

BYRNE CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 4, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Chair: Michelle Krywolt

Note-taker: Tasha Murray

Attendance: Bal Dhillon (Community School Coordinator), Ben Paré (Principal), Greg (robotics club mentor), Lily (robotics club mentor), Lisa Moxon (xxx), Manvinder Kaur (DPAC Rep), Marty Graham (teacher, robotics club teacher sponsor), Michelle Krywolt (Chair), Mimi Lim (Vice Principal), Sam Nelson (Treasurer), Steve Cook (teacher, robotics club teacher sponsor), Susanna (robotics club mentor), Tasha Murray (Secretary), 4 students, and approximately 6 parents/family members

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

INTRODUCTIONS

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

Agenda approved (motion Sam/seconded Manvinder/approved). Motion to approve minutes of October 7, 2024 meeting (motion Sam/seconded Michelle/approved).

ROBOTICS CLUB – 4 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES & TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES – STEVE COOK AND MARTY GRAHAM

Creekside Robotics is a community where any student of Byrne Creek is welcome to explore and apply areas of STEM and soft skills to overcome challenges and achieve solutions through creativity, collaboration, and teamwork. There are currently 30 members of the club; any student is welcome to join and there are no fees to participate. The Byrne Creek Robotics Club is the only club of this kind in Burnaby. The club participates in an international robotics competition each year in Victoria. Teams are student led with teacher and adult mentors. Research suggests that students are much more likely to enter STEM-related post-secondary after having participated in the robotics club. Student representatives thanked the Council for their support in previous years and requested continued support for the future. The students demonstrated their current robot.

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE LISA MOXON – SCHOLARSHIPS

Lisa Moxon, Department Head – Social Studies, presented information on scholarships. In the 2023 graduating class two thirds of graduating students received scholarships or awards.

There are 4 types of scholarships:

1. School-based – usually not worth as much (amounts range from \$100-500), set up for various reasons by departments and community partners
2. Province/District
 - a. Dogwood (District) Scholarship (\$1250) – application required, concentration of 4 courses leading to a career in a particular area (e.g. business, linguistics; 2.5 GPA average, Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident; Byrne Creek usually receives about 23 of these to distribute)
 - b. BC Achievement Scholarship (\$1250) – no application needed; awarded to top 8000 students in BC; at the end of every school year this is awarded automatically
 - c. BC Excellence Scholarship (\$5000) – school nominates one student, but only 55 students are chosen from across the province; application required; shortlisted by school committee, then Ministry committee
 - d. Pathway to teacher education scholarship (\$5000) – application required, student who wants to be a teacher applies directly to the Ministry; shortlisted by school committee, then Ministry committee
3. Private (examples: Beedie Luminaries, TD Canada Trust, REMAX Quest for Excellence)
4. Entrance scholarships – each university has their own deadline (December 1 is common); mostly based on marks and questions as part of academic and personal profile; bursaries also offered based on need

Notes:

- Scholarships are typically awarded based on marks or a specific achievement; bursaries require demonstration of financial need (usually household income under \$50,000)
- Need to consider the timing and duration of scholarships – some are good for 5 years; some don't come in time for September start date
- There are many scholarship websites and resources
- Many scholarships require reference letters from adults that have seen students in action (should include specifics of what you did, how often you volunteered/worked, number of hours you contributed)
- Ms. Moxon maintains a Grade 12 Teams group to share information and presents this information to grade 12s every fall
- Encourage students to apply for multiple scholarships
- Once students are in post-secondary schools, there are scholarship opportunities for undergraduate students

This information is available on the Byrne Creek website (click on student → scholarship tab). There are many websites that list financial aid opportunities beyond the post-secondary institutions themselves – some recommended sites: www.scholartree.ca (set up an account for yourself), www.studentawards.com, www.schoolfinder.com). Ms. Moxon is happy to answer questions from parents and students; she can be consulted during flex time as well.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR – BAL DHILLON

Coats for Kids drive was very successful and there are extra jackets left in the community room. November 15 is the next date for the Harvest Feast – everyone is welcome to attend, more details to come. The annual hamper drive hosted by student government is coming up soon; the goal is to raise enough money for gift cards for families at Byrne Creek who need it.

