

Banting PAC meeting - September 23, 2021

Participants: Principal Trask, Vice-principal Bain, Noelene Ahern (PAC Chair), Marit Heideman (PAC Secretary), Stan Wylie (PAC Treasurer), Sheila Robertson, Christina DeBruyn, Claire Wheeler, Paul Moersch, Anita, Celeste Boyce, Christina Barnsley, Diane S., Masuma Amin, Tina Olan, Lori McGrath, Michelle Wronski, Karen, Christa, Maria Faccio, Z. Bahrami, Abbas & Farah, Jennifer Sing,

- Intro to Banting PAC by Noelene (PAC Chair); where to find information on web

Agenda and Minutes from previous meeting approved by Stan Wylie, seconded by Marit Heideman.

Principal's and vice-principal's report

- Welcome by principal Trask; introduction of himself to new parents.
- Welcome by vice-principal Bain; Introduction of herself to parents. Vice-Principal Bain joined Banting Middle School in September 2021.
- School access for parents is still limited, but parents can reach out to the teachers and (vice-) principal by phone or email.
- School had to reorganize as incoming & returning student number projections were off. Went from 22 projected divisions to 21 divisions. As a result, had to delay the start of exploration schedules, as well as gym classes.
 - French Immersion classes did not see many changes.
 - Classroom requests were honoured to the extent possible, though cannot accommodate all.
- Covid protocols:
 - No more Cohort start/end schedules.
 - School has various entrances/exits that are used to space students when entering/exiting school.
 - Pre-covid, students were allowed to enter the building before school to socialize, currently not possible, so students meet outside. Enter/exit building in controlled matter.
 - Kids are respectful of each other's space at lunch time, and inside and outside the building.
 - Masks are worn inside the school. Some teachers have transparent barriers in their classrooms and are able to take masks off (in particular Second Language teachers).
 - Lockers: will start a pilot project with the Grade 8 students, and adjust roll-out based on experiences.
 - Platooning & working as part of a team: group of students and teachers that are working together to do projects (e.g. green, silver, gold team).
 - Platooning: 4 teachers in total - 2 teachers will teach math and science, 2 other teachers will teach social science and English. Teachers will switch classes to teach their course.
 - Classes are not being mixed yet. Also no big assemblies yet.
 - Q: what is the government notification system re: Covid going to look like?

- A: Notification to go out to the specific (entire) classroom, particular individuals may be contacted by Fraser Health. There will be more to come on this issue. School is guided by Fraser Health on this topic.
 - Q: Just wondering if you will really be emphasizing daily health checks? Obviously kids staying home when sick is very important. Will there be any Covid vaccination clinics happening this year? Or any other info you have about how many students are vaccinated/unvaccinated?
 - Grade 6/7 (regular) vaccinations will be happening this year.
 - No word on Covid vaccinations in the school.
 - Q: Are there plexiglass barriers between students and teacher in every classroom?
 - A: No, that is a teacher choice. Currently, only 3 teachers have a barrier.
 - There are no teachers (and staff members) exempt from wearing masks. Masks are to be worn at all times.
- Band and sports:
 - Band program will be up and running. Parents will need to make arrangements for instrument rental. Beginner/ Advanced band will start beginning October. More information will be provided by Mr Kantola. Forms will be available from him or at the school office.
 - Inter-school sports will not be happening yet, only intra-school athletics. Volleyball will start, no swim team this year.
- Bring Your Own Device School: many kids have already brought in their devices. School devices are being handed out. Devices are loaned out to kids as well as being used in the classrooms.
- Upcoming dates:
 - Pro-D day This Friday September 24, 2021; teachers will be working on school goals (i.e., numeracy, Indigenous curriculum, social emotional development), as well as shifting to proficiency grades (from letter grades).
 - September 30: National Truth and Reconciliation Day (new statutory holiday)
 - October 1: Orange Shirt day
- Classroom supplies: classroom supply list is on the website, but principal Trask encourages to buy supplies as needed (to avoid left-overs at the end of the year).
- Dress code: need to revisit the current dress code. Middle schools usually have a dress code. Schools are a professional learning environment. Banting Middle revised the dress code 4/5 years ago to be more gender neutral and address body shaming. One code included not to show mid-riff (and exposed buttocks, pectorals, and breasts), which may need to be revised based on current trends. Principal Trask is looking for input in particular about mid riff/ crop-tops in the school setting.
 - Q: what about wearing hoodies (part of the dress code)?
 - In the classroom the teacher can decide whether kids can wear the hood. In hallways kids should not be wearing the hood, as the school staff should be able to identify students. Suggestion is to remove the word 'hoodie' from the dress code (leave the words 'hat' and 'hood')
 - Suggestion to survey the kids on the topic of mid riffs/ crop tops.
 - Suggestion to write clear guidelines in the dress code.
 - Suggestion that the school can set boundaries.

Treasurer's Report

- Summary of the treasurer's report. Current balances in all accounts (general, gaming, and school-based account) are the same as at the end of June, 2021.
- Budget for 2021/22 shared.
 - Gaming account: budget is approximately \$10,500 based on 500 students (school has 536 students)
- Hot lunch program did not run last year, not included in the budget for 2021/22.
- Marit motions to approve the budget, Michelle Wronski seconds. Budget for coming year is approved.

PAC Activities

- Parent Donation: completely anonymous, in lieu of various fundraising activities throughout the year. Brings a significant amount of money to the PAC. Donations can be done through School Cash Online.
- Pizza lunch: due to Covid protocols not possible yet this year. Claire Wheeler has been running this program, but will be leaving Banting after this school year. A new volunteer would be necessary to continue, if SD43 health guidelines allow.
- Q: will the Lunch Lady come back?
 - A: also not possible yet given Covid protocols. Lunch Lady has unfortunately gone out of business. (Update post meeting – new Lunch Lady contact has been identified and will be contacted.)
- Q: can pizza lunches be organized per class?
 - A: yes, this is possible, as long as the pizzas are in individual boxes.
- Sports and activities /field trips that require (bus/car) transportation are not possible yet due to Covid Protocols. Walking field trips are allowed.
- Q: are class lists available?
 - A: these can be requested through the classroom teacher or through the principal.
- Will there be a Terry Fox run? Or a meet the teacher event?
 - Yes, the Terry Fox run will be on 12 April.
- Meet the teacher event will probably be a remote event; school is in the midst of planning this.
- What school sports are anticipated for the year?
 - Cross country running, volleyball, wrestling (at present probably not), basketball, badminton.
 - Ski and snowboard club will need to be assessed.
 - Sports are dependent on teachers to volunteer as coach. Sometimes need to rely on parent volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 8.05 pm. Next meeting October 20, 2021.

- Post-meeting discussion on Traffic situation around the school. To notify the City of Coquitlam of traffic complaints, parents can email: epw@coquitlam.ca (engineering department).