

BYRNE CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 7, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Chair: Michelle Krywolt

Note-taker: Tasha Murray

Attendance: Bal Dhillon (Community School Coordinator), Ben Paré (Principal), Janisha Haywood (Counsellor), Manvinder Kaur (DPAC Rep), Melissa Curtis (Member at Large), Michelle Krywolt (Chair), Mimi Lim (Vice Principal), Neelu Din (Member at Large), Tasha Murray (Secretary), and approximately 30 parents/family members

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M.

INTRODUCTIONS

Michelle provided a territory acknowledgement and introduced Council members. Ben Paré introduced staff present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

Agenda approved (motion Melissa/seconded Mel/approved). Motion to approve minutes of September 16, 2024 meeting (motion Melissa/seconded Mel/approved).

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

No student representatives available.

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE – JANISHA HAYWOOD ON GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Janisha Haywood, Department Head of Student Services and one of 4 counsellors at the school, presented information on graduation requirements:

- Grad requirements haven't changed since last year
- Minimum of 80 credits required for graduation (20 courses) in grades 10 to 12; 7 elective courses (4 courses must be at the grade 12 level)
- Between grade 10 and 12 students must take an Indigenous focused course (e.g. BC First Peoples, English First Peoples 10-12)
- Numeracy assessment (grade 10) and literacy assessments (grade 10 and 12) are required for graduation
- There are various streams for students to meet math graduation requirements

- There are various English Language Learner pathways
- All students take French 8, don't need a language to graduate although some universities require an intro or language course in grade 11; students can register for language Challenge exam to get credit for a language (deadline to register is October 26)

Post-Secondary Requirements:

- BC college requirements: most accept students on first come first serve basis, so apply early to secure your spots; many colleges open applications in the fall
- College to university transfer: university transfer means you start studying at college, then transfer to university to complete your studies; universities will recognize the courses taken at college but look up courses you plan to take and what the university if choice will accept (www.bctransferguide.ca)
- University Admissions:
 - UBC: first round offers for scholarship/awards (early admission) December 1 (November 15 for International students); regular admission deadline January 15; deadline to authorize UBC Access to grades January 31; UBC will broadly evaluate academic history; requires a personal profile (short essays to demonstrate who students are)
 - SFU: December 15 major entrance scholarships application deadline; Jan 31 regular admission application deadline; Feb 28 deadline to submit all required documentation for admission; SFU's website has a [Compass Admission feature](#)
 - For online courses, students can only self-report the final grade. For SFU and UBC, online courses must have a final mark by the end of June (SFU now requires a course to be 50% complete by March 15)
 - [EducationPlannerBC](#) is used to apply for one or more of most BC post-secondary institution. You must sign up for an account and then you can complete an application profile and select which program you want to apply for. Check university sites for out-of-Province schools
 - Accessing transcripts: The Provincial [Student Transcripts Service](#) is an online platform for students to view their school marks, scholarships & transcripts, and to send transcripts (up to 25 for free; students must register for a BC Government account (BCeID)

Grade 12 students need to check their school e-mails often and check the status of post-secondary applications regularly.

A post-secondary fair will be held on November 14, 2024 from 1-4PM in B wing with representatives from several local institutions. Parents are welcome to attend. There are additional upcoming sessions by individual schools. Copies of Ms. Haywood's slides and additional links and information are available at the [Byrne Creek student services website](#). Ms. Moxon will be speaking about university scholarships at next month's Council meeting.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR – BAL DHILLON

The Community School Room supports students who need a winter jacket. A truck arrives with jackets of all sizes. Students who need a jacket can go into the truck and pick a jacket that works for them. If you know someone, even your own student, who may need a winter jacket this winter, please contact Bal or Sandra in the Community Room or your student's counsellor.

More than 10 years ago the Bases Thrift Store was started by community school staff. The store is located at 7825 Edmonds St, Burnaby. Executive Director, Isabel Barros attended the meeting to share more about the thrift store. The proceeds from the store supports Byrne Creek Community School and other elementary schools in the southeast Burnaby area to lower costs for after-school and out-of-school programs. Ways to help:

- Shop at the store!
- Donate items (currently accepting gently used clothing and household items, NO furniture or toys)
- Volunteer: Bases is volunteer-run and is always looking for new volunteers; volunteers do not need a work permit, or proficient English
- Students requiring work experience hours can volunteer

Isabel handed out brochures.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – BEN PARÉ

It has been a successful start of the school year. Staff have focused on having students in learning spaces when they are in the building, including during FLEX time. Grade 8 BARC retreat happened last week at Edmonds Community Centre. The focus was on building a respectful community. Orange shirt day was celebrated last Friday. Staff have also been working with students to enforce the cell phone policy; most students are cooperating.

VICE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – MIMI LIM

Student learning conferences are happening on Thursday afternoon. Students are encouraged to attend with their parents/guardians. Conferences are from 2-4:30 PM and 5:30-7:30 PM with virtual or in-person appointments. Appointments can be made online. To accommodate the conferences, there are 2 early dismissals for students this week:

- Thursday, October 10 dismissal at lunchtime (11:50 AM)
- Friday, October 11 dismissal at 1:55 PM

In order to graduate, students need to complete 3 assessments: Literacy 10, Numeracy 10 and Literacy 12. These assessments are not tied to curriculum from any course, but measure your child's application of numeracy and literacy skills. These assessments are offered during specific times of the year. Assessments are scored on a scale of 1 to 4.

TREASURER'S REPORT – SAM NELSON

A gaming grant was just received which is calculated based on \$20/student from June 2024 enrollment.

Current bank account balances:

- \$1,256.85 general account (no activity since parent social in June)
- \$20,137.00 in gaming account (with outstanding expenses from the 2023-2024 to come)

Requests were sent to teachers with criteria about what Council money can be used for; the Council will create a draft budget based on school administrator input and staff/club needs and a final vote for allocations will be made at a future Council meeting. These gaming funds are designed to provide the highest benefit for the greatest number of students.

CHAIR'S REPORT – MICHELLE KRYWOLT

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

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

Besides COBS, who else provides foods and meals for the school? Burnaby Firefighters donate snacks (granola bars, crackers, etc.). A warm breakfast is available every morning at the school. Lunch is available from the cafeteria. The Backpack Buddies program stopped last year because we had a food hub that replaced it.

NEXT MEETING

Meetings are usually held the first Monday of the month. The next meeting is November 4, 2024.

Meeting adjourned 8:06 P.M.

Questions, Comments, Thoughts or Suggestions?

Email the Byrne Creek Community Council

bynecreekcc@gmail.com