

Banting PAC meeting - October 20, 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, Michelle Wronski, Farah Samadi, Christa Barnsley, Emily Lee, Jennifer Sing, Joanne, DS, Yvette Easter, D Squeo, Lori McGrath, Catherine Knaus, Paul Moersch, Joane Elsdon

Meeting opened by Principal Trask with an acknowledgement of the Indigenous Lands we are on.

Agenda and Minutes from previous meeting approved by Claire Wheeler, seconded by Marit Heideman.

Principal's and vice-principal's report

- School is very cognizant of movement in the school with regard to Covid-19 protocol.
- One class was on self-monitoring notice. Case originated outside of school.
- Taking Care of Others-squared: presentations to two classes at the time in the multi-purpose room. Presentations geared to 6/7 and 7/8 Grades. Presentation focused on self-awareness, sexual exploitation, and grooming.
 - Kids and teachers gave positive feedback on the presentations.
 - Last presentations on October 28.
- Curriculum & school goals: there will be some changes to the school's goals/focus:
 - Numeracy: developing mathematical and critical thinking skills
 - Self-regulation: Banting is a self-regulation 'Lab' school. Grade 6's appear to have some difficulties with self-regulation. The school has a sensory wall where the kids can go to have a break from the classroom setting. Classrooms also have exercise balls.
 - Indigenous learners and Indigenous art: this is a recurrent goal/focus at Banting. Integration of Indigenous learning into the curriculum.
- Reporting: shifting from grades to proficiency scale (4 level scale). Benefit of proficiency scale: creates better understanding of learning skills and conceptualize what a proficiency means in terms of learning.
 - Parent comment: kids are converting the proficiency scale to letter grades.
 - Grades do not necessarily reflect what a student knows or is capable of.
 - Elementary and Middle schools are all using Proficiency scales, high schools are moving toward the system as well.
 - Parent comment: the proficiency scale is meant to reinforce the concept of learning as being a lifelong journey, as opposed to "I'm not good at Math..."
 - Parent question: how does the assessment work? E.g., if my child would finish a reading it would be extending, otherwise it would just be proficient?
 - Good question to ask at a parent-teacher interview. Critical thought and effort contribute to an 'extending' mark.
- Parent portal (BC MyEd): Banting was a pilot school to be able to access your children's report cards, IEPs, attendance records online. All students will be set up with an account (which will not change all the way through high school). Grade 8 students will be able to elect high school electives through this portal.
 - Parent Question: how long will these records be available? During schoolyears, or also available after graduation (e.g., transcripts)?

- Principal Trask will inquire further into this question and provide more information.
- Hip-hop and Jiu jitsu classes are being organized for the students.
- 'Back to Normal' update:
 - Clubs running again this year: Tuesday home arts, library helpers, band, yearbook club, volleyball.
 - Also Grade 8's (Red team) are having access to lockers. Blue team is next.
 - Banting service award: if kids volunteer 7 hours per term, they will receive a 'Banting Service Award', which kids can put on their resume.
- Halloween:
 - Halloween trivia
 - Door decoration
 - Some activities are being organized and students can wear costumes to school.
- School-wide read: classes are reading Percy Jackson. There will also be a school-wide activity.
- Early dismissals: next week Tuesday and Wednesday (12.40pm). Parents can book a parent-teacher interview. Parents can meet with a teacher any time. The link will go live Thursday October 21 at 3pm.
- Pro-D day this Friday October 22, 2021.
- Parent comment regarding the use of planners in class and the 'planning club', it appears that the school/class expects students to have organizational skills and that students who do not have these skills naturally, are 'punished'/'shamed' by having to attend this planning club. The parent comments that these skills should be taught to all in an inclusive way.
 - Principal Trask explains that school planners were not being used in previous years, and decided to set up a system for those that require it. Students seem to have different methods of organization (e.g., on computer, taking pictures of the whiteboard, paper planners).
 - Parent comment: sent an email to the Green team teachers about planning/organization.
 - Are there any resources the school could put toward the issue of planning, organization, and executive functioning skills?
 - Principal Trask will bring this feedback to his peers for input.
 - Parent suggestion: program by Sara Ward and the 'Get Ready, Do, Done' model might be able to help.
- Parent question: what are the rules and regulations regarding break and lunch time? Kids appear to spend time on their laptops.
 - Kids have to choose between staying indoors or go outside. Kids who stay inside are not allowed to use electronic devices. Kids need a PED-pass to be able to work on their device. The Gold team teachers have allowed some the kids who stay inside on rainy days to work on their homework (e.g., Minecraft exercise).
- Parent question: how does everyone feel about the Grade 7 FSA's?
 - Parent: last year no one seemed to write the FSA's and there was a lot of covid stress.
 - Can be useful data to get an image of how students in a school are generally performing.
 - Last year about 50% did not write the test, this year about 30% will not write it.

- Tests are not marked by the teachers, but by a group of educators not related to the school.

Treasurer's Report

- No activity over the past month.
- Gaming grant (\$9,700) was received on October 14, 2021.

PAC Activities

Parent donations

- Typically receive \$4,500-\$5,000 a year.

Hot lunch – Lunch Lady

- The Lunch Lady that came to the school has closed due to Covid, but there is a new 'Lunch Lady'.
 - Parent volunteers will need to help out to distribute lunch the kids.
- Question: is it feasible to bring back the Lunch Lady?
 - Principal Trask: yes, it is possible, but would require parent volunteers.
 - PAC: will figure out more details and put out a call for parent volunteers.

New Business

- DPAC Meeting Announcement – October 27 at 7pm. If anyone is interested in attending they can contact the PAC for the meeting link and details.
- New Family Transition to Banting: a 'program/ support network' may be a good idea to welcome new families (not the usual Grade 6's) to the school and the area, and potential introduction to fellow students.
 - Comment: provide some info on the school website.
 - Language and cultural barriers: need for people who are able to provide information in another language (e.g., Farsi, Chinese)
- Private Grade 8 Quebec trip:
 - Not organized by the school, but by parents.
 - School organized trip was not able to go forward in 2020 and 2021.
 - Planned for May 2022, offered to Grade 8 FRIM students. A meeting is organized for Thursday October 21, 2021.
 - Set up through EF Tours.
- Question: will there be a gift card fundraiser this fall?
 - Last year ran a gift card fundraiser (big box stores and local businesses). Used School Cash Online to set this up, but cannot use this system again, and would have to collect money through cheques.
 - The reward for the school from the fundraiser was not significant and requires quite some effort to organize.
 - PAC advises not to go forward with this fundraiser, unless someone wants to volunteer.

Meeting adjourned at 8.05 pm. Next meeting November 17, 2021.