

Byron Somerset Council - Meeting Minutes
Monday Jan 12, 2026

Attendees:

Parents: Deanna Totten, Ceara McNeil, Rashad Rahaman, Kris Kolpin, Blair Patton, Jidé Ajamale, Flavia Mazza, Hasina Rahman

Virtual: Harpreet Johal, Ashlynn Adachi,, Kaitlyn Colling, Nicole Spicknell

Absent: Fabio Eymael, Ron Davey, Lainie Gardner, Sabrina Poirier

School Staff: Erin Alary, Anne Fleming

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:34p.m.

2. Approval Items

a. Agenda

Approved by council consensus

b. Minutes

Approved by council consensus

3. Treasurer Report - *Rashad Rahamam*

General Account

Balance as of January 12, 2026 - \$23,752.13

Available Balance as of January 12, 2026 - \$11,681.02

FUNDS IN: Digital Thesaurus \$212.82*

FUNDS OUT: FDK \$465.71
 French \$96.00

Approved Future Spends: Outdoor Classroom \$10,000.00
 Planters \$1,000.00
 Athletics \$1,000.00
 Flag Purchase \$200 + HST \$226.00
 Bluetooth Speaker \$600 + HST \$678.00
 Classroom Supplies \$100 per Class \$3,600.00
 Orienteering Supplies \$292 + HST + Shipping \$380.00

*Duplicate Chq \$1636, \$1637 (Add back in Dec) \$212.82

Pizza Account

Date	Orders	Revenue	Pizza	Cookies & Juice Box	Profit	Cumulative Profit
24-Sep	355	2,603.50	1,039.50	182.38	1,381.62	1,381.62
08-Oct	314	2,303.25	911.25	155.59	1,236.41	2,618.03
22-Oct	354	2,627.50	1,053.00	183.59	1,390.91	4,008.94
12-Nov	347	2,583.75	1,038.00	179.92	1,365.83	5,374.77
26-Nov	328	2,407.50	1,109.25	169.00	1,129.25	6,504.02
10-Dec	339	2,511.25	1,009.50	166.35	1,335.40	7,839.42
17-Dec	310	2,332.00	924.75	121.75	1,285.50	9,124.92

Balance as of January 12, 2026 - *\$15,054.15

*Includes All-Year Pizza Lunch Deposits

Lunchbox

Balance as of January 12, 2026 - \$507.50

FUNDS IN: October Commission \$334.50

FUNDS OUT: No transactions

Snack Days

Date	Orders	Revenue	Popcorn	Bags and other Overhead Costs	Lollipops	Licorice, Nerds, Airheads	Profit	Cumulative Profit
29-Sep	191	874.50	337.00	358.74	164.98	288.02	(274.24)	(274.24)
27-Oct	200	760.25					760.25	486.01
09-Dec	184	854.25			116.87		737.38	1,223.39

Balance as of January 12, 2026 -*\$1,229.39

FUNDS IN: December 8 \$854.25

FUNDS OUT: Ceara Lollipops \$116.87

Outstanding: *Variance 6.00

Music Program

Balance as of January 12, 2026- \$328.40

FUNDS IN: Holiday Concert Sales \$758.40

FUNDS OUT: RT Chocolates \$430.00

- There were over 100 chocolates leftover, Ceara will see if they can be sold through snack day online or during a “cash only” one.

4. Principal Report - *Erin Alary*

- Extra curriculars:
 - Girls and Boys intermediate volleyball is currently going
- Upcoming events:
 - Jan 23rd- Gr1-4 movie Night 6-8PM
 - Jan 29th -Plaid Day
 - Jan 30th -PD Day
 - Jan 30th -JK Registration Ends
- Some teachers on leave currently: Kristi Waschuck, Nicole O’Shea, and Ms. Healy
- I was sent a picture of the outdoor classroom and it was going out for tender last week. Trees just went in.
- Acadience- We are planning to reassess K-Gr 2 students early in February.
- EQAO-Scores have come in the school continues to do well across the board.
 - Students in our school are doing well with “computation” but are a bit weaker in the “problem solving” questions. Teachers are meeting and discussing strategies to improve students problem-solving abilities across both math and literacy. Looking at encouraging students to use paper provided during the testing is one way, as the tests are all digital.
 - Teachers and staff use as much information as they are given to be able to make plans to improve students abilities, however not all information is given to them. For example, teachers are not given information on what “wrong” answers were given to see if there was something common amongst the students.
- Erin spoke about the school’s library books and that it is constantly culling books to be able to bring in new ones. There is a limited space and resources for the learning commons. Books may need to be culled because the information is outdated, the book is physically not in good condition, the subject matter and language is outdated or not appropriate to modern audiences or the book has not been taken out for many years.
- Erin has received grant money to provide healthy snacks in all classrooms. Items will be fresh fruit, muffins, etc. The school wants to ensure no child’s learning ability is affected by being hungry regardless of reason.

