

BYRNE CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Date:	January 12th, 2026
Time:	7:00 PM
Chair	Tasha Murray (Secretary)
Note-taker:	Michael Tanaka
Attendance:	Ben Paré (Principal), Janet Salvador (Member at Large), Manvinder Kaur (DPAC representative), Michael Tanaka (Member at Large), Mirella Gargiulo (Vice Principal), Ms. Shanee Prasad (Social Studies Teacher), Neelu Din (Member at Large), 8 parents/family members and Community members
Regrets	Michelle Krywolt (Chair). Sam Nelson (Treasurer), Bal Dhillon (Community School Coordinator),

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

INTRODUCTIONS

A round of introductions was completed for Council Executives and staff present.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - TASHA MURRAY

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

Motion to approve the agenda to introduce a student presentation to top of the agenda.

- Moved by: Tasha
- Seconded by: Lily
- Motion approved

Motion to amend the approve the November 2025 meeting.

- Moved by: Tasha
- Seconded by: Michael
- Motion approved

STAFF PRESENTATION: MS SHANEE PRASAD: “DIM SUM PARTY”

- Shanee presented a recent Social Studies / Arts collaboration project which focused on Chinese contributions to BC including contributions of women in BC and beyond.
- A grant was received from the Suzhou Alley Women’s Mural Society. Using this along with support from the school, a Field trip was held to explore the Suzhou alley women’s mural and other commemorative sites in Vancouver’s Chinatown.
- Explored the diversity of what it means to be “Chinese Canadian”.
- The Field Trip of Chinatown went to several sites and used this experience to create informational posters and art of Dim Sum which is currently on display in the library. There was a very successful Share Fair which included a scavenger hunt which was a big hit with the students. During the meeting we took a tour of the displays.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR REPORT –BEN PARÉ (FOR BAL)

- 120 hampers were given out in December. This was a joint collaboration between students, staff and community members.
- A garden club is going to start up this year with the intent to grow fruits and vegetables to support family’s food security needs through the Summer and into the Fall.
 - Some present noted that this will require a commitment not only during the school year but also into the summer break in order to have a successful harvest.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT – BEN PARÉ

- New VP Introduction – Mirella Gargiulo
 - We’re happy to welcome Mirella Gargiulo back to Byrne! She will look after students with last names M - Z.
- Assessment Week
 - Spoke about Assessment week which is also an opportunity for students to catch up on classwork if they aren’t actively involved in assessments. Have your student talk to your teacher about making appointments to work on any outstanding assignments.
- Good News Items:
 - We had a dinner for Indigenous students and families with about sixty people attending.
 - Our Indigenous Leadership Club went to a field trip.
 - There was a Dance showcase at Michael J. Fox Theatre which featured our Dance Students, many of whom experienced their first stage performance.
 - Freshet news featured a story on our students who took it upon themselves to bring instruments to Elementary students in response to the cuts to the band program in Elementary schools. You can read it [here](#). There was also a feature on our [Unified Sports team](#).
- Overview of January events
 - Jan 9 Winter Dance Show at Michael J. Fox Theatre
 - Jan 19-22 Literacy 10, Numeracy 10, and Literacy 12 Provincial Assessments
 - Jan 19-22 IE / Flex Days (e.g., additional support for students with IEs; Open Gym all morning for students)
 - Jan 20 Gr 7s at Byrne
 - Jan 21 Open House (6PM)
 - Jan 26 Term 3 begins

- Other
 - Question about insufficient evidence and what it means. In summary it indicates the student has not necessarily failed a course, but there isn't enough evidence to pass the course. There was a discussion of how Byrne has the philosophy that every student can benefit from successfully given the right opportunities and support.

CHAIR'S REPORT – TASHA MURRAY FOR MICHELLE KRYWOLT

- Nothing new to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT – TASHA MURRAY FOR SAM NELSON

- No changes from last Treasurer's Report. Awaiting some invoices for the current budget.
- We have \$3400 in unspent funds which we would like to partially use for some late requests in the following resolution:

Motion to approve \$880 for Chinatown Field trip for 88 students, and \$500 for Art Supplies for the Art Club, for a total of \$1380:

- moved by: Tasha
- Seconded by: Neelu
- Motion approved

DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DPAC) REPORT – MANVINDER KAUR

- DPAC is working towards hosting a session on AI. Dates and details TBA.

PARENT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- Question about the upcoming renaming of the school.
 - It is currently in process with the Indigenous council who will meet this year to discuss this. A date to decide on a new name has not been set at this point in the discussions.

Meeting adjourned at 19:48

The next meeting will be on February 2, 2026.

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