Basketball season is coming soon! November 27 is the alumni game (grade 12 boys) with 3 teams, auctions, prizes and featuring a Toronto Raptors song created by a former Byrne Creek student.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – BEN PARÉ

There have been a number of events held at the school in the last few weeks:

- Ms. Zulic's AP English class recently when to Grouse Mountain to learn about Indigenous culture
- Hallowe'en haunted house put on by the Leo Club with hundreds of kids visiting from the Byrne family of elementary schools; catwalk with costumes on display; a lot of good wholesome fun with no issues
- Ms. Parsonson collaborates with teachers from across the school; to bring math to life, a series of games (e.g. origami) is used to engage students at lunchtime

CHAIR'S REPORT – MICHELLE KRYWOLT

The Council has received BC Community Gaming Grant funds and is tasked with allocating the funds to clubs and projects happening at the school. Teachers must submit requests. The Council Executives drafted a proposed budget for requested projects, which Sam will present in the Treasurer's update.

TREASURER'S REPORT – SAM NELSON

As of October 1, the Council bank accounts status:

- General account \$1,236
- Gaming account \$23,752.36 (carrying over \$3,600 from last year, leaving \$20,137.00 to spend for the current year)

For gaming grant requests, teachers used a Microsoft form. The requests totaled \$33,000. Decisions are made based on where the funds can make the most impact to support the most requests. Some requests are not eligible due to funding criteria. For example, the School District does not want PACs/Councils spending funds on technology (computers, software, etc.) to ensure all equipment can be maintained and are compatible with other District equipment. Many teachers requested funds for field trips. Consistent with last year, roughly \$10/student is allocated for field trip requests. Typically snacks/refreshments are not funded, as there are often other funds to support these expenses. The school has funds to help support students with financial need to participate in field trips. Sam presented the proposed budget for the 2024 gaming grant.

There were no questions related to the proposals. A motion was made to approve the proposed budget as presented (motion Greg/second Tasha/no one opposed, motion carried).

PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT RECAP

The Council and Wellness committee hosted a successful parent education night on October 21 with about 23 parents in attendance. Thanks to speakers Bal Dhillon and Emily Wong. There was interest to run future parent education sessions at the school. Please send any topic or speaker ideas to the Council.

DPAC REPORT – MANVINDER KAUR

On November 5, the DPAC is hosting a parent education session featuring Dr. Deborah MacNamara. The new venue for this event will be Moscrop Secondary School.

The DPAC recently hosted a Treasurer’s workshop discussing financial oversight for PACs and the gaming grant. The DPAC has drafted a letter about funding for schools (Manvinder has a copy, link on the DPAC site). There is currently concern about the use of portables to deal with school overcrowding. Parents concerned about funding for schools can download, sign and send it back to their Ministry representative.

Another related issue is increasing enrollment in Burnaby and across Metro Vancouver. There is finite space in Burnaby classrooms; portables are a solution, but costs for those come out of the School District operating budget not capital budget. Some high schools in Burnaby will be adding a 5th period to the school day to add up to 10% more space. Schools impacted by this new schedule are larger schools – Alpha, Moscrop, Central, Mountain – and this will not be implemented in Byrne Creek. Byrne Creek will not be impacted by this change. Space for international students is also going down, and for years this was a fund generating venture for the Burnaby School District.

PARENT QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING

Meetings are usually held on the first Monday of the month. The next meeting is on January 6, 2025.

Meeting adjourned 8:08 P.M.

Questions, Comments, Thoughts or Suggestions?

Email the Byrne Creek Community Council

bynecreekcc@gmail.com