

Byron Somerset Council - Meeting Minutes
Monday Sept 29, 2025

Attendees:

Parents: Deanna Totten, Ceara McNeil, Rashad Rahamam, Kaitlyn Colling, Flavia Mazza, Nicole Spickell, Lisa McLarty, Ashlynn Adachi, Nicole Ward, Lainie Gardner, Kris Koplun, Ron Davey, Sabrina Poirier, Harpreet Johal,

Virtual: Fabio Exmael

Regrets: Blair Patton

School Staff: Erin Alary, Anne Fleming, Laura Held

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:37p.m.

Welcome to returning and new parents. Icebreaker to get to know everyone.

2. Approval Items

a. Agenda

Approved by council consensus

b. Minutes

Approved by council consensus

3. Council Overview

The by-laws of parent council was reviewed with emphasis on voting members. If a parent would like to be a voting member, **they must commit to attending the majority of meetings**. There are approximately one meeting a month. There must be enough voting members at each to make quorum so decisions can be made. Any parent is welcome to the meetings as a non-voting member.

Positions of Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary were reviewed and committee asked if anyone was interested in holding any of these positions.

Council Consensus that Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary will continue to be held by Ceara McNeil, Rashad Rahaman, and Deanna Totten.

The sub-committees of hot lunch, fundraising, and winter/spring concert were reviewed.

4. Treasurer Report - *Rashad Rahamam*

General Account

Balance as of Sept 26, 2025 - \$24,695.62

Expected expenses to come out is a digital thesaurus - \$213 and funding for an outdoor classroom. During the June meeting, council decided to fund an outdoor classroom consisting of items such as rocks for sitting and shade trees. The cost of this is approximately \$10,000. When it is in place, teachers will be able to sign up to use it.

Pizza Account

\$2,603.50 was made on the first pizza lunch from 355 orders. Minus expenses, \$1,381.62 profit has been made to date.

The funds made from pizza lunch will be split 50% to parent council general account and 50% to help fund grade $\frac{7}{8}$ end of year trips and grad celebration. The grade $\frac{7}{8}$ students volunteer at each pizza lunch to deliver pizza to the classes.

Snack Days

\$874.50 was made on the first snack day from 91 orders. Expenses will be taken from this, but some expenses carry over to future snack days.

5. Principal Report - *Erin Alary*

- This year the school has 556 students in 25 classrooms. This is down a bit from last year. 2 portables have been removed from the school grounds and one portable is locked and not in use.
- No new teaching staff this year, 0.5 EA covered temporarily and a new Admin Assistant joined this year - Kristin Norris
- Extra curriculars:
 - Cross Country - Area meet Sept 24th
Regional Oct 1st
City Finals Oct 21
 - Intermediate boys and girls basketball
- Upcoming events:
 - Snack Day Sept 29th
 - National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Sept 30th
 - PA Day Oct 10th
- Erin shared the board's Student Achievement Plan. Please reach out to her with any questions.
- 2 cameras have been installed outside the school - one for the parking lot and one for the side of the school facing the road. 2 cameras are already inside the school - outside both washrooms.
- A STEM Night is planned for November 18.

6. Teacher Report - *Anne Fleming*

- Grade 7/8 co-ed soccer is currently going on. They play at BMO and there will be a tournament soon.
- Grade 7/8 girls and boys basketball tryouts are starting this week.
- In order for the students to participate in the basketball games, each team must pay for a carded referee - approx. \$300 per team after splitting costs with other schools. There are also tournament costs. The teams and staff try to fundraise by selling pizza at games, but it is getting increasingly difficult to cover the costs. Other sports such as soccer also have costs involved in attending games and tournaments. Council is requested to help cover some of the costs.

Council Consensus to have an Athletics Fund of \$1000 for sporting events.

If in the future, the fund is depleted and there are more costs, staff are encouraged to approach the council with requests.

- Terry Fox Run was held last week. Some students sold snacks and made approximately \$500 to donate to the Terry Fox Foundation.
- The book fair will be held next week and open during the Meet the Teachers night. Ms. Cruckley has set up some new things this year, such as wishlists for the teachers.
- Video announcements are back with Ms. Cruckley organizing the students recording them.
- Coming up will be Orange & Black day and Remembrance Day.
- Meet the Teacher is Thurs Oct 2. Pizza will be served from 5-5:30 pm and classes open for parents 5:30–6:30pm.

- Ms. Warwick's class requested assistance in funding some outdoor garden beds. These will be put together by the students and can be moved into storage when not being used. They can be used for growing food and flowers. The 7/8 students would work with a grade 2/3 class to attend to them. They are approximately \$100-\$300 each.

Council Consensus to fund 3 raised outdoor garden beds.

7. Subcommittees

a. Hot Lunch/Pizza

Victoria Brewster is the parent organizing the pizza lunches. The grade 7/8 students deliver the pizzas to the classes, but 1-2 parents are needed at each pizza lunch to help organize the students. Volunteers are requested to be at the school from 10:50-noon and need to assist in organizing the pizzas to give to the students and help the students cleanup. A request will go out to grade 7/8 parents and a sign up sheet will be shared with council. See link below:

[Signup Genius](#)

Other hot lunches are run by Lunchbox. They deliver to the school direct and students deliver to classrooms. **A volunteer is needed to be the contact person for Lunchbox.** This volunteer does not have to come to the school or organize any lunches, just be a contact for any changes or questions the council has. Please let Ceara and Erin know if you are able to volunteer as the Lunchbox Contact.

Erin brought to council that Hero is not available for all the dates requested so council decided to go with A&W.

b. Fundraising

Sabrina has agreed to head up fundraising again this year, please reach out to her if you are interested in volunteering for any fundraising events. The suggestion was made that it would be beneficial to have a larger fundraising goal for something specific. This would make it easier to communicate to the school community what the fundraising is for. Please bring ideas to the next meeting and Erin will reach out to the staff.

In years past, council has been able to give a dollar amount - \$100 - to each teacher to use for classroom supplies. Council will look at doing this in the new year, Jan or Feb.

Ceara has agreed to organize and run the snack days this year again. It is smoothly done and students assist in delivering to classrooms.

8. Other

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 November 3 at 6:30pm in the school Learning Commons.

Adjourned at 8:15pm

Minutes taken by Deanna Totten