

Jefferson Parents and Teachers (JPAT)

General Meeting

Tuesday November 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 Laurie Chaplen called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Board members present were Laurie Chaplen, Patrice Jones, Peter Gelser and Susan Hetherington.

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: Ann Blegen moved to accept the October 9th, 2007 minutes as written. The motion was seconded and approved.

Special Presentation: Art teacher Claudia Jane Hall presented an overview of the art program for Jefferson. She is the only certified Art instructor at the elementary level for the district, except for Franklin School, which she believes is a statement of Jefferson's values. In her instruction, she offers the students new ways to see and visually think; a way for the students to look at things more closely and differently--skills that will allow the students to succeed outside of the classroom. She also offers opportunities for interaction, sharing and collaboration among classmates. In the future, she is planning to work on a service program in conjunction with high school students to provide art exposure to the 4th grade class at the OSU Library.

Heidi Lewis raised the question if the 'Art on a Cart' system, in which Claudia travels to each classroom on a rolling cart with necessary supplies, is a permanent option or if there is a possibility for her to have her own modular classroom space. Denise replied that she had previously asked the district for a modular, but was refused. The future is unforeseeable for the next several years.

Library Aide Andrea Surfleet presented an overview of the status of the library and her role in bringing a fresh update to it. Her position as Library Aide II is a .5 FTE, and allows for 4 hours/day of library access. She has approximately 14 volunteers helping out an average of 30 hours/week. She outlined research stating the correlation between library expenditures and student achievement (*see attached*). Her dream for the future includes more library time for students and all-day access to the library. She is currently looking for comfortable, stackable chairs for the students to enjoy. She also would like to pressure the district to provide books that relate to the new reading curriculum program.

Principal's Report: Principal Denise Gorthy thanked JPAT for helping to fund the art and library programs. She reported that the additional playground equipment could possibly be installed over the Spring Recess; she is currently accepting feedback and working with vendors. The Parent Coffee this month will feature Vicki Gregory, the reading coach, about the new reading curriculum. The district boundary review was accepted by the board, which includes no boundary for Franklin School. The 509J website was the most comprehensive information available (*see attached*).

President's Report: None

Financial Report: Peter Gelser discussed ways to cover the increased cost for the JPAT Newsletter, and suggested allocating \$400 from the contingency fund. Andrea Surfleet made a motion to move \$400 from the contingency fund to the Newsletter fund to cover the costs of the newsletter. The motion was seconded and approved.

Committee Reports: Silent Auction chair Karen Misfeldt provided an update via email for the event this year, which is called "Hula For the Moola" (*see attached*). The committee will begin meeting in January, and 2 or 3 volunteers are needed to shadow the chairs, who will be retiring from their posts at the end of the year.

Direct Donation Drive chair Bonnie Bailey estimated that \$10,438 has been pledged for the drive with 44 donors. The goal is \$16,000 with 100 donors. A donor is willing to match \$75 for each kicker check pledge (up to a total of \$750 or 10 donations). Dave Mellinger suggested a table at the school entry advertising the kicker check donation and matching program.

Fall Book Fair chair Sheila Mulligan reported that sales from the Fall Book Fair will amount to a voucher for the school for \$2,000. The event had its highest percentage ever, with \$3,000 in sales for books. Parents also bought hundreds of books for the teachers.

T-shirts designs are currently in the front display case for viewing of design and colors available.

Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Sears reported that a Site Beautification chair position is still vacant, as well as Silent Auction shadows. Please see Sandy Sears if you are interested in lending a hand.

Ann Blegen reported that Scrip sales are about \$100 behind last year at this time. Sales were slow in October, but they are up so far in November, with the Holiday Scrip deadline set for December 7.

Unfinished Business: Fifth grade teacher Kristin Silbernagel submitted a written proposal for assistance in funding \$1,000 to cover the chaperone's costs (12 people) for the 5th grade OMSI Camp.

Peter Gelser presented the option to increase the Family Access Fund to cover the costs for those in need, this way the amount of funding can fluctuate from year to year depending on need. The access fund would need to be increased to cover the larger amount. If the amount needed exceeds what is available in the access fund, then moneys from the contingency fund can be used. The idea for this is to use JPAT as a backup plan. Another recommendation from those in attendance was to charge each student a small amount extra in order to spread out the costs for everyone.

A family survey was distributed to 5th grade families to determine how much financial need there is to have these costs covered in order to provide quality chaperones to the students in attendance. The surveys are due back shortly, and Kristin Silbernagel would be willing to provide an update from the surveys at the December JPAT meeting. A motion was made by Jodell Boyle to postpone a funding decision until the December meeting. Discussion ensued, and an amended motion was made by Denise Gorthy that JPAT funds the 2 teachers' costs for OMSI, with the remaining funding to be discussed at the December meeting. More discussion ensued, and a final amended motion was made by Jodell Boyle to postpone a funding decision until the December JPAT meeting, pending preliminary

survey results and costs required including 2 teachers. The motion was seconded and approved.

New Business: None

Adjournment: Laurie Chaplen adjourned the meeting at 8:18pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Hetherington, Secretary

Approved as written / corrected _____(date)

President Laurie Chaplen _____(signature)

Next Meeting Date – Tuesday, January 8th, 6:30pm in the Jefferson Library