

Byrom PSO General Meeting Minutes

Date: December 12, 2023 | Time: 3:00pm | Location: Byrom Library

Attendees: Emily Arnold, Eileen Brandt, Kelley Cameron, Matt Coleman, Kailina Don, Krystle Gard, Heather Roberts, Eliza Turner

Meeting Minutes

- Minutes of the November 14, 2023 general meeting of the PSO were reviewed and approved.

Principal's Report

- Thursday, December 14 will be a cozy day and spirit assembly.
- At the start of the new year there will be a lot of information coming to families, including the human sexuality curriculum (The Great Body Shop) on January 8th.
- The Winter benchmark testing for iReady will be in January as well.

Treasurer's Report

- Bank account balance: \$143,540.
- Not much activity this month. Incoming funds from Chuck e Cheese, Bellagios, and corporate matching. Expenditures for staff gifts, classroom headphones and Winter Wonderland.
- Due to high fees with BMO, the PSO will be exploring a new bank over the winter break. The hope is to move the PSO bank account to a new bank early in the New Year.

Volunteer Coordinator

- Volunteer approvals are getting finished up for the Winter Wonderland bazaar.
- Brooke is following up with Holly Paris about getting volunteer help for playground safety.
- Volunteers are reminded to log all of their volunteer hours, whether they are working in or out of the building.

Book Fair

- No Spring book fair is scheduled as of yet.

OBOB

- No formal update at this meeting, but informally OBOB is going better since the November update.

Art Lit

- On budget. Watercolor project is coming up in the New Year.

BB24

- Tickets for the 2024 Bobcat Benefit are now on sale. Ticket price is \$50, with a potential increase in price in the February or March timeframe.

5th Grade Party and Legacy Project

- Party theme will be carnival, including rollercoaster to represent a rollercoaster of a ride between COVID, moving on to middle school, etc.
- The permit for Ibach park has been submitted for a June 11th party date, 10am-1pm.
- A letter will be going out in January to 5th grade families.
- Looking at rolling out an ambassador program to help raise funds. They are asking for a restaurant night and blue bags for bottle drop redemption. A vote on this will go onto the January PSO general meeting agenda.

- There are 3 potential legacy projects being considered – path paver for marathon path, a 1x6 fence art project, or a butterfly on an outer building wall.

Backpack Program

- Gobble til you Wobble raised roughly \$900 towards the backpack program.
- Donation dollars can go far. The program received a donation of \$100, and they were able to get 96 items including canned goods, pasta, beans and other staples.
- Backpacks are heartier over the holiday breaks.

Missoula

- The performance date will be April 22nd, and the show will be a version of Beauty and the Beast.
- Advertising to start in January.

Staff Appreciation

- This year's staff appreciation will move forward to the week of April 29th. This will allow for the most PSO member availability and hands to help.

Restaurant Nights

- Papa Murphy's in December, Panera Bread and Panda Express coming up in January.
- After January, the PSO will be taking a pause on restaurant nights.

Redemption

- 2nd grade won for Box Tops in November and are in the lead so far for December.
- There were \$500 in Kroger rewards.

Room Parents

- There is no room parent chair yet.
- The next event is Valentine's parties on Wednesday, February 14th.
- Kelley to reach out to room parents after the winter break.

Charlston Wrap

- Over 250 rolls of wrapping paper were sold, raising over \$1,000.

Holiday Bazaar

- The Winter Wonderland Bazaar will be this Friday, December 15th. Set-up and decorating will be after school on Thursday the 14th.
- There will be a hot cocoa bar, including vegan and allergy-friendly options for cocoa and marshmallows.
- Full budget was used for the event, but there is a lot of excitement going into this fun day.

Bulletin Boards

- A board for the bazaar will go up before set-up on Thursday.
- A board for the Read A Thon spirit days is planned.

Read A Thon

- On Wednesday, December 13, all students will get to pick out a new-to-them book and fundraising and library packets will go home with students.
- Each of the 8 days of Read A Thon will be a spirit day such as dress as your favorite book character, and assemblies are planned.
- If \$20,000 is raised, Mr. Coleman has agreed to get pies to the face by staff members.

STEM Night

- The date will be March 6, 2024.
- Kelley and Krystle are leading the Stem Night planning, and will be meeting with teachers in January.
- More information to come at the January PSO meeting.

Equity Nights

- Planned vote to move \$2,017 from the PSO family nights to equity nights.
- Heather Roberts was present from the equity nights team, and noted that funds would be used towards items such as book purchases, transportation, food for families, and childcare during equity nights.
- An offline meeting between the equity team, the principal and members of the PSO is proposed by Matt Coleman, to better determine how the PSO can be involved. The planned vote on funding is tabled until after the meeting takes place.

Future Meeting Day/Time

- Planned vote to move all PSO meeting to the 6pm time for the remainder of the year.
- Matt Coleman provided clarification around the availability of staff and the library space for the 3pm meetings currently scheduled for every other month.
- It was determined that a change to the meeting time will not be needed, and so a vote did not take place.

Library

- Heather Roberts was present to make a request of the PSO to fund the purchase of new books for the Byrom library.
- Currently, the average publication date of the books in the library is 2007. In particular, the non-fiction section is very outdated with books being an average of 18 years old.
- A \$15,000 investment would allow the library to turn over a large amount of its collection, get 800+ new books and update the average book age in the non-fiction section and the library as a whole.
- 100 students responded to a survey about what types of books they would like to see in the library.
- A purchase list could be put together quickly, and investment could get library updated for students this school year.
- A vote on allocation of \$15,000 of PSO funds for a library revamp will take place at the January PSO general meeting. The allocation may be done at once or may be broken up over several years.

ADDENDUM (December 13, 2023): Upon further consideration of Byrom's bilingual book needs as well as the results of the student survey, Heather Roberts submitted an updated written request to the PSO of funding of \$21,000 over a three-year period.

Music

- Emily Arnold was present to make a request of the PSO to fund Honor Choir student participation and to fund a new sound system for the cafeteria.
- Five students were nominated this year to participate in the Honor Choir based on the Over the Rainbow auditions for the 5th grade performance. The cost was \$45 for each child plus a \$20 lunch allowance. The \$245 was paid from the music budget, and the music department asks the PSO for reimbursement of those funds.
- An annual budget line item for Honor Choir of \$360 is requested, which would allow 8 students to be nominated each year.

- PSO funding of \$2,500-\$3,000 is requested for the purchase of a new sound system for the cafeteria. The current system is rolled into the stage area as needed, however it is old and doesn't work well. An investment in the sound system would also benefit other programs such as school assemblies and Missoula.
- The new sound system could benefit students for 10 years or more, and the installation time is low or none so its use could begin upon delivery. A locked cabinet would be needed for security of the system in the cafeteria.
- A vote to fund \$2,500-\$3,000 from PSO savings for the sound system, as well as to repay \$245 to music budget, to take place at the January PSO general meeting.