

Bitterroot PTA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

6-7pm in the Bitterroot Library

“Research has shown that people who volunteer often live longer.” - Allen Klein

Welcome and Introductions /Attendees: April Keippel, Bonnie Bear Don't Walk, Jenny Jasper, Laura Lindseth, Shannon Wright, Stephanie Maroncelli, Tari Erfle, Mary Rose Swan, Jill Swope, Ariane Taylen.

Approval of Meeting Minutes : Minutes are posted electronically to the Bitterroot PTA website- Stephanie Maroncelli made motion to approve minutes and Bonnie Bear Don't Walk seconded the motion. The motion was passed to approve the minutes as written.

Treasurer's Report: Given by Shannon Wright→

Balances of Accounts→

Regular Checking \$12,976.28

Regular Savings \$7,986.99

Classroom Checking \$2001.50

Classroom Savings \$0.01

Holiday Stroll→

\$300 Income

\$700 Donations

\$907.90 Expenses

\$92.10 Budget Left

\$300 to go to the Back Pack Program→Motion made by Stephanie Maroncelli to donate these funds made from Holiday Stroll and Laura Lindseth seconded the motion→Motion was passed.

Box Tops/Labels for Education Committee: Given by Jenny Jasper→

Ms. Redmond's class is leading for Labels for Education.

Mr. White's class is leading in the Box Tops.

Next counting day for Labels/Box Tops will be Friday the 30th of January in Ms. Redmond's room after school (2:30-4 pm) if you can help.

Principal's Update: Given by Mr. John English→

Redistricting→There are three options on the table for the redistricting. These can be seen on the Billings School District 2 website. There will be additional District public meetings to discuss this further. At this time, Bitterroot Elementary, Beartooth Elementary, Bench Elementary and Independent School will be attending the new Middle School.

Remodeling for Bitterroot→There will be new flooring throughout the building that will include rubberized flooring and new carpet. There will be new lighting and lighting controls that will be automatic placed in the school. There will be new air systems installed for the heating of the rooms. There will be re-working the Annex so that there will be more fresh air in the building. There will be new windows installed in the school. There will be a new playground structure installed outside.

New Middle School Construction Update→ The baseball fields did not get the sod before the winter. Sod will be placed in Spring and ready in early summer. The school is still on schedule to be ready for the Fall of 2016. There is a pond still in place by the bike path. There will be docks put on this pond so students can use the ponds for Educational purposes. Barrett Road can be paved when the weather gets warmer. There will also be an area for walk around that will be concrete.

Old Business:

Holiday Stroll (Friday, December 19th) →

What worked well? Simplifying decorations made set up much easier. It helped to have the hot chocolate pre-made. The Student Council helping was a great help. The Skyview students were a great help. The Letters to Santa were delivered to the Post Office. The wreaths went over very well.

How can we improve for next year? We may want to look at moving the date up earlier in December (i.e. the first Friday in December) and possibly cancelling the December Family Movie Night in order to help with strain on volunteers and time commitments. It was brought up that we may want to look at a way to have a tree from the Holiday Stroll donated to a family in need. We may want to consider Centerpieces as future raffle items as well as the wreaths and trees.

New Business:

January Movie Night (Jan 9): →How to Train Your Dragon 2→ Jenny Jasper, April Keippel and Tari Erfle will be the volunteers for the event. We will have frozen Go-Gurts (April Keippel will purchase), left over Pumpkin Patch Party candy, popcorn and water for snacks.

Science, Math, Health Night (Jan 30th): Mary Rose Swan is the Chair of the Event.

Theater Options – NOVA or Missoula Children’s Theate (March) :→ The dates that are being considered are for early to mid-March. NOVA has a 50 child limit. The cost is \$2000. The name of the production is “Name that Internal Organ.” Mr. English would like to talk with NOVA before they come in to the school due to issues that arose last year with the group cancelling at the last minute and making last minute changes to the practice times.

Other New Business?

Second Grade Magazines for the Classroom→The PTA paid for the magazines up front with a cost of \$280.16. The teachers asked for donations from the students’ families to help cover the cost. The teachers received \$147 donations to go back to the PTA. The PTA had a total expense after donations of \$133.16.

February Family Movie Night →This Family Movie Night has been cancelled due to lack of volunteers and too many unaccompanied students attending. This night was intended as a Family Event. We will stress the importance of this with the next newsletter.

Read-A-Thon→ Stephanie Maroncelli asked the PTA to approve the prizes for the Top Readers. They will be Android Tablets (2 for younger children @ \$60 each and 2 for older children @ \$50 each). The

total budget for Read-A-Thon is \$700. The prizes were approved and will be ordered to have in time for the Read-A-Thon.

Funds Request→ There was a Funds Request placed by Hilary Lund, the Speech/Language Therapist on November 19th. She is requesting funds for 3 videos at \$59.95 each with \$13.95 shipping. The video titles are “Fitting In and Having Fun,” “Moving on to Middle School,” and “Confident and In Control.” Mr. English asked that the topic be tabled until he can talk with Ms. Lund. The topic is tabled.

Funds Request→ There was a Funds Request placed by Mr. White, 3rd Grade Instructor. He is asking for \$15-\$30 for 1500 gum drops and 3000 tooth picks for an in-class experiment. There was a motion and second and the motion was passed to pay these funds from the General Funds.

IXL Feedback→ The students love it!