

## Banting PAC meeting - January 19, 2022

**Participants:** Principal Trask, Vice-principal Bain, Noelene Ahern (PAC Chair), Marit Heideman (PAC Secretary), Stan Wylie (PAC Treasurer), Christina DeBruyn, Aliz Nagy, Jessica Liao, Masuma, Sheila Robertson, Eileen Espinoza, Catherine Knaus, Diane Squeo, Paul Moersch, Michelle Wronski, Claire Wheeler, Shabnam Ashrafi, Lori, Gatin Family, Alison Janes, Joanne, Olga Munteanu, Analia

6.30pm - Meeting opening and Indigenous territory acknowledgement by Principal Trask.

Agenda and Minutes from previous meeting approved by Stan Wylie, seconded by Paul Moersch.

### Principal's and vice-principal's report

- School is preparing for Grade 8 students leaving, and Grade 5 students entering the school next school year.
  - Cross-catchment applications: the school calendar indicates when cross-catchment applications are starting (February 4-9, 2022). The available spots are allocated to students through a lottery. French immersion kids will automatically be enrolled in Charles Best. For kids in the English program, cross-catchment applications are quite hard. If parents have specific questions, they are invited to call Principal Trask to get some more information on the process.
- Sports & activities:
  - Basketball will next week start for Gr 6,7, and 8. Will only be in-house games, no travel to other schools.
  - Badminton will start March- April
  - Band will continue as is.
  - Question regarding enrollment for sports activities: activities are mentioned on the announcements, and information is available on the school website. There is no middle school soccer, but that will be available in high school. Wrestling is canceled (due to Covid), there will be track and field later in the spring.
- Covid update:
  - First week after the winter break was used to prepare the classrooms, improve the flow in the classrooms, and space desks.
  - Entrance/exits as well as break and lunch times are staggered. Outside kids are divided into zones. Kids are not allowed to hang out before/after school.
  - First week of school was also used to prepare for functional closures, to make sure that teachers would be able to teach remotely.
  - Lockers are put on hold.
    - A parent shared a concern that without lockers, backpacks and laptops are often on the floor, which could lead to damage to laptops. The parent states that the school does not care or assume liability. Principal Trask shares that most students put laptops in their backpacks or store them on their desk. The parent is encouraged to address this issue with Principal Trask individually.
  - School is monitoring daily student absences per class as well as total in the school. The school reports to Fraser Health regarding absences. Currently fewer staff absences than

before Omicron, and student absences are also not excessive in most classes. There are other students absences due to medical appointments or sports activities.

- The school does not know vaccination status of students.
- Question regarding the enforcement of students wearing masks and students with mask exemptions – 95% of students wear their masks properly, there are a few students with medical needs who are allowed to leave the room (alone) to (temporarily) take their mask off for a breather. There are very few medical exemptions.
  - The school is giving students regular reminders to wear their masks.
- Question regarding distance learning
  - The school can accommodate children who stay home, but unfortunately there are currently no online learning/ teaching opportunities, in particular for French (or Mandarin) Immersion students.
- Question – I have kept my child home for the past 2 weeks, how long can I keep on doing that? Will my child be negatively treated by their teacher for missing more time than others?
  - The school would never judge a parent on keeping their child home under the current circumstances. Should a child be negatively affected/treated, the parent should contact the school administration.
- Question – could the PAC help with supplying N-95 masks for the school? Given that N-95 masks are disposable after 1-2 weeks' use, the school would need a significant supply on a weekly basis. The District has committed to supply 3-layer masks for all students & staff but nothing is available yet. Principal Trask consulted (in real-time) with the District whether the school is allowed to accept a supply from an out-side source.
  - The school can accept N-95, but they need to be a brand approved by Health Canada.
- Report cards went home in December, through the MyEd portal. The report cards used a proficiency scale. The school noted a number of families who struggled to have access to the portal. The school is curious to hear parents' experiences.
  - A parent states that the portal is not the most user friendly and that it is hard to find the information/ report card (pdf).
  - Another parent mentioned that the password to the portal needs to be changed every 3 months. Principal Trask and Vice-principal Bain mention that this is due to privacy concerns.
  - How will the proficiency scale impact application to the IB program (i.e., the teacher does not provide 'extending' no matter the grade or effort on projects)? Vice-principal Bain explained that all schools should use the same scale and should be able to understand report cards in terms of acceptance. The proficiency range is also quite big, so students can be on the higher end of the range.
- Digital awareness parent presentation by Dave Sands and Rob Heinrichs on January 26 – information will be distributed through email. Inform and engage parents regarding their children's use of technology, addiction to screen time, how to keep children safe.
- School goals:
  - Executive functioning: Student input will be sought on functioning and awareness in school setting.

- More information will be forthcoming regarding the other school goals: Indigenous engagement & Math

### Treasurer's Report

- The PAC treasurer provided an update on incoming parent donations and spending in December 2021.
- The PAC spent some funds on Jujitsu & Classroom supplies
- The Gaming account has some restrictions in terms of carrying over funds (up to 3 years). Thoughts for spending some of the funds are welcome.
- PAC contribution to N-95 masks, the PAC will provide the school with some details. 20 masks are available for \$26 / \$500 for 440 alternative masks.
  - Question: how long would we aim to provide these for? And who would these be provided to? The fit of N-95 masks is of utmost importance to assure their efficiency.
    - These masks are recommended in other provinces and are hard to find and should be available to parents who are having a hard time sourcing them.
    - Comment: N-95 are harder to breathe through and are not that comfortable. Kids may not want to wear them for an entire day.
  - The PAC will provide a couple boxes to the school for staff and school on a trial basis.

### PAC Activities

- Hot lunches (Lunch Lady and Pizza lunches) are put on hold given the current Covid circumstances.
- Claire Wheeler has volunteered to coordinate the Grade 8 leaving ceremony.

Meeting adjourned at 8.00 pm. Next meeting February 16, 2022.