

Jefferson Parents and Teachers (JPAT)

General Meeting

Tuesday September 12, 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 6:38pm. Board members present were Jeff Brandt, Susan Hetherington and Peter Gelser. Cat Newsheller was excused due to family emergency.

Approval of Minutes: Jodell Boyle moved to accept the May 30th, 2006 minutes, with typographic corrections noted. The motion was seconded and approved.

Principal's Report: Denise Gorthy reported that Jefferson's current enrollment for the 2006-2007 school year is within 4-5 students over projection, thus keeping in line with the budget.

Various upcoming events include the following:

- Sept 14 Fall Barbecue
- Sept 19 Intermediate Curriculum Night (Grades 3/4/5)
- Sept 20 Parent Coffee - focus on this meeting is information for new families
- Sept 21 Primary Curriculum Night (Grades 1/2)
- Oct TBA Curriculum Night for Kindergarten
- Oct 4 Walk & Bike to School Day
- Oct 6 Picture Day

Denise noted that childcare will not be available for the Curriculum Nights.

A discussion followed in regards to the budget decisions from the previous JPAT meeting on May 30th, and how the JPAT funds were allocated. Summary is as follows:

- \$ 18,000 ART - Claudia Hall; Grades 1-5 to get 45 minutes, once a week; K to get 30 minutes, 1x/wk
- \$ 5,000 (funds already received) Classified math assistant
- \$ 8,000 Music - to be determined

Other changes include the addition of a classified reading assistant, trained in assessments for K-5, that will be able to provide intervention for kids in need of reading help.

Two new doors in the library will lead the students into a larger computer lab, formerly a classroom. Since the district would fund air conditioning for only one room and the computer lab needed more space, the former music classroom has been moved to one of the modulars. The building was also painted over the summer. Due to rising asphalt costs, the playground resurfacing will not take place until next summer.

Jeff Brandt raised a question in regards to the earmarked music funds, whether Carol Nelson would be available for the second half of the school year and if someone else was perhaps qualified to do the fifth grade musical. Denise responded that she had spoken with Carol Nelson, but that a midyear option for her was not perhaps feasible. At this point, the fifth grade musical is unlikely and the \$8,000 in PTA funds is unspent until further discussion. Jeff motioned to have Denise Gorthy look for further music opportunities by the Nov 7th JPAT meeting, and if nothing comes forth, then the moneys be allocated to a reading program. Denise responded that was that it would be hard to hire staff in the middle of the school year, and would not be certified time. After some discussion among the present members, the motion was amended by Kimberly Cleveland for Denise to try to fund the music program further with the \$8,000 or develop any other opportunities to utilize the moneys by the Nov 7th meeting for JPAT to vote on. It was also suggested to perhaps hold on to the funds for staffing in the 2007-08 school year. The motion was seconded and approved.

President's Report: Jeff Brandt presented the 2006-2007 calendar. It was noted that it should be updated to show the curriculum nights as previously noted by Denise Gorthy. On behalf of Cat Newsheller, Jeff threw in a plug for the Fall BBQ to be held on Sept 14th, as an opportunity to meet new parents as well as the kick off to the Direct Donation Drive.

Financial Report: Peter Gelser reported that the JPAT checking account balance was approximately \$3,600. He noted that summer Scrip funds brought in \$740. A full budget report would be available at the next JPAT meeting in October.

Committee Reports: Peter Loschl, chair of the Direct Drive Donation, announced that all was in place, including new poster, new flyers and even online contribution capabilities, for the DDD to kick off at the Fall BBQ event this week. The committee was able to again secure matching funds up to \$1,500 by an anonymous donor; a \$50 contribution for each \$120 donated at the Fall BBQ. The members established a goal for the DDD to be \$16,000 with 100 Jefferson families participating; Pete felt that goal was very attainable. Last year's DDD raised approximately \$15,600, despite the many natural disasters that occurred possibly taking away from potential donations, as well as the effects of Hewlett-Packard's matching program's demise.

It was also noted that both Pete Loschl and Tanya Beckman will not be serving on the DDD Committee next year, and that a replacement is needed to learn the ropes. After the BBQ, a mailer will be distributed for the remainder of the drive, to continue through Dec 31st. Ideas to help spark interest are greatly appreciated.

General Information: *Local Option Levy 02-58* - Sara Gelser spoke on behalf of the Corvallis Kids Count, in support of the proposed school levy to be on the upcoming November 7th ballots. This levy will:

- increase property taxes in order to add approx. \$3 million per year to Corvallis schools
- helps to mend the cuts in school funding from the past 16 years
- every dollar stays in Corvallis
- will buy 35-39 new teachers over 5 years
- add an additional day of music and PE at the elementary level
- usage of funds is specifically set for teachers and programs, *not* buildings and administration

The levy would tax the gap between a home's assessed value versus its market's value. There are numerous challenges facing the levy, including a lengthy November ballot, a vocal opposition group, and funding is needed to run a successful campaign. Volunteers would be needed to pass out literature in support of the levy. Volunteer children are also needed to be photographed for the campaign literature.

New Business: Tam Peterson, from the Benton County Health Department, spoke on behalf of Walk To School Day chair Nancy Jamieson, to promote the creation of a Walking & Biking program at Jefferson, similar to ones in use in Philomath. In order to get such a program off the ground, volunteers are needed to help establish routes, to include intersections and times.

Such a program would fit in part with the wellness program as mandated by the District. Jeff Brandt stressed that programs such as these are important for the students and need to be encouraged. It was decided that a promotional booth would be set up by Tam/Nancy at the BBQ for sign-ups of kids and routes via parental supervision. Tam would provide the table for the booth at the BBQ.

Rhonda Soulé, chair of the Dine Out Program, reported that she is planning on scheduling Jefferson Dine Out Nights for October, November, January, February, April and May. Restaurants being considered include Bombs Away Cafe, Evergreen, El Tapatio, and

Woodstocks Pizza. Rhonda also noted that McMenamin's, which has been very successful in previous years, would be contacting her in January, for a possible date in the second half of the school year. Any other locally owned restaurants for consideration are welcomed. Pete Loschl suggested contacting Tacos Urupan, which may be interested.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Brenda VanDevelder, co-chair of the JPAT Newsletter, announced that all submissions for JPAT News are due by the 15th of each month, for the following month's newsletter.

Adjournment: Jeff Brandt adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm.

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