

## **Byrne Creek Community Council Meeting Sept. 11, 2017 – minutes**

Call to order by the Chair at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Attendance: Naz Jakir (Chair), Melanie Walkus (Vice Chair), Laura McIntosh (Treasurer), parents, David Starr, Bal Dhillon, Laida Falsetto, Trina Moulin, Phil Dutton, Student Council executive

1. **New Business: Election:** Hetty Alcuitas volunteered as Secretary to take minutes. If she cannot attend, someone else will take them.
2. Motion to approve the **minutes** from June 5 meeting as well as the **proposed agenda**. (Moved: Laura McIntosh, Seconded: Shams Chowdhury)
3. **Student Council Report:**
  - **Student Council:** Laida Falsetto spoke about her Leadership class and how Student Government is incorporated. She introduced members of the executive of the Student Council who introduced themselves and explained what they do. The Student Council meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:20-4:45 pm in Room B110. They organize school events including the hamper drive, Bulldog Bash, etc. Everyone is welcome to participate. In September we have a Clubs Day and a BARC retreat for Grade 8's: "Build a Respectful Community" on Sept. 26. The council asked parents to speak to their kids about the council and encourage them to join. Naz asked the council to send reps to every Community Council meeting.
  - **Scholarships:** Ms. Falsetto is the school's scholarship coordinator. Large scholarships are due in October. Past students have won scholarships for \$70K to York University, another won several small scholarships totaling \$17K. Students apply when they are in Grade 12 but they are sometimes based on years of accumulated service. Each scholarship has a different deadline. The school website has a power point presentation on scholarships and updated information. She also posts info to Twitter: @MsFalsettoByrne. She is located in Room B104.
  - Four UBC students are coming to the school to speak to students about what university life is like. The program is called, "Steps to Success." They will be here on Sept. 21 from 3:15-4:15 pm. Parents are also welcome to attend.
4. **Chair's Report and Correspondence:** Naz updated that the Council has received a lot of communication on fundraising. She will forward to Student Council as we don't do fundraising. She also received information from the BCTF on workshops that are available for PACs and Community Councils.

Correspondence also received from the School District on Policy review 5.45.00 Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and 4.05.00 Workplace Bullying and Harassment for our review. She will pass around and can also email for feedback. Naz would like to add a donations option to the Cash on-line website to collect donations for students who need assistance with bus passes, etc. Naz asked Laura (treasurer) to issue a cheque for \$75 for our BCCPAC fee.

5. **Treasurer's report:** Laura explained we have 2 accounts. General Account balance is \$1255.03 and Gaming Account balance is \$5698.34 left over from last year. May be some outstanding invoices from last year. Council gives input regarding the spending of monies. School may make requests and the council votes on it.

6. **Principal's Report – David Starr**

- Mr. Starr introduced Safe School Specialist Mr. Phil Dutton who explained his work and role. He spoke a lot about social media since the majority of problems he deals with relate to social media. He does conflict resolution to try and resolve problems before they get too large to handle. He works in close coordination with counsellors and teachers, but counsellors deal with more academic matters and refer to outside resources. He plays a mediation role and can bring students together to resolve problems on their own. He works with other workers in other schools and his supervisor to keep updated. Students will sometimes show him their phone and ask for help. He has students sit down and talk face-to-face to resolve. Social media can be a challenge for kids as they don't have the maturity or self-control to not respond sometimes on-line and problem can escalate quickly.
- Mr. Starr spoke about why he would like parents to join Community Council. He explained the difference between a PAC and a Community Council. The Community Council can be made up of anyone in community including not only parents, but businesses, community members, etc.  
The role of the Community Council is: a) Advice and support to school; b) Support for other parents through organizing parent info meetings and educational sessions. Hot topics include: social media, curriculum, substance abuse. Council advises and collects issues and brings them to the larger table. We do not ask parents to fundraise. We apply for grants through Gaming and also apply for grants for specific things from other organizations. Students also fundraise themselves, eg. Christmas hampers organized by students who provided 100 last year. We also support the community by sending kids into the community. An example of Community Council support is the grant the school received from the Provincial government last year. Decided

to use money to off-set costs to parents. Not collecting student activity fees this year. The fee normally covers the agenda, the app and some given to student government.

- Community Council has provided funds to upgrade technology in school
- Leadership opportunities and volunteerism is encouraged in the school. One third of students are in a variety of service groups.
- Examples of volunteer opportunities in the community include: Math buddies, Big Sisters/Brothers, visual and performing arts and sports partnerships with elementary schools.
- Communication: Different forms include school website, Student Bulletin, Byrne2Go app which has a calendar and used to send out messages. No paper agenda for higher grades unless requested since more students use phones and apps. Twitter also a good tool. MyEducation portal for parents. Parents raised some concern with accessibility if not all kids have smart phones, also challenges for parents with electronic tools and portals with no instructions. Suggestion to offer some training for parents on this. The MyEducation portal will be used more and more to assign and post homework, report cards, etc. Parents need to create other email accounts rather than Yahoo as Yahoo has blocked them. Gmail is a better option.
- Project to highlight former grads of school: photos with text will be displayed in atrium.
- Strategic growth plan has been circulated.

#### **7. Community School Coordinator: Bal Dhillon**

- Bal explained his role in organizing after school activities, running the community room, providing a free breakfast program from 8:00 a.m. which is open to everyone. A free lunch program is also available but students must qualify to access. Community room has snacks, school supplies and computers for parents to access. Bringing in tutors to school. Also give away free Cobbs bread every Monday night. A large role he plays is writing grants. Also organizes speakers and acts as a liaison between school, community and parents. Other services for kids include eyeglasses, help with resume writing, etc. This is his 3<sup>rd</sup> year in the position.

#### **8. Teacher Representative**

- Ms. Trina Moulin who is a Graphics teacher spoke. She is a liaison between the 60+ teachers and parents. Regarding the School Board

policy on Gender Identity, the revision is more of housekeeping to update terminology used. In the past GSA was “Gay-Straight Alliance” but now commonly known as, “Gender and Sexuality Alliance.” SOGI stands for “Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity”. The GSA has looked at proposed revisions and will provide feedback by Friday.

- West Coast LEAF has a booklet called, “Is It Legal?” which outlines the ages of consent and legalities including the sharing of intimate images. Good resource and will order free copies for the Community Council.
- Community Council gave funds to bring in an Indigenous elder to talk about the residential school experience. A tile art project was created and will be mounted for display in the atrium. The BCTF let us keep \$300 of funding to bring elder back for unveiling.
- Mr. Starr said the project to build a Dragon Boat canoe in the school is going ahead.

#### **9. DAC & DPAC Reports**

- Naz reported that meetings are happening soon so reports will be given at October council meeting.

#### **10. New Business:**

- Election of 2 Members-at-Large:
  - i) Shams Chowdhury, MAL and Alternate DPAC rep,
  - ii) Mons de la Cruz, MAL
- Volunteers to help Yvette with newsletter: Sandhiya Prasad

*Next meeting: Oct. 2, 2017*