

# Byrom PSO General Meeting Minutes

**Date:** April 21, 2025    **Time:** 6:00pm    **Location:** Byrom Conference Room

## Attendees:

Brooke Auvil-Young, Eileen Brandt, Kelley Cameron, Matt Coleman, Kailina Don, Britany Ellerbrook, Krystle Gard, Theresa Thomas, Kimberly Vande Voorde, Jesse Vassar, Megan Vassar, Cheryl Viestenz

## Approval of the Minutes:

- Correct pie fundraising amount, as per Eliza Turner. Jesse approves the minutes, Kailina seconds.

## Principal Report:

- Unbelievable that it's almost May. A big thing happening is the district budget and how it impacts our school and others. Things are going to look different with a \$12 million deficit. There could be big changes next year. Second big thing is the bond in May. Please talk to your neighbors. It is a big impact to Byrom and the future students. Bond is for capital improvements to buildings, fields, etc. It isn't about staff or materials budgets. Encourage that people talk and ask questions to the budget committee and not make assumptions. Talk to Morgan for yard signs. The third big thing is teacher placements for next year. We will be smaller next year, with two teachers per grade level except for one. That means there are not a lot of options for class placement. Teacher-student ratios may be higher next year. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes next year will probably be bigger next year than the current 4<sup>th</sup> grade. More info will come out mid-May. State testing is wrapping up soon and we are finishing the year strong. There is a spirit assembly this Friday, which are always fun.

## Treasure Report:

- No report. Bank account is still not working with QuickBooks. Had a meeting scheduled with QuickBooks but had difficult time getting through because it was also tax day. Jesse going to keep calling them this week. We think it is a systems issue with the new merged bank. Deposits are going in for Missoula and backpack donations. \$5 is a week's work of food for a kid, \$25 is for 5 kids.

## Volunteer Reports:

- Art Lit:
  - On last project for the year. More supplies are coming but they are delayed. The two leads are committed for next year.
- Backpack Program:
  - Down to one person. Could use some additional help packing backpacks until the end of the year. Packs are packed on Wednesdays. We have enough food for 6 more weeks for 22 families. Still looking for a lead for next year and help on the shopping/packing. We didn't get a lot of physical donations this year, but more people gave money. It would be great to have someone in place for next year now so that Kelsey can do some knowledge transfer. FPA provides general guidelines on allergies, etc. for the families but we try to keep the food basic. Sometimes we try to do meal buys (i.e. pasta night) and provide variety week to week.
- Book Fair:
  - First preview day today. Have the last classes' previews tomorrow morning and will be open for sales in the afternoon. The PSO will be providing 29 eWallets (\$290). Asked teachers to respond, only heard from 4 teachers. Checking with Clara also. Book fair will be open Saturday afternoon for the Missoula performances.

- Family Nights:
  - STEM Night: May 14. Only one group responded, just the high school robotics team. OMSI declined. Maybe switch it to a bingo night? Still have all the daubers/papers. Make it a Friday night because might get better attendance. May 30 is new proposed date.
- Fifth Grade Party and Legacy Project:
  - Things are going well. The legacy project is putting cups on fence. They will be bobcat paws (one orange, one blue) and they will be framed. Party is at Big Al's. Promotion and yearbook signing will be on Wednesday. Clap out is on Thursday.
- Fundraisers:
  - Hanging Baskets: Still have 20 certificates. They can be redeemed from May 1- June 30<sup>th</sup>
- Lobby Wall:
  - Request for a fundraising thermometer for Read-a-Thon. Kelley will give info to Kailina.
- Missoula:
  - Rehearsals are underway. Need more volunteers. Performance is on Saturday. We are trying to improve the sound with some the new systems to get more mics on the stage. Missoula needs 3 people to run it, so we need more volunteers to chair it next year.
- Read-a-Thon:
  - Officially kicks off on April 30. We have posters and are giving out bookmarks at the bookfair to promote it. Goal is \$20,000. Packets go home on April 28. The book giveaway is April 29. We got a lot of book donations from families and the PSO purchased some from Scholastic. Mrs. Roberts is recording story times for Monday – Wednesday for teachers to play to generate excitement for the event.
- Restaurant Nights:
  - Last one was Pastini, which raised \$680 dollars. Dave's Hot Chicken was the best, and we definitely want to do it again next year. Eileen wants feedback on restaurant nights. The PSO raised about \$4,500 on restaurant nights this year, which is great for just having 3. Maybe we can have Hook and Ladder truck for Bingo night. Kona Ice will be here for Kinder Preview on May 8.
- Staff Appreciation:
  - Proposal from Casey Timmerman. Day 1: Build your own Bouquet in the Wellness Room. Day 2: Coffee bar with pastries from Lee Farms, Day 3: Lunch is a taco bar or from Artur Café. Day 4: yoga class or chair massages, Day 5: Menchie's Yogurt for the teachers. Also, we have a deal with Pepsi to stock the fridge. Estimate cost of \$1465. There was \$1200 in budget, used it already for blazer tickets. Need to vote to move money to the line. Voted to move \$1500.
- Webmaster: no update.

