

BYRNE CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Date:	October 16, 2023
Time:	7:00 PM
Chair	Michelle Krywolt
Note-taker:	Tasha Murray
Attendance:	Alison Atkinson (Teacher), Bal Dhillon (Community School Coordinator), Effie Aadland (Principal), Laurent Scaligine (Vice Principal), Maria Gunner (Member at Large), Mel Primeau (DPAC Rep), Michelle Krywolt (Chair), Mimi Lim (Vice Principal), Steve Cook (Teacher), Tasha Murray (Secretary) and approximately 8 parents and 8 students

The meeting was called to order 7:03 PM.

INTRODUCTIONS

Michelle gave a land acknowledgement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of September 11, 2023 meeting (Motion Mel/seconded Maria). Minutes approved.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Creekside Robotics Club – Brennan and Joshua

Creekside Robotics is a community where any student of Byrne Creek is welcome to explore and apply areas of STEM to overcome challenges and achieve solutions through creativity, collaboration, and teamwork. Any student is welcome to join. The club participates in an international robotics competition each year in Victoria. Teams are student led with adult mentors. Student representatives thanked the Council for their support in previous years and requested continued support for this school year.

Student Government – Rahul

There are about 38 members in student government. Some of the events student government has been working on:

- Building A Respectful Community for grade 8s
- Served pancake breakfast for grade 8s
- Planning Halloween events – karaoke, pumpkin carving, decorations, costume parade

Rahul thanked the Council on behalf of Student Government for support.

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE – ALISON ATKINSON

Ms. Atkinson teaches English and is one of 3 SOGI (sexual orientation gender identity) representatives at Byrne Creek (others are George Sekulovich, Science; Tarryn Nastalski – Music/Band).

SOGI education at Byrne Creek is about making sure that all students feel safety and belonging in and out of the classroom. It focuses on learning about diversity. It is not about attempting to influence anyone's sexual orientation or gender identity.

What does SOGI look like at the school:

- Rainbow flags and stickers visible in the building as signs of support and inclusion
- Sexual health education inclusive of diverse relationships
- Students offered age-appropriate books and resources
- Sexual health and gender identity are discussed in the context of human rights (in and out of the classroom)
- GSA (Gender & Sexuality Alliance) student club
- Instances of harassment and bullying that are related to SOGI are treated seriously
- [Get REAL Movement](#) inclusivity presentation – Nov 1 presentation for grade 8 and 9s
- Annual March Diversity Dance at Byrne Creek

COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR'S REPORT – BAL DILLON

Bal presented ACE BC's *Elements of Community Schools in BC*. Coordinators around the province are exploring the 9 community school threads. Earlier in the month the school hosted a film and dialogue to learn about proposed changes for the Edmonds community. The City of Burnaby is conducting public consultations on a new high-rise projects in the neighbourhood and the school is interested in organizing the community so the City can hear our community members' thoughts. The school will continue to inform the community about upcoming opportunities to participate.

YDI (Youth Development Instrument) data will be shared at next month's meeting. YDI is a self-report questionnaire that measures the health and well-being of Grade 11 (16-17 years of age) students in British Columbia (BC).

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – EFFIE AADLAND

Since the last meeting, the school hosted several events: parent walkaround, Terry Fox Run, orange shirt day, Harvest Dinner (hosted by catering class and Leo Club for 300-400 people), pancake breakfast for grade 8s last week, BARC on Oct 5 (Building a Respectful Community), and student learning conferences (options to meet virtual and in-person). There is a team of teachers that supports the rest of the staff to provide resources and lesson ideas about things in the classroom to incorporate special events into the classroom, such as orange shirt day. Lots of athletics going on with many opportunities to spectate: volleyball, aquatics, field hockey.

All students completed core competency goal setting recently (in Microsoft Teams). An e-mail should have come home; if not, it could mean your student hasn't completed it, and to check in with them (for grades 8 to 12). This goal setting is a Ministry of Education requirement that students reflect on core competencies. It is not graded but it is designed to inspire conversations between students and teachers, families and peers.

Next month's Council meeting will include a discussion on grad requirements and scholarships which is useful for families of younger students (as you don't want to learn about this last minute) in the year your student graduates.

CHAIR'S REPORT & TREASURER'S REPORT – MICHELLE KRYWOLT

The deadline for teachers to send funding requests to the Council for this school year is October 27. At the next meeting, the Council will present requests for funding, make recommendations, and ask members present to vote on the expenditures.

As of Oct 1, Council bank accounts status:

- General account \$2560 (still waiting for 2 scholarship cheques from June to clear)
- Gaming account \$7,942 (notification on Oct 4 of this year's gaming grant of \$20,600; still waiting for grad expenses from last year and one more scholarship cheque to clear)

DPAC REPORT

At the last DPAC meeting, the school District reviewed where to go if there is a problem at the school (hierarchy of contacts). A DPAC meeting is happening simultaneous to this meeting; November 20 is the following meeting.

PARENT QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Not many trees on school property – how can we get more? 6 Trees were planted out by the garden. We can plant trees as long as facilities removes. There are some challenges to establishment and maintenance of planted areas: often volunteer-run, maintenance during summer and the poor quality of the soil underneath the turf grass areas of the school (garden club previously planted trees and shrubs with limited survivability).

The binder donation to the Community Room was popular – they will accept binders that are 1 inch maximum.

NEXT MEETING

November 6, 2023 in the school library.

Meeting ended at 7:48 PM.

Questions, Comments, Thoughts or Suggestions?

Email the Byrne Creek Community Council

byrnecreekcc@gmail.com