2005 minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

## Principal's Report

Denise Gorthy discussed the School Board's Resource review committee and that no decisions by the school board are likely to be made this year. Staff at Jefferson and other schools in Corvallis were asked to provide feedback on the board's top issues and to provide additional concern. The staff added enrollment boundaries of Jefferson Elementary as an item to be addressed by the Board. Denise discussed Jefferson's enrollment boundary and the large number of transfer children coming to Jefferson. Her concern is that the Kindergarten class sizes are not making up for the loss of students when the fifth graders move to middle school. She noted that except for Inavale and Franklin, Jefferson's boundary area had the smallest student population. In addition she noted that Jefferson Elementary has the smallest enrollment boundary of any school.

Denise reminded everyone of the upcoming Dine Out night on Jan 31<sup>st</sup> at Woodstocks pizza. She noted that the fundraiser was for dine in or take out, but did not apply to deliveries. In addition she mentioned the Sock Hop coming up on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Denise spoke about the fire alarm that was set off in school today. The alarm was triggered by a malfunction in a diode that failed and created smoke. No fire was started and the evacuation of students and staff went smoothly.

## President's Report

Jeff discussed the open volunteer positions for 2006/2007. The group discussed ideas for approaching people to do these much needed and appreciated positions.

Jeff asked if there was any additional ideas for his newsletter article in the JPAT newsletter, the members had no additional comments to add.

Jeff discussed the Café Conversations he would like to put on at Jefferson and noted that he needed help otherwise he would not be able to do this during 2006. The group discussed the Café Conversations. Jeff said he would put an e-mail out to see if there would be any help, otherwise it would have to be cancelled this year.

## Financial Report

Sheryl Stuart reviewed the current financial standing of JPAT. She noted a correction: the Sock Hop budget was increased \$200 at the November meeting. She reported that the JPAT checking account has a \$9,659 balance. She noted that the Foundation Certificates to date are \$5,908. A member noted that there is an Oregon State tax credit available to people who donate to the Oregon Cultural Trust (OCT) and give matching funds to one of OCT's listed non-profit organizations. Corvallis Public Schools Foundation is one of the listed organizations, so a donation to Jefferson Elementary's direct donation drive through the foundation would qualify. For more information please contact the Oregon Cultural Trust, or visit [http://www.culturaltrust.org/programs/beneficiaries\\_qualifying\\_non\\_profits.php](http://www.culturaltrust.org/programs/beneficiaries_qualifying_non_profits.php).

## **Committee Reports**

**Wildlife Stewards** – Patti Warner announced an award that was given to the Jefferson Wildlife Stewards Program. This five star award from the National Fish and Wildlife, EPA and other agencies is quite prestigious and was in recognition of Jefferson’s activities with Dixon Creek, funded in part with a \$10,000 grant. This grant was awarded to the Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District who passed the plaque to Jefferson. Patti would like to embed the bronze award in concrete with student-made stepping stones leading from the plaque to the pathway along Dixon Creek to promote children’s education.

In addition the Kiwanis has awarded the Jefferson Wildlife Stewards a \$300 grant to install a bookshelf for Wildlife Stewards materials. Patti noted that Hoover Elementary is starting up a 4H Wildlife Stewards program and would like Jefferson students to come to their Science Night on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Scrip** – Rhonda noted that she had sent out an e-mail that the Scrip program was running approximately \$950 less than this time last year. She noted that there were a few changes in merchants. The group discussed the scrip program and ideas for changing the trend. One idea was to add “Gift Card Program” as a title change or addition to Scrip to reach those for whom the name Scrip creates a barrier.

**Sock Hop** - Luis Medina discussed briefly who was doing what for the sock hop and acknowledged Jeff and others for helping to find volunteers. Terri Adams will be bringing trays of apples and carrots. Stephanie will be doing some dance lessons. Karen will be bringing beverages. Luis daughter will be doing a poster. Luis is working on the slip to go home with the students. Luis was asked to make sure he got an article in for the JPAT newsletter.

**Jog-A-Thon** – Jeff gave a brief update that pledge sheets for the Jog-a-thon will soon be ready for kids to take home. Brenda VanDevelder noted she would like to chair the Jog-A-Thon next year.

**Direct Donation Drive** – Pete Loschl announced that \$15,680 was been pledged or donated by 84 donors. This was 92% of the \$17,000 goal. The group discussed the idea of a push to get the non-contributors to make up the \$1,320 difference. Pete was going to provide Jeff Brandt information to pursue this.

## **New Business**

Patti from Benton County Safe Routes (BCSR) announced a new survey for parents about transportation issues. BCSR has received a small grant to assist in the promotion and creation of safe routes to school (via non-car methods). BCSR is in collaboration with City and County Public Works departments, the Health Department, Law Enforcement agencies to name a few. In addition BCSR is trying for one of six Oregon Department of Transportation grants in order to make infrastructure changes to help cyclists and pedestrians get to school safely. The survey will assist in this endeavor. A plastic wrist band will be given to each child who returns the survey. Cat Newscheller volunteered to be the Jefferson organizer of the survey.

JPAT Newsletter deadline is Wednesday January 11<sup>th</sup>.

Software for Auction – Sheryl Stuart announced that there was an error in the amount the software will cost. It originally was \$600, however because two different schools were planning to use the license the company wanted to charge the full price \$1,295. Karen Misfelt negotiated for Jefferson and Adams to purchase the software for \$995 each. Cat moved to approve \$995 to pay for the software. A member suggested that the foundation might purchase the software and allow both schools to use it, thus lowering the price to \$600. After discussion, this idea was deemed likely to be impractical. The motion was seconded and passed.

## **Unfinished Business**

Jeff announced that the committee chairs need to provide updated job descriptions to him as they are essential to help in finding people to take over vacant positions.

## **Adjournment**

Jeff adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm

**Next Meeting Date – Tuesday, February 7th, 2006 6:30pm in the Jefferson Library**