

## Byrom PSO General Meeting Minutes

Date: January 16, 2024 | Time: 6:00pm | Location: Zoom

Attendees: Brooke Auvil, Eileen Brandt, Celeste Brannon, Kelley Cameron, Tiffany Culbertson, Katy Davies, Kailina Don, Krystle Gard, Dena Iadanza, Penny Kovack, Christine Simoes, Julie Stanley, Eliza Turner, Megan Vassar

### Meeting Minutes

- Minutes of the December 12, 2023 general meeting of the PSO were reviewed and approved.

### Principal's Report

- Matt Coleman unable to join, will send a Principal's message out to families in the coming days.

### Treasurer's Report

- Bank account balance is \$148,000.
- Financial statement to be circulated to meeting attendees.

### OBOB

- Katie Davies present to update. OBOB is going great. Transition in the 3rd grade group has been positive.

### Art Lit

- Project 3 is in progress, which uses charcoal sketching for art basics and watercolors for the art lit project. After this, there are 2 more projects for the year.
- Artwork has been sent in for Art to Remember. That program will kick off in March.

### BB24

- Tickets for the Bobcat Benefit are on sale now. Pricing increase is planned for February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Megan Vassar is present to update. Sign up for classroom auction projects will be going out soon through Sign Up Genius.
- The next wine pull party is planned for Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. Possibility of rescheduling due to weather.

### 5th Grade Party

- Celeste Brannon present to update. Matt Coleman has contacted Celeste to temporarily put planning on hold for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade party. There are concerns about party size and expenditure. It is noted that parents have already put a lot of time and energy into planning. More conversation and updates to come.
- There will not be fundraising for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade parties going forward, and the budget will be capped at \$2,500 for this year's party.
- Teachers have provided feedback that they prefer not to have t-shirts made. Currently t-shirts are no longer planned, however Julie Stanley has found a source for donation of the shirts if that changes.
- There will not be a 5<sup>th</sup> grade yearbook this year. A memory book through print shop may be done. Photos have already been being collected, and there is discussion around using them for a slide show as well.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> grade Legacy project is a separate entity and is continuing as planned. Wood for the project has already been donated.

### Backpack Program

- The Backpack Program received \$500 in donations last month.
- \$953 also came in from Wobble til you Gobble.

### Missoula

- Performance will be April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Kelley Cameron and Krystle Gard are chairing.
- New curtains for the stage are up already or going up soon.

### Staff Appreciation

- Will take place April 29-May 3.
- Help with planning and organizing is welcomed, reach out to Kelley.

### Restaurant Nights

- The last restaurant night for the school year will be on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at Panda Express nationwide. Use online code to order.

### Redemption

- Kindergarten won Box Tops for December. So far 4<sup>th</sup> grade is in the lead for January.
- January will be the last month of Box Tops competition.

### Room Parents – Valentine’s Day

- Valentine’s Day parties will be Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Budget of \$75 per class.
- Room parents should coordinate with their teachers on the activities and time for the parties. It is suggested that volunteers plan together at the grade level for alignment.
- An email with details will be going out to room parents soon.
- Next year Valentine’s Day will likely move to an all-school event rather than classroom parties.

### Holiday Bazaar

- The Winter Wonderland bazaar went great, we had great volunteers. The PSO welcomes any feedback so we can continue to make it a fun event every year.
- Holding the bazaar on the last school day before winter break was both fun for students and challenging with the rush to clean up.

### Bulletin Boards

- Kailina plans a Valentine’s board followed by Leap Day board in February.

### Read A Thon

- \$6,623 has been raised. Bowker’s class is in the lead for the pizza party with Coleman prize.
- Read A Thon pledge sheets will be extended to Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> to give students the opportunity to get their sheets in after school is back after the winter weather.

### STEM Night

- STEM Night will be March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 4:30-7:30pm.
- OMSI is coming in for a night of science. There will be 12 tables of science projects and 2 live demos.
- Buses will be running, the event is free to Byrom families.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders may have the opportunity to do projects too. The PSO is coordinating with teachers, and is willing to fund backboards and materials for student projects.

### Bank Account

- When the bank account was moved to BMO we started getting hit with very high fees. Making less than 1% on money market. The PSO evaluated several new bank options and decided on Rivermark.

- Rivermark offers a 4.5% interest rate for 13 months on monies brought over. This allows for funds to be fluid while earning interest. With a \$148k balance, we would be making \$11,000 on our money next year, which would pay for all field trips, teacher investments, and more.
- We will be opening a new bank account with a new bank. Our approved signers are:

President: Kelley Cameron

Vice President: Christine Simoes

Bookkeeping Treasurer: Krystle Gard

Our current Secretary is: Eileen Brandt

#### Equity Nights

- The PSO is supposed to be meeting with Holly Paris, Heather Roberts and Matt Coleman in the coming weeks to discuss partnership on equity nights.

#### Library

- Heather Robert's ask of the PSO is \$21,000 over 3 years primarily to revamp the Byrom library's non-fiction section.
- It is discussed that \$13,000 is available in the budget's reader board line item that is not being used. It appears that project cannot move forward due to contractor approval and quotes, and at this time the funds would only cover the cost of the sign itself, not the cost of conduit, installation, etc.
- It is proposed that the reader board funds be moved to allocate \$10,000 for the library and \$3,500 for music.
- There is a motion to make a \$10,000 investment in the library now for book purchases to be made within this calendar year, with additional funds to be revisited in the budget for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion is voted on and passed.

#### Music

- Emily Arnold's ask of the PSO is up to \$3,500 for the purchase of a new sound system, benefiting the music department as well as assemblies, Missoula and other programs.
- A soft quote for the system was received before the new year, which may change based on availability of discounts and final purchase decision. This is the reason for the increase from \$3,000 to \$3,500.
- A locked box will be built for system security.
- The motion to fund up to \$3,500 for the sound system purchase is voted on and passed.
- The motion to fund \$245 to reimburse the music department's expenditure of sending 5 students to Honor Choir is voted on and passed. Funds to be taken from savings.

#### Impact

- There has been recent discussion around use of funds and the PSO's impact to every student.
- There is potential to highlight PSO programs and impact in the newsletter each month, to increase visibility and transparency. Investment in the Byrom library is an example of impact that would be highlighted in a future newsletter.
- It was raised that, since there will not be a 5<sup>th</sup> grade yearbook this year, there is the potential for the PSO to fund a yearbook for all students. This was discussed, and meeting participant feedback was that parents would not like a yearbook coming home every year of elementary school and the payoff seems low. They would rather see funds used for assemblies or other programs.

### Leap Day

- 2024 is a leap year, and February 29th falls on a Thursday. Kelley suggested the PSO do something fun to recognize leap day in the school.
- The PSO has purchased 630 mini frogs to be hidden around the school for students to find.
- February 28<sup>th</sup> is currently scheduled as a staff in-service day, making it easy to hide frogs at any time during that day. Volunteers are invited to come help hide frogs.