

Banting PAC meeting October 9, 2019

Participants: Principal Trask, Vice-principal McMahon, Noelene Ahern (PAC President), Mimi Yui (PAC Treasurer), Marit Heideman (PAC Secretary - minutes), Sheila Robertson, Christina Debruyne, Sandra Niven, Claire Wheeler, Maureen Bolli, Roxanne Abel, Jenn Manning, Catherine Knaus, Yvette Easter, Christine Baker.

Meeting opens at 6.35pm.

Sandra motions to approve September minutes, Noelene seconds.

(Vice-) Principal's report

- Totem poles are mounted in the school near the office.
- Parking lot is almost ready, some repaving has to happen.
- No more structural work for the school left.
- Bought speakers for TV's, all teams can sign those out.
- Today's assembly (speaker was Jerome) saw some behaviour that was un-Banting-like, which was surprising, Principal Trask and Vice-principal McMahon had to talk to the kids about expectations and behaviour.
- Residential school survivor will be talking to the classes in coming weeks.
- School-wide dance: the school is arranging to have a dance troop coming to school. They are also looking into martial arts, and possibly a break-dancer who wants to come to the school.
- Bring Your Own Device (BYOD): the school has handed out 53 devices. Converting some of current school devices to BOYD. More demand for school devices than last year, and there are currently some students waiting to get the extra devices. All devices handed out last year did come back. Kids are taking care of the devices.
- Outdoor classroom: school will possibly get an annex in the future, as the neighborhood is expanding around the school. The school wants to build an outdoor classroom but needs to hold off till the spring until decisions about the Annex are finalized. Need concrete or thick resin benches for the outdoor classroom.
- Banting wear: 106 pieces bought. Call from a parent about PST on wear for school aged children. Mr. Trask has contacted the company, and explained that parents are not paying PST, even though it looks on the website that parents pay for it. Company is hoping to change the order process for next year.
- Overall, the school is really happy with the year so far, students are overall behaving and mature. The last teacher vacancy is filled.
- Question from parent: what other activities are being offered other than volleyball? Field hockey did not have enough interest, swim club was similar. Cross country is still being organized for the fall. Other activities will be scheduled in winter and spring. Terry Fox run has been moved to April (to align with Cancer month). Terry Fox Foundation gives the possibility to do the run in September or April. The school likes to get a speaker for the Terry Fox run, which is easier to arrange in the spring, and there are fewer other activities scheduled in the spring to have to compete with.

Treasurer's report

- Gaming grant was granted \$10,180.

- Cheque for student incentives will be given to the school.
- Cheque from lunch lady received for last year - \$253.75 (started in January, 725 lunches were ordered).
- Request for family donations has gone out. Email from School Cash Online was sent today, it said 'Reminder', but appears to be the first email. Principal Trask will address how to make a donation through School Cash Online, as it might be a bit unclear, especially to new Grade 6 parents. Principal Trask will also include details on ordering for the Lunch Lady, as well as a reminder for early dismissals next week and parent-teacher interviews. Principal Trask reminds parents that they can always meet with a teacher and do not have to wait for these early dismissal days.

Pizza Day

- The first pizza day was a bit confusing regarding start times.
- Students had to wait a little bit, but were good about it.
- Next pizza day is November 1, 2019.

Other business

- The PAC has an account (no. 209) at Blue Mountain Recycling if parents want to donate to the school while recycling bottles and cans.
- Christmas gift cards: fundraiser at value for gift cards. Claire and Jenn are willing to set that up but are looking for new volunteers to take over next year. Done through paper order form, out by beginning of November, so that cards can be handed out by mid-November. Gift cards will be coming home with kids. Could possibly be set up through School Cash Online but need to look into that. Details to follow.
- Family Photo night: similar to what is organized at Glenayre (17/18 Oct. 2019), which sells out every year. Should the PAC be looking into that for Banting? Suggestions were made for a Spring event, Outdoor or Grade 8 photo options. Principal Trask received an offer from a good photographer. Glenayre photographer offers 2 scenes (Christmas and more plain background). PAC will obtain more information on possibilities for various options.
- Question from parent: what happened at the assembly today? The assembly had a speaker on personal and life choices, drug addiction. The speaker was a quadriplegic and spoke relatively quietly. Some students had problems to focus on the presentation. Mr. Trask and Ms. McMahon talked afterwards for 20 minutes to address student behavior. Principal Trask also showed prime minister Harper's 2008 speech regarding residential schools. The teaching staff was released to talk about new Individual Education Plans (IEP), hence the reason for a 2 hour assembly. The parent suggested a little more communication on what was being discussed, so that the parents could have a discussion with their child beforehand on expectations and behaviour.
 - One of the next speakers will be an RCMP officer and will be talking about vaping on October 23. It will not be as long of an assembly.
 - Kids have to learn how to behave (etiquette) in an assembly, some students were lying on the floor or braiding hair.
 - During today's assembly, students did have some very good questions.

Next Meeting -13 November, 6:30pm