

Byron Somerset Council - Meeting Minutes
Monday September 23, 2024

Attendees:

Parents: Deanna Totten, Ceara McNeil, Rashad Rahamam, Renee Uruski, Harpreet Johal, Lainie Gardner, Flavia Mazza, Sarah Tufts, Anthony Davis, Louise Manning, Andrea Cote, Robb Caporicci, Robyn Pinto, Nicole Ward, Kaitlyn Colling

Virtual: Victoria Brewster, Sabrina Poirier

School Staff: Erin Alary, Anne Fleming, Russ Thomson

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:35p.m.

Introductions were done around the table - welcome back all past members and a big welcome to all new members!

Ceara presented projects that were funded last year from council efforts.

2. Approval Items

a. Agenda

Approved by council consensus

3. Council Overview

a. Summary of council bylaws and membership expectations was reviewed.

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/view>

Expectations of voting members/non-voting members were reviewed. If a parent would like to be a voting member, a form must be completed and an expectation of attending the majority of the meetings are expected.

b. By council consensus positions for 2024-2025 will be held by:

President - Ceara McNeil

Treasurer - Raahad Rahaman

Secretary - Deanna Totten

c. Subcommittees

Sabrina Poirier will take on leading the Fundraising Committee, and Victoria will be taking on pizza and hot lunch - thank you to both!

Please reach out to either if you are interested in volunteering.

4. Treasurer Report - *Rashad Rahaman*

Lunch Box Commissions	\$1,130.00
Phys Ed Program	\$110.57
Pizza Lunches	\$5,942.64
General Account	\$2,290.45
Snack Days	\$969.74
Total	\$10,963.43

Outstanding payments:

Gaga Ball Pit \$3,000

Braces for Pit \$700

Medical Hall of Fame \$1,250

Available Balance: \$6,013.43

Council Consensus to fund \$700 for the braces needed for the Gaga Ball pit. Funds made from the movie night will be used and the remaining will be from the general account.

5. Principal Report - *Erin Alary*

- This school year we have 28 classes and 608 students
- New staff: • Nikole Emma -LTO GR1/2 • Summer Newell -ASD (return from leave) • Carly Warwick- Gr 7/8 • Yasmin Lahib -Secretary • Ashley Wight -EA • 0.4-Still hiring
- A new portable was put in over the summer and the gaga ball pit will be going in shortly.
- Our school has room for one more portable until we are capped. At that point, students in the holding area will go to Byron Southwood.
- Questions have been asked about washroom capacity vs number of students. Board rules say we are still within limits.
- Terry Fox Run this Friday
- Cross-country practices for grades 3-8 at Lunch
- Regional soccer meet for co-ed gr 7/8 on Sept 25th at BMO
- September 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Oct 2 – Meet the Teacher 4pm-6pm
Parent Council will provide pizza by donation. Suggestion to post donation cost suggestions. The pizza by donation should also be communicated through the newsletter before the event. Please let Victoria know if you are able to volunteer. She will also ask if any 7/8 students are available.

6. Teacher Report - *Russ Thomson and Anne Fleming*

- Soccer for 7-8s is running already
- Cross-Country for gr3-8 is happening with practices during first lunch
- Basketball for 7-8s is starting up
- gr6-8 are volunteering for lunch time assistance with primary classes
- Music groups are starting to form and practice
- Library helpers and video announcements are already organized
- Book Fair will be held Sept 30 - Oct 4 and will be open during meet the teacher
- Green Team are making plans with a gr7 student leading with many ideas. They hope to have trees planted in the spring
- Great team energy among staff this year!

7. Subcommittees

a. Hot Lunch

Pizza Lunch dates are already set with about 2 a month.

Red Swan pizza approached school to see if we were interested in going with them for pizza. Leo's was also suggested as a great local place to try. We already have pizza lunches set and planned with Byron Pizza but another vendor could be used for smaller events we have - game night, etc.

Lunchbox is up and running. Some vendors will be changing due to our new nutrition break schedule and will not be available shortly. Sarah will look at the other choices of what we can add. There was a question regarding the pricing. We are able to choose to add on to the base price, starting at \$.50, to use as a fundraiser. We add \$1 but some schools may choose more or less.

It was suggested we communicate to parents that both the pizza lunch and lunchbox are fundraisers.

**Council Consensus that Lunchbox funds will go towards
Arts/Athletics/Technology.**

b. Fundraising

Harpreet is looking into another Purdy's campaign and suggested around Easter again instead of Christmas.

A fall fair was discussed and decided that it is too labour intensive to do at this point, but adding similar activities to a food truck night in the spring is an alternative. It was suggested we could ask each class/grade to organize an activity with parent support.

Ceara will set up snack day and order Kernels popcorn and a candy to sell. Please let her know if you can assist.

Rashad has researched Fundscrip as a fundraiser. This is a fundraiser where gift cards are purchased and a portion goes to the school. It was suggested by them that we do a "paper" campaign first - parents are given a paper form or email and pay through school cash online. We then have to enter in each sale onto the Fund Scrip portal. Funds will also have to be physically brought to BMO. We will look into a November campaign.

Funds from the pizza lunches were discussed as there have been changes over the past few years with half or all going to help fund gr 7-8 grad and end of year field trips. Funds not spent were given back to the school in the form of a legacy gift. Last year, that was the Gaga Ball Pit. Grade 7-8s volunteer to help run all the pizza lunches during the school year. There are also growing costs as the school grows with 129 grade 7-8 students. Families will be asked to fund at least half the trips and the grad committee will be looking into a venue change for grad.

Council Consensus that 50 percent of pizza lunch funds are to go towards grade 7-8 end of year trips and grad. Funds not spent will go to the Parent Council General Account for council to decide on how it is to be used.

For future funding it has been requested that the council considers the music department. With growing numbers there are many instruments that are being shared by 2-3 students making practice a challenge. It was requested we look at funding the smaller instruments - flute, trumpet, etc, to bring down the number of instruments shared. Erin will bring numbers to the next meeting.

Council would like to support teachers similar to the past school year in giving a specific amount to each teacher to spend on supplies as they need. Mid-year is a good time for teachers to have extra funds. We will re-visit this next meeting when we have more funds in the account.

Rashad will look into starting a cookbook fundraiser. Please let him know if you can volunteer on this project.

8. Next meeting

Monday October 7 at 6:30pm

Adjourned at 8:15pm

Minutes taken by Deanna Totten