

# Bitterroot PTA Meeting

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

In Attendance: Jenny Jasper, Mary Swan, Laura Lindseth, Cressida Carroll, Bonnie Bear Don't Walk, John Vagner of Lifetouch, Elisa Olson, Shanna Henry, Ariane Taylen, Erin Miller, Lynnette Papka, Jennifer Bunn, Alexis Buss, Priscilla Barrera, April Keippel, Jana O'Donnell, Kim Pohle

Called to order at 6:28pm

## **Lifetouch:**

John Vagner of Lifetouch explained our benefits from Lifetouch. Each year, Lifetouch donates a % to Yellowstone Valley Council for scholarships and training and have done so for the last 10 years. We had a concern about Spring Pictures and sending packets home to parents, issues included, waste of product with returned pictures, pressure to buy, and the tracking time on our end.

John let us know that currently about 60% of parents buy pictures. Last year we had \$5200 in sales, \$1010 of which came back to the PTA. If we switched to the way we do fall pictures, participation typically falls from 65% to 20%. John volunteered to sponsor a pizza party or ice cream party for the first 3 classes to get 100% of their pictures turned back in. He would have PTA buy and then reimburse us. He also let us know that parents can opt out of having spring pictures taken and then they wouldn't see packets going home. He also let us know that the PTA can have \$550 of free stuff from his catalog.

It was decided we would not make any changes to how Spring Pictures are run in the foreseeable future because we would see a significant loss of income and there are safeguards for parents who don't want to see pictures that we were not previously aware of.

## **Classroom Carnival:**

From the Committee: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade had not signed up for any activities yet. There was concern about the number of activities we were doing, they would like to see more. Reiterated that if teachers needed materials for their games / booths, they needed to let the PTA know.

Erin Miller (2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher) commented that she was disappointed about last year. She felt we did not have enough games and the even split made it not as much fun for the teachers. After much discussion, it was decided that we would remove the flat admission fee and go back to paying for tickets for each game. The teacher will keep whatever profit they make from their game giving them incentive to do more activities in their booths, which in turn would make it more fun for the kids. Baskets will have a separate charge. Baskets will continue to be split evenly among everyone who participated in the carnival.

Teachers are still in charge of finding volunteers for their games. PTA will continue to handle ticket sales.

Current plan is to have one theme / grade and making as many baskets that are nice as warranted. Committee is also working on getting donations. Jen Pyburn and Lynette Papka are working on the baskets. There was also discussion about having food at the carnival again this year. Mrs. Bunn will discuss with Kelly Weber and have her get back to us.

**NOVA:**

There was discussion about not continuing this program in the future. We had a very hard time getting parent volunteers to fulfill our obligation. We had parents volunteering that did not have kids participating in the event. There was a lot of disorganization this year and the piece they picked to perform was not age appropriate. There was discussion about other programs we could do. Dr. Henry mentioned Montana Shakes which puts on workshops. Other options discussed were bringing in more things like the Star Lab, Birds of Prey (assemblies where the whole school could participate that didn't need volunteers).

**Other Discussion:**

Volunteers: Discussion of reinstating a room mom for each classroom that would help find volunteers. Dr. Henry mentioned we are not allowed to do a phone tree.

Dogs: We are still having people bringing dogs to school. Dr. Henry has asked them not to bring them into the playground area and to stay off to the side.

We tabled discussion of Ms. Kelly's rug / blower request until next month.

We also discussed making sure reminders about Fundraisers went home earlier if possible.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm