

BYRNE CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Date:	May 4, 2026
Time:	7:00 PM
Chair:	Michelle Krywolt
Note-taker:	Tasha Murray
Attendance:	Alison Atkinson (teacher), Bal Dhillon (Community School Coordinator), Ben Paré (Principal), Michael Tanaka (Member at Large), Michelle Krywolt (Chair), Mirella Garguilo (Vice Principal M → Z), Sam Nelson (Treasurer), Tasha Murray (Secretary), 1 student representative, and 5 parents/community members
Regrets	None

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

INTRODUCTIONS

A round of introductions was completed for Council Executives and staff present. Michelle provided a land acknowledgement. It was announced that Michelle is the new chair of the DPAC.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

Motion made to approve the meeting agenda and February and April meeting minutes (motion Sam/ seconded Michael/approved).

STUDENT GUESTS – DIVERSITY CLUB (ALISON ATKINSON + STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE)

The former GSA has been renamed the Diversity Club to reflect its broader focus on celebrating and appreciating diversity across the school community. While the club continues to support students of diverse gender identities and sexual orientations, it also embraces different ways of being, thinking, and experiencing the world. The club is open to students in all grades and provides a safe, welcoming space where students, allies, and friends can connect, socialize, and be their authentic selves. The club emphasizes affirmation, belonging, and celebrating strengths rather than focusing on negativity or stereotypes. Members work to foster this positive and inclusive culture throughout the broader school community.

Meetings are held every Wednesday at lunch, with additional special events throughout the year. Upcoming activities include a West End tour and support for the district-wide Diversity Dance. Teacher sponsors are Alison Atkinson and Jasper Kesler.

Club representatives noted that students are experiencing less negativity than in previous years, reflecting ongoing efforts to build a more inclusive school culture. Last semester, students participated in a school walk-through on a professional development day to identify safe spaces and supportive staff members. Future priorities include continuing to create opportunities for students to share their experiences and increasing awareness of the needs of students with different sensory and cognitive profiles to ensure safer and more inclusive spaces. The club is considering outreach opportunities with local elementary schools in the future. Representatives expressed appreciation for the Community Council's ongoing support and noted that the club is meaningful not only for active members but also for students who benefit from knowing the space exists.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR –BAL DHILLON

Garden club is up and running – a few students and a teacher sponsor are involved; an inclusive education class is also gardening during class time. The first ever parent forum is coming up – May 21 @ 6PM in library; all parents are welcome and childminding, light supper, and translation services will be offered. Staff and Community Council members will facilitate and record notes from the conversations. Discussion themes will be aligned with recent student and teacher forums. There will also be opportunities to provide feedback via an online form (QR code provided).

VICE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – MIRELLA GARGUILO

Graduation events coming up:

- Grad newsletter being sent to grade 12 parents shortly
- ICBC presentation during grade 12 assembly
- Rehearsal happening at school
- May 24 1PM graduation ceremony at SFU; tickets are available for family, extras available for a cost
- June 23 Pinnacle Hotel grad dinner and dance
- First ever senior boat cruise on May 14

Bell schedule and calendar for 2026-2027 school year:

- District informed us that we need to add 3 minutes of instructional time per day; trying to keep bell schedule consistent at the beginning and end of the day
- Staff will vote on 2 options
- Draft 2026/2027 calendar – recommended to shift the September Council meeting to second Monday; no meetings in December and March
- In lieu of Good Friday that falls during spring break the last Friday before winter break is a day off
- The week of altered bell schedules in January that is typically used for assessment week was removed from the schedule by the school district
- Days are consistent among all Burnaby schools; all professional development days will be consistent
- Flex time will continue on Wednesdays – going well this year, students using the time well

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – BEN PARÉ

Good news stories:

- Inclusive Ed Art Show at the Roundhouse Community Centre – schools from Vancouver, Burnaby, and New Westminster participated
- Burnaby's Got Talent; 16 acts participated in total
- Byrne Creek won 2 awards from Whistler Con Brio Festival (gold senior concert band, silver senior jazz band)
- Senior boys soccer team played a very strong game; 2 students earned medals

- Culture Week at the school; students came dressed with clothes from their home countries and participated in a potluck
- Dr. Leyton Schnellert (UBC Okanagan, former teacher, high energy, teaching at UBC, international speaker) has committed to coming to Byrne Creek to work with teachers, helping to develop inclusive strategies and co-plan and co-teach a lesson with teachers observing; his goal is to focus on building content literacy and self-regulated learning; teachers are excited; hope this will continue in years ahead
- School renaming committee will be actively working towards the rename process; May 29 meeting; hopefully update the June meeting

CHAIR’S REPORT – MICHELLE KRYWOLT

The next Council meeting is June 1. It’s the last meeting of the year and there will be a social before the meeting – refreshments, the jazz band will play. The social will start at 6:30PM with the meeting at 7PM. We will be electing officers at the Annual General Meeting; anyone interested in an elected position, please spread the word. Participation in the Council is a great way to get to know the school, get to know what’s going on.

TREASURER’S REPORT –SAM NELSON

Balances in the current accounts:

- General account – just over \$1,400 balance
- Gaming account –just over \$27,000 balance

DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DPAC) REPORT

Additional provincial funding has been provided to address the teacher arbitration wage gap. As a result, the projected \$9.4 million shortfall for the Burnaby School District will be fully covered and will not have an impact on the district's operating budget.

PARENT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

We have international students at Byrne Creek. The number of students has decreased, but we do have some. Some stay for only one semester and some stay for the entire year. The number of federal visas allowed have gone down.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on June 1, 2026. Meeting adjourned 8:05 PM. [Updated to June 8, 2026 at a later date.]

Questions, Comments, Thoughts or Suggestions?

Email the Byrne Creek Community Council

bynecreekcc@gmail.com