

BYRNE CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Date:	May 5, 2025
Time:	7:00 PM
Chair	Michelle Krywolt
Note-taker:	Tasha Murray
Attendance:	Bal Dhillon (Community School Coordinator), Manvinder Kaur (DPAC representative), Michelle Krywolt (Chair), Mimi Lim (Vice Principal), Tasha Murray (Secretary), and 3 parents/family members

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. Land recognition included acknowledgement of Red Dress Day. Regrets from Ben Paré, Principal; Sam Nelson (Treasurer).

INTRODUCTIONS

Round of introductions completed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

Agenda approved (motion Melanie/seconded Manvinder/approved). The minutes from the April meeting will be approved at the June meeting due to lack of attendees who were present at the May meeting.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR – BAL DHILLON

The school is taking students to camp overnight in June – students from all grades were handpicked or chosen based on expressed interest. Activities will include kayaking and canoeing; the camp will be led by 2 PE teachers at Camp Jubilee.

Exciting alumni news: a graduate from 2018 got signed to the Vancouver Bandits, a professional basketball team based in Langley that competes in the Canadian Elite Basketball League (CEBL).

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. There has been a movement 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. The Provincial association voted unanimously in favor of this. This is significant for the community school model in BC, and the addition of equity is in alignment with other similar associations.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – MIMI LIM

Grad Reminders

Grad is fast approaching; ceremony details: 6:30 PM May 24 at SFU; dress warmly even when it looks warm and sunny as it is windy up on the mountain. Students need to arrive at 5:30 PM. Grad gowns are rentals this year and families are encouraged to take photos before the ceremony because the gowns need to be returned right after the ceremony (before students leave). A grad rehearsal will be on May 22 at which time students can pick up their gowns (navy with silver stole, hat with dual colour tassel). Students keep the stole and the cap. A grad newsletter will be sent out with all the dates and important details.

On May 8 at 9:15 AM Kevin Brooks will be speaking to grade 12s about the dangers of drinking and driving. This is a mandatory assembly. These kinds of presentations are typically given before the long weekend and prior to the celebratory season.

Calendar 2025-2026

The draft calendar for 2025-2026 was presented. August was included so that teachers and parents know when administrators are back in the building before the school year begins. Assessment dates are determined by the Ministry of Education and Child Care (Jan 19-23, 2026), which will be an alternate schedule week at school. There are 86 school days in semester one and 92 school days in semester two due to where the assessments fall.

Next school year flex will move from daily to once a week on Wednesdays for one hour. There will be no flex days until September 17. The success of the new flex schedule will be revisited for Semester 2. The calendar was approved by staff and the staff committee.

School Renaming Update

The School District put the naming project on hold while administrative processes were developed. There is now policy in place guiding how and why name changes are made. The school has permission to go ahead with renaming the school. The first step is to strike a committee which will include the principal, a community representative, a CUPE representative (Indigenous Engagement Worker), 2 student representatives, an Indigenous Principal (2 Indigenous representatives needed), a senior staff member and a parent representative. The Council will need to nominate a representative. The first meeting will be on Monday June 9 from 9-11 AM. This process is separate from the City's process to change the name 'Byrne' on community amenities.

School Goal Overview

2 Parts to the school goal:

1. Focus on literacy – assessments done with grade 8s; there are some areas where Byrne students are lower than the rest of the Province; more support will be provided to support this goal based on data collected this year
2. Wellness and equity – working with staff on a universal design for learning and being a more inclusive school; on the last professional development day, staff worked with an expert on universal design for learning (UDL); UDL classroom sets firm goals, but has flexible means of getting there; the school is providing support to teachers to become more comfortable with UDL theory

Equity is a big focus for staff professional development, which means removing barriers and making sure all learners are included in a meaningful way, not simply offering choice.

June Community Days

Community days are planned for the end of the school year. The Muslim Student Association will be coordinating an Eid celebration in June. Staff and administration consider how to engage students safely while

not disrupting the neighbourhood for these events. Events may include surrounding elementary school students and their families. Watch for more details to come.

CHAIR'S REPORT – MICHELLE KRYWOLT

Last week several students from Byrne and other music councils protested at the district office before the board meeting to share views about the draft budget, and specifically grade 7 band funding potentially being cut. There was a good turnout from band students across the district, 3 members of the VSO, Long & McQuade staff, and members of the Carnival Band. Two students spoke at the board meeting on the topic. Between Alpha and Byrne Creek, 200 testimonials about band were collected. Trustees printed out feedback for meetings with MLAs this week. Celebrities like BBn\$, Sarah McLachlan, Mayor of Burnaby, Nickelback, and Michale Bubl  all made social media videos in support of funding for grade 7 bands.

TREASURER'S REPORT – MICHELLE KRYWOLT

Council bank accounts status is unknown at the time of the meeting, but a few cheques were written last week for budgeted events (AED, games and supplies for library and a few of the classrooms). Staff are reminded to send their receipts for reimbursement.

DPAC REPORT – MANVINDER KAUR

Recent leadership changes at DPAC took up most of the last few meetings. The most recent meeting also focused on discussion on the draft budget, where 17 cuts to the budget were presented. The Burnaby School District is a bit better off than other school districts that have seen higher growth of student population.

At DPAC, there is generally lower representation from high school parents versus elementary school parents. The Council encourages all parents to have a say and send e-mails sharing their opinions.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Monday, June 2, 2025. Social starts at 6:15 PM.

Meeting adjourned 7:51 PM.

Questions, Comments, Thoughts or Suggestions?

Email the Byrne Creek Community Council

bynecreekcc@gmail.com