5. Teacher Report - *Anne Fleming*

- Teachers have been using the funds given by council and are grateful for the opportunity to purchase items for their classrooms. A deadline was set for spending these funds by the end of January.
- Ms. Singer sent a lovely thank you to the council thanking them for being able to purchase a set of cuisinare rods that are used in math.
- The Flag for team events is being ordered - artwork is just being done and approved now.

6. Subcommittees

a. Hot Lunch/Pizza

Hot lunch and pizza are going well. .

Kris has taken over the contact for Lunchbox from Sarah Tufts so that a person from council is the contact.

b. Fundraising

Ceara found some options for a “healthy” alternative to add to snack days. Council

thought it might not be enough to have an entire “healthy” snack day but can try adding something - roasted chickpeas - to a snack day to trial interest.

One suggestion was to sell healthy snacks to various sports teams for after their morning practices. Staff isn't sure about how they would be able to effectively manage this but can consider it in the future.

Sabrina has started reaching out to the Food Trucks for Food Truck night near the end of the school year. Everyone should come to the next meeting with some ideas for the event.

Ceara was approached by a local company that sell hot chocolate bombs and smashers. We would sell each for \$7 and make \$3 on the hot chocolate bombs and \$2 on the chocolate smashers. Council decided that it isn't a fundraiser we are interested in at this time.

The concert chocolate sales and hot chocolate/coffee station went very smoothly this year,. Thank you to Harprett, Sabrina, and Ceara for managing the drink station and thank you Blair and Ashlynn for your positive spirit at the front door!

7. Other

Speaker Request

Laura Leeper has researched various bluetooth speaker options. One speaker is \$399+tax (on sale from \$599) plus a \$100 warranty. This one is waterproof.

The other option is \$499+tax+warranty. This one is a bit more powerful, comes with microphones and is splashproof.

Anne and Erin will work with Laura to go over all choices and purchase the right one for the school.

Winter Carnival

Mme Bhatti has requested funding to support the Winter Carnival. She organizes one for the school every year. All gr1-8 students are involved, with gr8s given leadership roles. A Bonhomme costume is rented. She is requesting funding for the effigies given to the students. These are plastic keychain type items that can be hung on the kids coats, bags, etc. The cost is \$323+ tax for a total of \$364.99.

Council Consensus to purchase the effigies for the Winter Carnival out of the general account for \$364.99.

Game Night

In the past, Deanna has organized a boardgame night for school families. Games have been purchased in the past from a parent engagement fund and then the games are given to the learning commons to be made available for teachers and students. No games are needed to be purchased this year. Pizza will be able to be pre-purchased by families. Deanna is asking if council is interested in going ahead with one this year and to purchase pizza for the volunteers involved. She will work with Erin to find a date in Feb/early March.

Council Consensus to purchase pizza for volunteers for Game Night.

Pizza Night

If anyone is interested in volunteering to organize a Byron Pizza Night for the school, please let Ceara know. This is a night where anyone who orders a pizza from Byron Pizza can say it's for Byron Somerset and a portion is donated to the school.

School Council By-Laws

The School Council by-laws need to be reviewed every 2 years and we are overdue. Ceara will send out all the by-laws and policies that need to be reviewed. Please look them over and let her know if you have any suggestions or questions. We will discuss it at the next meeting.

If there are any agenda items anyone would like on future meetings, please let Ceara know ahead of the meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday March 2 at 6:30pm in the school Learning Commons.

Adjourned at 8:03pm

Minutes taken by Deanna Totten