

# BYRNE CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MEETING MINUTES

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Date:	February 2, 2026
Time:	7:00 PM
Acting Chair	Michelle Krywolt
Note-taker:	Tasha Murray
Attendance:	Ben Paré (Principal), Janet Salvador (Member at Large), Michael Tanaka (Member at Large), Manvinder Kaur (DPAC representative), Michelle Krywolt (Chair), Sam Nelson (Treasurer), Sarah LaBrash (Teacher), Tasha Murray (Secretary), and 5 parents/community members
Regrets	Bal Dhillon (Community School Coordinator)

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The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M.

### INTRODUCTIONS

A round of introductions was completed for Council Executives and staff present. Michelle provided a land acknowledgement.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

Motion made to approve the meeting agenda (motion Lily/seconded Janet/approved). Motion made to approve the January 2026 minutes (motion Michael/seconded Tasha/approved). Minutes from previous months are available on the [Community Council webpage on the school website](#).

### STAFF PRESENTATION – SARAH LABRASH, BYRNE CREEK TECH LEAD, ON “BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE” PILOT PROJECT

Sarah Labrash, the school’s technology lead, supports staff and students in addressing day-to-day technology needs and is helping implement the school’s evolving Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program. After several pilot phases, the program now focuses on senior students (Grades 11 and 12) with the goal of building digital literacy through regular, purposeful classroom use for research, writing, and communication.

To ensure equitable access – critical to the program’s success – students may bring their own devices or borrow one from the district for the semester, with all devices meeting standard specifications (e.g., laptop with adequate storage, memory, and required software). While BYOD may increase screen time, the emphasis is on responsible, intentional use under the district’s Digital Acceptable Use Agreement.

Students are responsible for maintaining and securing their devices, including keeping them charged and updated. Device distribution will occur over the next two weeks, with returns scheduled for June. The initiative also aims to reduce reliance on shared laptop carts, allowing greater access for junior grades.

## **COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR – MICHELLE KRYWOLT FOR BAL DHILLON**

Most community school coordinators belong to the Association for Community Education of BC (ACE-BC). A strong focus at the school continues to be social-emotional learning (SEL), supporting students in developing key interpersonal and self-regulation skills. ACE-BC is currently developing a SEL course, with plans for completion by the end of the school year. There is a goal for all community partners to take the course, which will be available to Byrne Creek parents by September.

In addition, the school is planning a parent forum in May, where all parents will be invited to engage in open discussion around school goals, climate, and emerging concerns, with the aim of strengthening collaboration between families and school staff.

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – BEN PARÉ**

Happenings at the school:

- Winter formal dance was held last week was a big success for students and went well according to staff present
- Lift Every Voice, a singing concert as part of Black History Month held at Burnaby Central; some Byrne Creek students participated.
- Chemistry 11 Escape Room – a fun, competitive assignment created by Ms. Virani
- Open House held last week – grade 7 and prospective parents; 25% of staff meeting with families and students explaining Byrne Creek programs
- Seniors Night for basketball team – recognizing grade 12 athletes

Upcoming events as part of Black History Month:

- Hogan's Alley Society walk – staff taking 10 students
- *Limbo For All* performance on February 18

Attendance among students is not as strong as staff would like it to be; department heads signed up for a webinar series "School Attendance Through the Principals' Lens"; Ben tracked attendance patterns for a week during October. Trends noticed:

- Attendance lower in period 1
- Attendance even lower in period 1 on Wednesdays (right before flex)
- Attendance improves throughout the day
- Higher absenteeism on Fridays
- We have more students than other Burnaby schools who are chronic absentees (don't come to school for weeks at a time); in these cases, staff will go to the home; sometimes students or families struggle with mental health issues or other complex challenges
- In general, fewer kids are missing school in the Burnaby School District compared to the rest of the province

Staff are actively working to improve student success, recognizing that attendance challenges are complex and often influenced by broader social and family factors, with no single or simple solution.

Some questions arose about the recent fire in the foods room. A teacher was moving items, and a cardboard box was placed on an active oven element, which ignited. A sprinkler located directly above activated; however, a broken clamp prevented it from being shut off, resulting in significant water damage over approximately 45 minutes. The building was evacuated. Classes have not been impacted overall, though the foods room will be out of commission until after spring break.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT – MICHELLE KRYWOLT**

Nothing to report.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT –SAM NELSON**

2 accounts:

- General account – \$287 PAC operating grant was received; 2 cheques written for teachers' coffee, Mimi leaving gift, office staff coffee; just over \$1400 remaining
- Gaming account – 2 cheques haven't cleared; just over \$28,000 remaining, hoping most expenses will be paid out by June

### **DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DPAC) REPORT – MANVINDER KAUR**

DPAC is working on a new constitution and bylaws to be presented at the end of the month. Nothing else to report.

### **PARENT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

*Byrne's Got Talent* is essentially a talent show. The top 2 competitors go the *Burnaby's Got Talent*, at Michael J. Fox later in the year. Tickets are available for a small cost.

Name change update: At the end of January, the Indigenous Council met with the district and agreed to proceed with a name change. Work is now underway to better understand historical land use and determine which Nation may be most appropriate to support the process.

Ben offered to present at future meetings anything of interest. The next meeting will feature a teacher speaker on SOGI, and the Robotics Team will visit in April.

Crosswalk towards Stride: Sam will write the City to request updates to safety at that crosswalk. Counsellor Daniel Tetrault has helping with costs for use of Rosemary Brown by students, and might be helpful on this issue.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on April 13, 2026. Meeting adjourned 8:07 PM.

*Questions, Comments, Thoughts or Suggestions?*

*Email the Byrne Creek Community Council*

[bynecreekcc@gmail.com](mailto:bynecreekcc@gmail.com)