

Bitterroot PTA Minutes
Tuesday, February 9, 2016
6-7pm in the Bitterroot Library

“Aim for the moon. If you miss, you may hit a star.” ~W. Clement Stone

Welcome and Introductions/Attendees

- Mary Rose Swan, Jenny Jasper, Tari Erfle, Laura Lindseth, Kristine Gaskill, Wendy Martin, Monica Smith, Jill Swoope, Nicole Holman, Jennifer Jones, Jeri Anton, John English, Cressida Carroll

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Minutes are posted electronically to the Bitterroot PTA website → Motion to approve minutes made by John English and motion second by Cressida Carroll; minutes are approved as posted.

Treasurer's Report; Given by Cressida Carroll

- General Checking Account \$14,589.75
- General Savings Account \$7,989.59
- Classroom Carnival Checking Account \$2,602.34
- Classroom Carnival Savings Account \$75.01
 - Cressida Carroll will send an electronic copy of each teacher's account total after this year's carnival
- Movie Night Expense \$27.37, Income \$55.50, Total to date \$28.13
- Print Shop Expense \$39.61, Total to date \$479.72
- Science Night Expense \$308.32, Total to date \$308.32
- NOVA Theater Expense \$1,220.98, Total to date \$2,220.98
 - Dinner Expense for students=\$174.08
- Follow Up Discussion on Saturday Live Funds
 - Half the profits will go directly to the school and half the profits will go to the PTA; Christy Zimmerman will put the funds into the school account.

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

- Labels for Education Program as we know it will discontinue in August 2016
 - Please turn in any Labels you may have soon.
 - Another program will be taking place but they have not released details.
 - They will continue the “Grand Stand for Education” (Our school won \$1,000 last year from this program.)
- Labels for Education Current Leaders
 - 1st Hankins 264
 - 2nd Pohle 242
 - 3rd Crofutt 138
 - 4th N. Miller 100
- Labels for Education Overall Leaders
 - 1st Hankins 386
 - 2nd White 306
 - 3rd Pohle 270
 - 4th Martin 252
- Box Tops Current Leaders
 - 1st Pohle 73.32
 - 2nd Hankins 69.10
 - 3rd Crofutt 32.20
 - 4th White 31.50

- Box Top Overall Leaders
 - 1st Hankins 118.50
 - 2nd Pohle 116.74
 - 3rd White 74.90
 - 4th Crofutt 72.80

Principals Report/Updates

- Project Lead the Way – update and explanation of PTA funding request
 - Funds will need to be available in early June
 - \$17,000 will buy one I-Pad lab and Exxon will match with another I-Pad lab
 - The principal and two other teachers will be trained over the summer on the program
 - All grade levels will be included in program
 - The I-Pad labs will be able to be utilized for other things
 - The corporate donor funds will cover “consumable kits” this year; however, they will need to be replenished next year
 - The Tech Levy funds may be a way to cover this expense
 - The Tech Levy was questioned as to where those funds went; was this Levy to cover electronic needs?
 - \$25,000 was available per year
 - New computers were bought for teachers
 - A computer lab for every classroom is a goal
 - Intention to spend the funds before the 6th graders transitioned into Middle School as uncertain what next school year would bring
 - Questions were brought up on how much the PTA should fund for Project Lead the Way
 - \$10,000 was discussed in earlier budgeting meetings
 - No decision was made at this time; we will address this in further meetings
- Middle School updates
 - Two meetings have taken place on how the next year with the new Middle School will go
 - Bitterroot had good attendance at the meetings
 - John English was able to walk through the building of the new Middle School
 - The second floor has science pods
 - There is open room on the second floor like a foyer that has seats
 - The school has pod areas
 - All 6th, 7th, and 8th Grades will be in the Middle School
 - They will be moving Earth Science to the 8th Grade and 9th Grade will have Biology
 - They will be offering 9th Grade Math to the 8th Grade students
 - High school graduation needs 22 credits

Old Business:

Science Night (January 15): Committee Report/Updates

- What worked well?
 - 66 students signed up for the door prizes
 - Keeping everything all in one place instead of all throughout the school
 - Great group of volunteers including the Lego Robot Team
 - Pipe cleaners were a huge hit
 - Slime station was a hit

- How can we improve?
 - Maybe use Project Lead the Way next year like Beartooth School did this year.
 - More like a Science Project Fair

NOVA Theater (January 25 – February 5): Vacation on Mars - The Solar System for Young Explorer

- What worked well?
 - The students enjoyed it; some of the older students did not seem as engaged as before
 - The \$2,000 cost covers the set, the props, the costumes, and the license for the play; this is a great value.
 - Good feedback from the families
 - Moving the stage to the opposite side of the gym (the end by the office) was a nice change. This allowed better acoustics for the audience.
 - There were 49 students participating this year.
- How can we improve?
 - Working with Dan is “interesting.” He has a different style of teaching. He teaches “life skills.”
 - The donation bucket was not set up as earlier discussed.

Read-A-Thon (February 24-March 4th)

- Kristine Gaskill is the Chair for this Committee
- Montana Air Cartage donated \$500 for the event
- Every student will receive a book that is grade level specific
- Every student will receive a key chain that looks like a crystal ball
- E-readers and gift cards to Barnes and Noble will be given by the same lottery system that was used last year; the students will get their choice in the order they are drawn
- Kristine has many gift certificates/coupons for the students as they reach specific goals
- The top 4 readers will receive a \$10 gift card to Denny’s
- The winning classrooms will be given a “secret envelope prize” & cookie tray that has been donated
 - Kristine will get with each teacher to find out what that specific classroom would like to have; i.e. PJ Day.
- The library is in need of non-fiction books (Ms. Anderson just recently purchased 9 non-fiction books that cost \$600)
- Jenny Jasper made motion that 100% of proceeds (minus expenses) go to the library. Kristine Gaskill second the motion and the motion was passed.

New Business:

Movie Night (March 4th)

- Popular Vote; Jenny Jasper has given ballot to students and there is a voting option on-line as well.

Spring Carnival (April 29th)

- This is a fundraiser for teachers and staff.
- The current way in which the Carnival is run was designed to make it more equal for all staff and to allow families to have an affordable night.
- The Committee will allow the teachers to choose the theme for their class basket. A survey will be sent to the teachers.

New officer elections

- April 2016 Please consider serving as President or Secretary; possibly the Vice President of Volunteers.

Budget Committee

- Teacher and membership representatives needed
- Will take place in April
- No date set at this point

Other New Business?

- Thank you to the Mr. English for alerting the police department to issues with drivers in the School Zone. They have been effective in stopping many drivers that are not following safety laws.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm by Mary Rose Swan