

Banting PAC meeting - September 3, 2020

Participants (maximum at one point: 50 participants):

Banting Middle School: Principal Bill Trask, Vice-principal Gen McMahon

PAC: Noelene Ahern, Stan Wylie, Lucky Saini, Marit Heideman (minutes)

Port Moody MLA: Rick Glumac

Parents: Heidi Fraser, Nancy Wong, Krystal Francisco, Aliz Nagy, Amy Lam, Sheila Robertson, Andrea Pope, Barbara, Binny Foo, Martina, Vicki Bowman, Carly Harrison, Catherine Knaus, Christine Baker, Roxanne Abel, Christian, Christina Debruyne, Claire Wheeler, Corry Laycock, Cristina Mrin, Dana Herdman, Dougie Stewart, Emma Barona, Gabriel Berki, Gary Rosborough, Grimoaldo Assuncao, Jen Sing, Jen Fullerton, Justin, Kathy Lee, Kari Gustafson, Kristina Barnes, Krystal Francisco, Lisa Infanti, Laura Hasthorpe, Mathieu Breau, Michael Fullerton, Mimi Lee, MrChip!!!?, Nancy Wong, Prasanth Kiran, Selena Liu, Tara Worth, Tine Paterson, Viktor Danylenko, Clara Kolda, Youngsook Lee, Zhao

Meeting opened at 7pm.

Agenda and Minutes from previous meeting (AGM) approved by Claire Wheeler. Seconded by Sheila.

Principal's report

- Welcome back by Principal Trask.
- Meeting provides an opportunity to reduce anxiety over the school start.
- Provincial government has been very efficient in getting information out in real-time. School Board and Superintendent are responding to the same information parents are getting.
- D-PAC put out an excellent letter out, the PAC has put out this letter on Facebook, Principal Trask will send it out to parents.
- Principal Trask has a list of questions from parents and will address the big questions first.

School-based gradual transition program

- Provincial health officer wants kids back to school, which is the provincial mandate.
- About 90% of people who responded to the Survey will send their kids back to school.
- Phase III / hybrid learning (i.e. what teachers did in June 2020) was not an efficient way of teaching and learning for the students, this is not a sustainable practice.
- Flexibility regarding schooling: Home-schooling and strictly online learning (SD43 normally has ~30-40 online students) are options which would mean your child is not enrolled at Banting, and parents are fully responsible for their child's education when they choose to home-school.
 - There is no online French program currently.
- School-based gradual transition program is a partly online service SD43 is offering to students, which allows kids to come back to school part-time. This option aims to have kids back in the school at some time in the future (e.g. as an adjustment to individual and/or medical situation). Teachers will not do hybrid learning in this situation.

- School-based gradual transition is a new flexible option (still being further developed by SD43): SD43 has created a package (according to the curriculum) for students who are anxious to come back to school and do not want to come back full time yet. The student would be connected to their classroom, but would not receive hybrid learning, the parents would have to support the student. The classroom teacher would only assess the materials handed in for marking. Students who choose this option would still be enrolled at Banting, and will receive a report card.

Discussion based on questions:

- School will be open full-time, with some altered start/end times.
- Would student be behind if they re-enter the school? This is a possibility. There may be a disconnect with what the in-class teacher has been teaching and what the child has been doing using the district learning package.
- Class sizes: English: ~25-26 students; French: ~27-28 students
- No physical distancing of 6 feet possible in classrooms. School will encourage outdoor teaching as much as possible. Outdoor teaching is up to the individual teacher.
- To reduce movement in hallways, exploration teachers will be coming to the students, instead of students moving to their rooms.
 - Students will remain in their classrooms. Students will sit at opposite ends of tables, if there are no separate desks in the classroom.
 - No plexiglass shields installed in the classrooms, except for some immune-compromised teachers.
 - Teachers will remain with their class, there will be no partner teachers for the time being.
- Masks are not mandatory in the classroom (when with their cohort) but will be required when outside the classroom in public areas.
 - School is supplying masks. Kids can bring an extra one from home.
- No lockers this year. Students will keep their backpacks in their classroom and need to bring only the minimum each day. No sharing of supplies.
 - School will provide guidance on what to bring to school.
- Security: classes will be locked when students are not in the classroom.
- BYOD – information will be sent out for students who need to borrow a device.
- Class schedule: classroom teachers will make up a class schedule.
- Transition Program may not be fully developed until the second week of school. Vice-principal McMahan will probably be the school contact for students who choose this option.
 - As the package is not developed yet, it is hard to know what to expect and how it aligns with the in-class teaching.
 - There may not be a French package available for some time.
 - Entry to/from the Transition Program into fulltime classroom can probably be fluid.
- Schedule for Thursday and Friday has been sent out. Principal Trask will send out a map and video to explain entry/exit to the building.
- Classes/teachers have not been announced yet and will be announced next week Friday or on the weekend.
- All classes are split between 6/7 grades and 7/8 grades.

- Principal Trask and Vice-principal McMahon are available to speak with parents on their individual situation.
- What if student in cohort gets infected? If someone is sick in the classroom (Covid or other), the school will turn it over to provincial health authority, who will advise on how to proceed. The school will already know who is in cohort, but province will do tracking and advise on that.
- Microwaves: there are 6 microwaves in common areas, but these will be moved. Fountains will be closed, but water bottle filling stations will be open and cleaned frequently. School is looking for a solution to have microwaves in each of the classrooms, e.g. lender microwaves until we are back in Phase I.
- Covid-like symptoms at home: parent would need to contact the health unit to get tested. There will be frequent reminders to self-monitor at the school, and reminders not to touch the face and frequent touch-points.
- Cleaning: there will be frequent cleaning, but it is not possible to clean bathrooms etc. between 2 groups going for lunch/recess. Bathrooms will be cleaned at least twice a day (probably more often).
- Entry to school: students will use hand sanitizer and then each class will wash their hands. When student/teacher leaves the room they will put on a mask and use hand sanitizer.
 - Gym equipment will be cleaned between cohorts.
- Lunch at home: the school is a closed campus. Students will eat lunch with their cohort. School would prefer kids not to go home for lunch as it requires more planning and tracking.
- Students with colds in the classroom: Vice-principal McMahon will send out guidelines from the provincial health authority on what to do in such a situation.
- Possibility for Hybrid teaching (i.e. like in June 2020): Principal Trask explained this is not considered a sustainable way of teaching and does not know of any District in the Metro Vancouver area that are offering this way of schooling.

Treasurer's report

- Tentative budget for 2020-2021 is shared
- PAC has two main incomes; the gaming grant and fundraising by the PAC. Fundraising mainly consists of parent contribution at the start of the year.
- Teacher appreciation and Grade 8 leaving ceremony were toned down this past June.
- Hot lunch: will need to discuss what is allowed and assess whether this is possible this year.

Parents are asked to send an email to the school if they choose not to attend the Thursday and Friday meetings at school.

Meeting adjourned at 8.20 pm.