

BYRNE CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 16, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Chair: Michelle Krywolt

Note-taker: Tasha Murray

Attendance: Bal Dhillon (Community School Coordinator), Ben Pare (Principal), Manvinder (Member at Large), Maria Gunner (Member at Large), Melissa Curtis (Member at Large), Michelle Krywolt (Chair), Mimi Lim (Vice Principal), Neelu Din (Member at Large), Tasha Murray (Secretary), and approximately 40 parents/family members

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

INTRODUCTIONS

Michelle provided a territory acknowledgement and introduced Council members and staff.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

Parent education night was added to the agenda. Agenda approved (motion Maria/seconded Melissa/approved). Motion to approve minutes of June 3, 2024 meeting (motion Maria/seconded Melissa/approved).

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

No student representatives available.

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES

No teacher representatives available.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR – BAL DHILLON

Byrne Creek is a community school. Families from the Stride/Edmonds Schools may be familiar with the model of community schools. As a community school, there is no parent advisory council (PAC) but a community council. Members and executives don't need to have a child at the school to be part of the council.

The goals of community schools in Burnaby are:

1. To use the school and other neighbourhood resources and facilities more effectively for desired community programs.

2. To strengthen the existing school curriculum and programs through greater involvement and use of available human, physical and financial resources.
3. To develop a variety of educational, recreational, cultural, and social opportunities for children, youth and adults in response to needs defined by the community.
4. To build community capacity as residents become involved in community activities, services and issues.
5. To strengthen communications and engagement within the community.
6. To facilitate interagency coordination, cooperation and collaboration.
7. Equity will be added this year

The Burnaby School District has the only community school model in BC where the community school coordinator is a teacher. Byrne Creek Community School is the only secondary community school in Burnaby. Bal and Sandra Medeiros (Community School Assistant) staff the community room. A student may access the community room for many reasons, including:

- School supplies
- Warm breakfast program (atrium) serves all students every school day
- Lunch program is focused on students who are food insecure
- Eyeglasses – can arrange testing and pay for glasses
- Winter jacket
- Afterschool programs
- Holiday hamper drive (run by student government)
- Interagency cooperation within the community

The community room operates on an asset-based approach and taps into resources to the strengthen the community. If you have a particular skill (e.g., want to run a club or after school program), contact Bal. Volunteers are needed to pick up Cobs Bread donations for the community room (Market Crossing and Highgate locations, pickup Monday and Thursday evenings at 7PM, need a large vehicle, sign up for a date, come to school to get the bins first). Bal passed around the Cobs Bread pick-up volunteer sheet. Please contact the community room to sign up.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – BEN PARE

This is Ben's first year at Byrne Creek Community School, but this is his 25th year in the Burnaby School District. He's been an administrator at 4 other secondary schools, and he's been excited to work at Byrne Creek for many years.

A new cell phone policy has been implemented in schools across the province. At Byrne Creek Community School, the policy summary is that students can't have phones out during instructional/class time unless the teacher has given specific permission. Students can still use phones after and before school and during lunch hour.

First period starts at 9:05 A.M., and Ben and other staff have been patrolling the hallways to make sure students are in class, ready to learn. Flex time starting at 8:37 A.M. is for students to make decisions about their own learning. Flex time is included in a student's instructional minutes (adds up to 12 school days throughout the year). Attendance is not taken for flex time, but students who are in the building in the morning should be in a classroom for flex time. All teachers should be available during flex time. Michelle noted that flex time is underutilized and encourages students and families to use it to form relationships, and to use that time for student benefit (for example to show a teacher they are serious about their learning).

Ben is interested in course completion data (e.g. percentage of classes completed successfully versus students who failed) and will present more on this at future Council meetings. Why are not all students passing and how can we improve the success rate?

Question: How is the new grading system going for grades 8 and 9? The students who don't pass are usually those for which attendance and engagement is an issue (not enough data to evaluate them on the performance scale).

When there are issues with staff, go directly to the source (e.g. teacher). Counsellors and administrators are also available to support student/family support and challenges.

CHAIR'S REPORT – MICHELLE KRYWOLT

The Community Council is a place for parents to come together and meet with staff and find out what is happening in the building. Student groups and clubs often come to present at meetings. You do not have to have a student at the school to participate in Council meetings and community members and alumni are welcome. The Council acts like a Parent Advisory Council that exist at other schools.

TREASURER'S REPORT – MICHELLE KRYWOLT ON BEHALF OF SAM NELSON

The council facilitates financial support of clubs, trips, supplies, etc. through the BC Community Gaming Grant. Funds can only be used for specific things such as events that benefit the school and the greatest number of students. To apply for funding, teachers and clubs send in requests, the Council reviews allocations and makes suggestions, and at a later fall Council meeting participants will take a vote on the allocations.

Current bank account balances:

- \$1,256.85 general account (no activity since parent social in June)
- \$8,232.00 in gaming account (with outstanding expenses from the 2023-2024 to come)

PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT – TASHA MURRAY

The Council is pleased to host a parent education session this fall for parents/caregivers with students attending Byrne Creek. This session is separate from Council meetings. Details are below:

Topic – the Importance of Sleep for Adolescents

Tuesday, October 22, 2024 from 7-8:30 PM

Byrne Creek Community School (room TBD)

Speakers: Bal Dhillon, Community School Coordinator, Byrne Creek Community School & Emily Wong, Healthy Schools Nurse, Healthy Living/Healthier Communities, Fraser Health

More details will follow at the time gets closer. Please join us for this special learning opportunity!

DPAC REPORT – NO REPORT

The first DPAC meeting of the school year was held simultaneous to this meeting and therefore there is no report.

PARENT QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Parents with ideas for guest teachers or topics to cover at future Council meetings are encouraged to e-mail the Council (address below).

Question: Is there security present at the school at all times? Every Burnaby secondary school has a Safe School Specialist (SSS). Arthur Arnold is Byrne Creek Community School's SSS is available to all students by cell phone or in person. Byrne is unique having Michelle Tong (Byrne Creek Community School Immigrant Youth and Family Worker) to support newcomers and school safety. Staff believe the safest place for students is in school. Bathroom renovations are still ongoing in the school.

There has been no movement at the City or District level regarding the renaming of Byrne Creek.

NEXT MEETING

Meetings are usually held the first Monday of the month. The next meeting is October 7, 2024.

Meeting adjourned 8:17 P.M.

Questions, Comments, Thoughts or Suggestions?
Email the Byrne Creek Community Council
byrnecreekcc@gmail.com