

**JCES PTO Meeting
February 5, 2010
Minutes**

Present:

OLSD Staff:

Jennifer Decker, Assistant Principal, JCES

Nicole Acox, Librarian, JCES

Parents: Melissa Billy, Tanya Brennan, Lisa Fritz, Barb Georges, Heidi Harsh, Laurie Haver, Delcina Jones, Michelle Kuhtenia, Diane Pocius, Jennifer Reinard, Stacy Robinson, Laure Takach, Susan Vance, Amanda Westrick, Julie Young

Call to Order and Officers' Reports

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:20 am by Tanya Brennan, PTO President. Tanya motioned to accept the minutes of the November, 2009 meeting; motion seconded and approved. Tanya discussed the PTO's meeting frequency and encouraged parents to contact her with suggestions and comments. Tanya explained that the board meets once per month, and minutes of these meetings are posted on the JCES PTO Web site. The next full meeting of the PTO will be on April 16 at 9:15 am. Stacey Robinson suggested that for the 2010-2011 school year, the PTO should publish a listing of meeting dates at the beginning of the year, so that parents can plan accordingly. Tanya reminded everyone that the PTO newsletter is available on the Web site, <http://jces.olentangypt.org/> as are the calendar of events, committee chairs and contact information, PTO bylaws, and backpack express. Angela Stalter serves as the Webmaster, and she posts information to the site. It was noted that the site does not receive many visitors, and several suggestions were made to remind parents about the site and hopefully, increase usage. In addition to these suggestions, Jennifer Decker offered to see if she can send email messages which contain information in the body of the message, rather than as attachments which parents have to open.

Treasurer Michelle Kuhtenia reported that the revenue for the Carnival will not be realized this year, since we are deferring the Carnival and planning for a Fall Festival instead. Because of this, the budget will be tight and there will most likely not be much of an excess in revenue at the end of this school year. Michelle stated that Mrs. DeAngelis is very appreciative of the PTO's support over the past few years, and there aren't any immediate needs for the school at the present time. The PTO has purchased two Smartboards, the sun shade in the playground area, a picnic table, and an LCD projector using PTO funds.

Smartboard Presentation

Mrs. Acox demonstrated the features of the new Smartboard, which was purchased with PTO funds. JCES currently has two Smartboards, one in the computer lab and one which is mobile and can be used in different classrooms. The board is interactive and operates via touch screen. Jennifer Decker explained that while the boards are added teaching tools, the faculty need to be fully trained on how best to use these tools with students. At the present time, additional Smartboard purchases are not planned for JCES, as Mrs. DeAngelis and Ms. Decker review the benefits of the technology vs. the resources needed.

Committee Reports

Tanya is investigating the possibility of placing the student directory on the OLSD portal system. This is the MyOlentangy system, which is password-protected for each student. This would eliminate the cost associated with printing hard copy directories, although some parents expressed a desire to have the option of purchasing a hard copy for the 2010-2011 school year. The 2010 directories will be going home with students in February.

The Book Fair is scheduled for the week of May 10-14. Laure Takach volunteered to contact Cindy Cunningham regarding planning for this event. Per Delcina Jones, chairpersons for this event need to be trained by a Scholastic representative.

Parent-Teacher conferences will take place February 25 and March 1. The PTO will again provide a catered dinner for the K-5 teachers on both of those evenings.

Donuts with Dad will take place on April 8-9, and Muffins with Mom will take place on April 15-16. Peggy Kirsop and Kathy Sherry are coordinating both of these events.

Staff Appreciation week is May 3-7. Parents and students will be invited to do small things for the faculty and staff during that week.

Kindergarten registration will take place at JCES on April 6 & 7, NOT May 5 & 6, as previously reported. Julie Young encouraged parents to assist this year, and said this is a fun event, especially for parents whose children are well into their elementary/middle school years.

Julie Young also reported on plans for the 5th grade celebration, which will take place on the last day of school (June 8). Julie again asked for help in planning this event, especially from 4th grade parents who will be planning the event in 2010-2011. Julie reminded parents that the money generated from recycling efforts at school is used toward the 5th grade celebration. Jennifer Decker will communicate with 5th grade parents to remind them to bring their recycling to the bins in the JCES parking lot to help support the 5th grade celebration.

Lisa Fritz will hold an informational meeting at school to discuss plans for the Fall Festival. This meeting was originally scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, but will be rescheduled due to inclement weather. Lisa stated that as part of the process, the volunteers should communicate the goals of the Festival to parents (ie, what do we hope to accomplish, in addition to strengthening the JCES community, as a result of the Festival? What do we hope to add to the school through these efforts?) Tanya also stated that in the 2010-2011 school year, the Walkathon will take place in the spring so that the Fall Festival is the only fundraising event at the beginning of the school year.

Parents were encouraged to volunteer for upcoming events by adding their names to event sign-up sheets before leaving the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Reinard
Recording Secretary