

BYRNE CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Date:	November 3, 2025
Time:	7:00 PM
Chair	Michelle Krywolt
Note-taker:	Michael Tanaka
Attendance:	Bal Dhillon (Community School Coordinator), Ben Paré (Principal), Janet Salvador (Member at Large), Lisa Moxon (teacher), Michelle Krywolt (Chair), Michael Tanaka (Member at Large), Sam Nelson (Treasurer), 2 students, 6 parents/family members in person, and 11 people virtually for staff presentation
Regrets	Neelu Din (Member at Large), Tasha Murray (Secretary), Manvinder Kaur (DPAC representative)

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

INTRODUCTIONS

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

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

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

Motion to approve the October 6th meeting minutes

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

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - MICHELLE KRYWOLT

STUDENT PRESENTATION – VICTORIA AND STEPHANIE – STUDENT GOVERNMENT

- Review of dates
- Hamper drive Dec 1 - 12 (actually starts now until Winter Break)

- Collect donations to build hampers to give out
- Fundraisers include food sales, class to class donations, reaching out to local businesses for donations for hampers
- Companies can donate online this year
- Benefits concert on December 11th (not Dec 12th - website to be updated).
- This year ~110 hampers will need to be prepared
- Goods (hygiene projects, non-perishable goods) as well as cash donations are accepted
- Note that some of our former hamper recipients are now some of our biggest donors

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – BEN PARÉ

- Halloween was a great experience at Byrne Creek
 - A haunted house was set up in the school. Over 100 Leos are involved in the setup. It was a huge hit with the kids and one they look forward to every year.
 - Reviewed some slides and stories of the students enjoying Halloween at the school.
 - Leos hosted events such as a photo booth, bowling and cookie decorating.
- District Student Advisory Council had a two day retreat, where the student advisory council went over several topics for this year including:
 - AI, Mental Health, EDIR, School safety
- Cross District Basketball league was set up for kids with special needs. In addition, a Unified Soccer feed is being created this month.
- Parking update: The request to repaint some of the faded lines is under investigation.
- BYOD Project: Data has been gathered to determine how many kids would potentially need a device (laptop), and options about how to provide devices to kids who need them are being discussed.
 - Teachers will be consulted about how to use devices (laptops) in the classroom
 - Possible soft launch in semester 1

STAFF PRESENTATION – STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS – LISA MOXON (ONLINE)

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

Class of 2024: \$663k

Class of 2025: \$965k (new Byrne Creek milestone)

Discussed the 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). These are good for five years. Typically, we get about 20 - 25 of these at Byrne Creek. Comes out in March / April.
 - 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. Minimum grade of 73% in English 12 or English First Peoples 12.
 - 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. Application required with reference letters, resume and a written

- statement. 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. Application required with reference letters, resume and a written statement. For all the above Scholarships, it is very important to make sure your mailing address is up to date as the voucher for these three scholarships comes in the mail.
3. 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. Noticed that this year there aren't as many smaller Entrance scholarships as there have been in previous year (ones that pay for one semester for example).
 4. Private (examples: Beedie Luminaries, TD Canada Trust, Schulich awards). Many are based on experiences students have in high school. Some are very niche. These are generally always direct applications by the student - important they do their own research.

Notes:

- International Students: As many of the scholarships require Canadian Citizenship or PR status, consider checking with Consulates for opportunities for international students that go beyond borders.
- There are also Scholarships sponsored by Byrne Creek. Thousands of dollars are available in this category. Examples Leo Club, Student Government, Athlete of the Year, Byrne Creek Alumni, VPA, Dept awards. Decided by the Byrne Creek Scholarship Committee.
- Note there is a difference between Internal (goes through Byrne Creek Scholarship Committee) and External applications.
 - For External applications, it is very important for students to follow the application instructions, particularly deadlines. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- 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). Ideally give two weeks' notice to the person you are asking for a reference letter from, and do not forget to send them a thank you note. The best reference is the person who has seen the student in action for the area or activity the scholarship is for.
- 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. Many go unclaimed every year.
- 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.

Questions:

- Can parents join the Grade 12 Teams Channel?
 - No, but you can access the grade 12 channel via your student's account.
- Can tonight's PowerPoint presentation be shared?

- Yes, it will be uploaded to the Byrne Creek website on the [Scholarship tab](#).

COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR –BAL DHILLON

- MDI (Middle Development - Grades 4 & 7) and EDI (Early Development - Grade K) survey is collected every four years. YDI (Youth Development - Grade 11) is a new measure and was done as a pilot at Byrne Creek.
- Reviewed results for 2023.
 - Quickly went over data. A great deal of information was presented over several categories, including health and well-being, social-emotional competencies, social connections, mental health, and more.
 - Discussions were held with both students and staff after presenting the same data. These included the questions: What stood out to you? What if anything do you feel is missing? Any other thoughts?
 - Should we extend this discussion to parents as well? Feeling at the meeting was a resounding yes. The aim is to do this in the Spring.
 - It was raised how important it is to present and take actions at the school based on what the data has demonstrated on how the kids are doing and what they are feeling.

CHAIR'S REPORT – MICHELLE KRYWOLT

Reviewed proposed Community Council spendings for this year.

Notes: This comes from our Community Gaming Account funds. This account has some restrictions and cannot fund items used for class instruction. In fairness we have set field trips funds at \$10/ student.

- \$250 for Yearbook
- \$1500 for Robotics
- \$2000 for Grad Dinner
- \$1000 for Dance Program
- \$3000 for Athletic Department
- \$1500 Year end retreat for the Leos
- \$800 for T-shirts for Leos
- \$800 for Event supplies for Leos
- \$270 for AP African Canadian Diaspora Studer
- \$300 Explorations Field Trip
- \$750 for Math Dept Waterloo Math Contest
- \$500 for Model UN
- \$1500 for Byrne Creek Music Dept
- \$650 for Library Learning Commons
- \$200 for Keep Fit field trip
- \$500 Baking supplies
- \$500 Textiles Class trip to MOA
- \$125 for Math Department Computing Competition
- \$400 GSA (Diversity Club)
- \$500 for English Dept field trip
- \$160 for Spoken Word Contest
- \$500 for Indigenous studies Field Trips
- \$3500 for BARC
- \$1500 for Student Government

TREASURER'S REPORT –SAM NELSON

Total of above proposed spending: \$22,705.00
Current Gaming Grant Account balance: \$31,385.90
Outstanding commitments from 2024/2025: \$3,031.06
Reserved in account for variance: \$2,000
Amount left for additional spending in 2025/26: \$3,649.84

Motion to approve the above spending:

- Moved by: Michael
- Seconded by: Keith
- Motion approved.

DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DPAC) REPORT – MANVINDER KAUR

No report tonight.

PARENT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

No questions

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on January 12, 2026. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

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