



MINUTES

Byron Southwood P.S. Home & School / School Council

1379 Lola St, London ON N6K 3R6 (519) 452-8100

11/15/2023 | 6:30p.m.-8:00p.m. | School Library

Meeting called to order by Charlotte McQueen at 6:30p.m.

Officers

Presidents/Co-Chairs: Charlotte McQueen & Mandy Long

Vice President/Vice Chair: Melissa Sharpe

Treasurer: Valerie Laufman

Secretary: Tonia Siemon

Fundraising Chair: Erin Smith

Past President: Krista Muncaster

In Attendance

Charlotte Kaye McQueen, Mandy Long, Valerie Laufman, Tonia Siemon, Emily Wood, Amy Thompson, Kelly McCormick, Deana Stillitano, Meredith Lockwood, Darbi Greensides, Amber Wallace, Becky Rock, Lesley Bowering, Cori Martene, Matt Martene, Nina Rudd, Kimberly Knight, Megan Powell, Dana Davis, Chelsey Gibson, Duha Dawood

Approval of Minutes/Agenda

- **GEN-NOV2023-01 THAT WE APPROVE SEPT MINUTES AND APPENDIX**

M: E. Smith S: B. Rock Carried

Principal's Report-Kelly McCormick

- Progress reports have been sent home and interviews are being held this week.
- Mrs. Webb put on a Halloween assembly.
- Mrs. Webb & Mrs. Dow put on an amazing Remembrance Day assembly. 2 Veterans attended (a graduated Byron Southwood student and an actively serving parent) and spoke with students after about their experiences. The two veterans also did a Q&A with the Gr. 7/8 students in their classrooms following the assembly.
- Glee Club & Concert Band performed at Saunders.
- London Knights spoke to students on Nov. 7th.
- Glee Club is singing on Dec. 1st London Knights game. Tickets are currently only being sold to Glee club and their family members, but remaining tickets will be opened up to the school next week.
- Portable is now staying at Southwood.
- Book Fair is on now-Family night is tomorrow, Thursday November 16th.
- Friday November 17th is PA Day for Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Next week is national Bully Prevention Week-Student Council has announcements on each day.

Financial Report-Valerie Laufman

- Halloween Dance was bit over budget by \$160. However, this should be made neutral as there are left over items for the concession stand for the Spring Dance.
- Finished first block of Munch-a-Lunch; on track for projected amount \$4143.49.
- Three main purchases for the 2023-2024 year: Flutes, Gaga Ball Pit and Tech will wait until June 2024 for purchase to ensure adequate funds.

Holiday Concert

- Kelly McCormick explained that the reason the decision was made to reduce the Christmas concert from two performances per group to one performance per group was because of the disruption and high anxiety felt by many students in the school last year over that week. The school also has very limited capacity in our gym to adhere to the fire code.
- Many parents took the opportunity to speak to give their perspectives on why the Byron Southwood Community finds this decision a big loss for our school and our students. These included:
 - Blended families not feeling included.
 - Parents with young children are unable to bring their children which may make them be unable to attend at all.
 - Grandparents are a huge supporter of our concerts and children love the opportunity to perform for them and this will not be able to happen with the new system.
 - School concerts were one of Byron Southwood's main community engagement events; therefore, taking away this important opportunity for human connection.
 - Parents of children with anxiety spoke out to say they thought this was a critical teaching moment for their child to work through their fears in order to experience something rewarding.
 - Concern that this has not been communicated to students; students will be discouraged to discover their hard work and dedication will be shared with such a small audience.
- Parents offered suggestions for future concerts which included:
 - Hosting them at another school that can accommodate a larger audience: Saunders and Byron Somerset were both suggested. These would have to be evening shows which means that staff would have to be available after hours to accommodate this; and it could conflict with extracurricular activities. But it may accommodate many parents working schedules easier.
 - Hosting outdoor concerts, which may provide a unique carolling feel. This would have to be worked through with the music department to see if it is possible with tech. Also, weather could impede these, and seating would be limited which may be difficult for some attendees.
 - Having parent volunteers with their vulnerable screen check come into the school to assist with students who may be struggling with the disruption.
 - Have less grades per concert so the gym could accommodate more guests.
 - Stream on google classroom so that family members unable to attend can still watch their child.
- Home and School was unsure on hosting the basket raffle this year due to concerns with its success. Grandparents buy a significant amount of the raffle tickets; and they will not be able to attend. Also, with limited attendees' people may be more apt to just want to quickly find a seat then peruse the baskets.
- Kelly McCormick was going to discuss options further with staff in the upcoming days to see if there was any possible solution for the December Holiday concerts.
 - Kelly updated meeting attendees to advise each group would now have two concerts: one in the morning and one in the afternoon of the same day. Allowing for more attendees for each group; but hopefully creating for less disruption in structure and less anxiety for students having both concerts in one day.
 - Home and School is eager to proceed with the Basket Raffle to continue our fundraising initiatives for the 2023-2024 school year. More information to follow the week of November 20th.

- Byron Pizza has offered to host a Family Night for Byron Southwood, date to be announced soon.
- Still hoping to have Magic of Lights Sponsor a School; however still waiting on more information from vendor.
- Goodwill Fundraiser is slated to be March 22nd-23rd. Clothing, shoes and accessories are accepted.

New Business

- Music Grant
 - Home and School Federation suggested at one of their monthly meetings any school with a music need to write the grant, because we don't want the grant going unused.

GEN-NOV2023-02 THAT WE MOTION TO ADJOURN

M: A. Thompson , S: D. Stillitano Carried

Next Meeting Scheduled: January 17th, 2023.