

Banting PAC meeting - April 23, 2020

Participants: Principal Trask, Vice-principle McMahon, Lucky Saini, Noelene Ahern, Marit Heideman, Christina DeBruyn, Taya Crawley, Claire Wheeler, Mimi Barham, Shelia Roberts, Bonnie Hall

Agenda and Minutes from previous meeting approved by Claire Wheeler.

Principal's report

- Welcome back by Principal Trask.
- The school has frequent meetings with teachers and student services to improve teaching in new reality of online learning.
- The community has been very supportive, parents and students have shown great patience and understanding; the school had to make big changes to its Modus Operandi and protocols.
- BYOD/ familiarity among students with Office365 helped a lot in transitioning to online learning. It is a steep learning curve, but the teachers and school are adjusting along the way.
- School support staff (Educational Assistants) are helping out. Some are doing house calls to help with internet connections and computers for some struggling families. Also helping to provide food to families in need.
- District follows public health officer's lead. The school and district are also in touch with Fraser Health.
- Return-to-school date is unknown, principal Trask is aware of rumors of a June return date that is going around. The principal does not know what a return would look like (e.g. breaking up of groups, hours per day).
- Next week: starting with gradual entry of some vulnerable students to come in one-by-one for learning support. School has stringent protocols regarding social distancing and strict cleaning protocols.
- Planning for next year is ongoing, the entry of new Grade 5's and the exit of current Grade 8's.
- Numbers for next year: projected 510 students – 60% English and 40% French (12 and 8 divisions respectively). Some international students may join the school (15 students expected).
- Status Quo in terms of class sizes next year: 25-26 students per class.
- The format of the Grade 8 leaving ceremony is not yet known and will depend on the advisories by the public health officer.
- The school has cancelled most field trips, but some June trips have not been cancelled yet. The school is working on refund for Quebec Grade 7 trip and is hoping to send the students to Quebec next year instead.

BYOD Survey

- 20% of parent community responded (102 students), majority French immersion parents, mostly Grade 6 students.
- 72 school devices have been handed out.
- The survey has been shared with staff.

- Planning for next year: bootcamp week to introduce students to online working (e.g. will bring in White Hatter to teach about Internet safety). New students will of course now have some online learning experience due to current health situation.
- Ramping up some resources for incoming Grade 5s: computer and online safety
- Student leaders were asked to meet with their Team and report back on pro's and con's on BYOD and having computers available for everyone. Principal talked to Green Team (might be a bit skewed; as students may not want to speak up)
 - Pro's: Access to work always available, feel connected at home and school; more organized than using the Binder; conservation of paper; sharing of work is simpler; teaming on project
 - Con's: short on school computers; not everyone is equal with type of device they have; some own computers but use school computers (not fair)
- Identified a need for the school teams to be consistent and to not have too many different platforms that could confuse students.
- Communicate with parents what is being changed as a result of the Survey.
 - Vice Principals agrees, but don't know what September is going to look like. Need to figure out how to be flexible; e.g. what do Grade 5's already know and can they use Teams etc.

Treasurer's Report

- Not much has happened since last meeting; spent some money on yoga days and hip hop.
- \$33,000 in total that we can spend or move forward to next year.
- \$5,000 in Gaming account that should be spent this year. The outdoor classroom has been on the school's wish list since the new school was planned.
 - Neighborhood is changing; need space to build extra classrooms/ Annex/portables; and need to know where on schoolgrounds this would be happening before we put in an outdoor classroom so that it does not need to be moved;
 - Site has been approved by the district (near the main entrance, next to the basketball courts);
 - District estimate of \$8,000 for site prep (levelling, drainage, cement path); then picnic tables can be placed.
 - Wooden tables would not be appropriate so resin or concrete would go for \$2,000 each after taxes; \$18-20k for site preparation plus 5 tables
- Principal does not expect any other expenses coming up for this year; enough technology for teachers is available.
- Question: PAC gaming grant allowed to carry forward? Community gaming grants can be carried forward for 3 years but there have been partial carryovers for the last few years.
- Blinds for the school still needed? Budget \$3,600; the principal confirms that blinds are no longer needed for school.
- General account: carried over \$15,000 from 2019-2020; in 2018-2019 carried over \$5,400 general account and \$1,200 gaming account; in 2017-2018 carried over \$9,500 from the General account and \$1,600 from gaming account.
- Decision is made to spend the money on the Outdoor classroom this year. Motioned and seconded to spend about \$18,000 on the outdoor classroom.

- \$5,000 from Gaming account and the rest from the General account
- This will still allow about \$15 000 PAC funds to be carried over to next year.
- Teacher appreciation: Principal Trask discussed that it may not be very responsible to have a food option for the teachers this year; we will need to think outside the box this year; further brainstorming needed. Considerations:
 - \$250 budgeted for this year
 - Last year cash donations were \$280; spent about \$500
 - Public health officer may not approve food options
 - Possibly need to spread it out over a number of days
 - Teacher/ kid drive-by parade instead of a lunch could be an option
- Grade 8 BBQ: no thoughts on this yet, as the district is still considering options. A decision will depend on public health officer, who needs to provide/update advice on group gatherings. It might not happen this year.

Next meeting maybe in a month, depending on the situation.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.