

BYRNE CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

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| Date: | April 7, 2025 |
| Time: | 7:00 PM |
| Chair | Michelle Krywolt |
| Note-taker: | Tasha Murray |
| Attendance: | Bal Dhillon (Community School Coordinator), Ben Paré (Principal), Braydon (Robotics Team teacher representative), Michelle Krywolt (Chair), Mimi Lim (Vice Principal), Sam Nelson (Treasurer), Tasha Murray (Secretary), 3 student representatives, and approximately 9 parents/family members |

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M.

INTRODUCTIONS

Michelle introduced Council members. Ben Paré introduced staff present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

Agenda approved (motion Michelle/seconded Nigel/ approved). Minutes from February meeting are not available at this time.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES – ROBOTICS TEAM

Three student representatives from the Creekside Robotics Club, a community of 30 Byrne Creek students, shared how the club provides opportunities to develop both STEM and soft skills throughout the year. Open to all students with no fees required, the club is inclusive and student-led. Approximately 30% of participants are girls.

Each year, members compete in an international robotics competition. This year the competition was held at the Agrodome in Vancouver, after an intense 8-week build season starting in January. This year, the team placed 14th out of 50 teams and 2nd in BC—the only team of its kind in Burnaby. Over 2,000–3,000 hours were dedicated to building the robot and preparing for the competition, including creation of merchandise and marketing efforts. The club spent \$12,000 this year, entirely fundraised by students. The Club is always looking for mentors and sponsors.

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES

No teacher representatives available.

VICE-PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – MIMI LIM

Copies of the grad newsletter were distributed and will be emailed to grade 12 parents tomorrow. It outlines upcoming events for grade 12 students, including the evening leaving ceremony on May 25. This year, graduation gowns will be rented from Artona—students can take them home on April 22 and are encouraged to take photos beforehand, as the gowns must be returned immediately after the ceremony. Caps and stoles may be kept. Artona matched the price of previous years' disposable gowns. Parking at the venue is free on the day of the ceremony, despite the lack of signage. Each student receives four guest tickets, with a small fee for extras. The ceremony is semi-formal, and guests are expected to stay for its duration. The grad dinner and dance will be held on June 15 at the Pinnacle Hotel in Vancouver.

On May 8 Kevin Brooks will be speaking to grade 12s about the dangers of drinking and driving as we approach the celebration season. This is a mandatory assembly.

Assessments will be offered this week to any grade 12s needing to catch up. Students in other grades who need to make up assessments will do so next year. Assessments don't test specific content but survey for general numeracy and literacy skills. The assessments are required for graduation. They use standard-based assessment (can't fail if you try). Results could impact post-secondary acceptance or impact what English class you can take.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR – BAL DHILLON

A number of programs currently running:

- ELL parent nights at the end of April and mid-May
- Burnaby Family Life – Manifest program (mostly grade 9s, 10s, a few grade 8s) – deals with violence; 5 weeks long
- Boys Club Network – provincial network with many chapters; our chapter is the biggest; will be offering speakers weekly at lunch on Wednesdays starting next week – on April 30 we will be having Nathan Rourke from the BC Lions; drop-in – don't need to register, low barrier to entry; only ask that students not be on their phone and don't take about the club outside of the club; can't come back into a meeting after you have left

Community School Model

Byrne Creek is a community school. 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 Burnaby School District has the only community school model in BC where the community school coordinator is a teacher.

There is a provincial model for community schools in BC, which has 4 categories or "threads": health & wellness, social & emotional learning, lifelong learning, and community development. Byrne Creek Secondary School wants to add a 5th element of equity – a framework for addressing systemic injustices that oppress individuals based on race, culture, gender, sexuality, abilities, or socioeconomic status. Community school coordinators support this change.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – BEN PARÉ

The district has established expectations around flex time: a maximum of 60 minutes per week (less than what is currently offered at the school, and not at the beginning or the end of the day). The Province legislates that students must be engaged in instructional time for 318 minutes per day. After much discussion, the new schedule will include:

- Start time 8:37AM every day, end time at 3:00PM every day
- Only on Wednesdays: flex time after period 1 from 9:40-10:40AM; students choose where to go, for example meeting with peers to work on group projects or meeting with teachers to make-up tests or assignments

A parent raised concerns about the mandatory early start, removing the option for students to have a softer start, which aligns with youth mental health research. Schedules can be adapted for each student's situation and the new schedule is designed to help students better utilize all instructional time during the day. For students needing academic support, the SUCCESS program is available after school with staff support.

New school fees were shared. The \$35 student activity fee is the same for all Burnaby secondary schools. Grad fees (students leaving ceremony and dinner/dance) are going up slightly. Some athletic teams and PHE 8-10 fees are increasing. Fees are not barriers if financial is a challenge for families – talk to the school for support.

CHAIR'S REPORT – MICHELLE KRYWOLT

To reiterate what staff said, all teachers and counsellors at the school are here to support students in a way that works best for them. Don't hesitate to reach out for support for your family.

TREASURER'S REPORT – SAM NELSON

As of April 1, 2025, the Council bank accounts status:

- General account \$1,236
- Gaming account \$22,933

The Council is waiting on more invoices from the school to pay out.

Congratulations to Bal for receiving the King Charles Coronation Medal presented by Peter Julian.

DPAC REPORT

Nothing to report. Next DAC meeting at the end of April.

PARENT QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Any update on the crowd-helping movement? No, Bal will bring up at next staff meeting.

Soil erosion in the oval: the City owns the track, but allows the school to use during the day; a couple of parents will send a message to the City requesting maintenance. Nigel has voluntarily been cleaning outside the school.

April 28 federal election: youth 16 years and older can apply to work the election. Check the Elections Canada website.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Monday, May 5, 2025.

Meeting adjourned 8:10PM.

Questions, Comments, Thoughts or Suggestions?

Email the Byrne Creek Community Council

byrnecreekcc@gmail.com