## Old Business

- Vote on Girl Scout Proposal for the Garden:
  - Little Woordrose Nature Park Girl Scout Troop proposed to take over part of the garden. (Copy of the proposal attached at end of the minutes.) Mr. Courtney is recommending professional landscaping to clear the overgrowth and to get better tools. Mr. Courtney is stepping down from managing garden. No current staff is interested. PSO says yes to the girl scouts' proposal if garden is in condition that they can manage. Maybe start with pumpkin patch and a few beds. Ask the GS Troop to check out the areas they'd like to manage. Also maybe look at boy scouts or HS students needing volunteer hours to take on other parts of the garden. Vote is yes to GS but also yes to get quotes from professional landscaping firm to clear weeds, etc.
- Vote on Staff Appreciation Budget Exception:
  - Need is to move \$1500 to the line item. Needs to be approved tonight for her to start planning. Move the money from savings. Still only have estimates for some stuff. Krystle makes motion to vote. If we go over, and it isn't more than \$499, will not have to vote again. Brooke votes to approve, Eileen votes to second. No votes against.
- PSO Bylaw Edits:
  - Reviewed edits. Added that chairs should also come the general meeting after their event to discuss how it went, get feedback etc. Added language that chairs are allowed to send a representative on their behalf. Take it to a vote. 7 voted in favor, no opposed.

## New Business

- First Proposal of the 2025/26 PSO Budget:
  - \$20K for a staff person who supported reading assistance for kids. It took person more than 4 hours, and that ventured into benefits territory. PSO has helped to supplement their salary. Could potentially fundraise for this role and could reach a lot of kids. Role works with full first and 3<sup>rd</sup> class and then 30-40 kids she pulls out from other classes. This role gives other kids more attention from main teacher because these kids are getting extra attention from this role. Person in role currently is still interested in doing it part-time. No voting tonight. Just need to show it.
  - \$80K budget is common for the PSO for the past few years. Proposed budget reflects that. We have substantial savings from the past few years. \$15K came over from an old savings account.
  - Forecasted expenses: See posted v1 budget on the Google Drive. Most is about on par with current budget with some slight increases.
    - Classroom startups: was \$50 per teacher last year and used extra money for snacks. Ended up spending more on snacks than anticipated. Teachers would like to get \$150 back but it would have to have parameters on what they could use it for.
    - \$18K for reading assistant. If we get \$5K from the Foundation, it would be taken off top so it could be less.
    - FPA uses budget as she sees fit for doing things needed for kids.
    - Library: Budget is getting increased to cover probable federal budget cuts. If we lose the librarian in the fall, what does that do with the budget? Can always move and lower it if staffing changes.
    - Assemblies have been challenging to get this year. Keeping a budget in place to hopefully be able to get one good one.
    - School Supplies: There are big district cuts. PSO paid in past years to have individually packet supplies. Teachers want classroom packs of supplies. Cost is about \$2700 for the core supplies, not the extras like Flare pens. Excess \$ could be used for those extras if the board decides. Extras list was for all teachers, not broken up by grade. Coleman doesn't want parents to buy individual supplies. Can some of the money for teacher extras be moved to the office line item and let them manage it? Yes, but we'd have to monitor what they spend the \$ on.
    - New addition: Principal grant. Teacher grants were very successful this year, so Coleman wanted to have something similar for the principal to cover things that are getting cut at the district level (like paper).
    - Field trip line items will have to be re-adjusted based on class numbers next year. Can also use the teacher grants to supplement field trips. Transport cost is average \$300-400 a trip. Line item is separate for transport.
    - Missoula goal is to pay this year for next year's show.
    - ArtLit: \$5K. If projects get simpler, the money would go down.
    - 5<sup>th</sup> grade party: upped to \$3K.
    - OBOB upped to \$1K.
    - PSO expenses pays for taxes, printing, QuickBooks fee.
    - Budgeted Expenses: \$84K. Estimated income: \$43K. If we do a zero budget, we would lose the highlighted programs, or need to swap. Earn \$5K of interest.
    - Budget will be put to a vote after Read-a-Thon information is in. Board to put together another proposed budget for May meeting.
- Pricing for Fall 2025 School Supplies: see above.
- PSO Scholarships: Board to review applications and vote via email by May 1.
- 25/26 PSO Board Positions: Next meeting is when the slate gets built. Votes in the June meeting.

Next General Meeting May 19, 2025 at 6:00pm, Byrom Library