

MINUTES

Banting School Council

(Transcribed by Tracy Goodman)

Date / time March 17, 2021 | 5:30 pm | *Zoom Virtual Meeting called to order by:* Silvie MacLean

In Attendance

Amani Radhaa	Dale Jardine	Regrets:	John Dubois
Chris Francis	Richard Tamminga	Neil Banerjee	Jill-Ann Mabey
Laura Gonzalez	Silvie MacLean (C)	Cheryl Bovington	Mike Hanson
Nicholas Panhuis	Tracy Goodman	Jennifer Charleston	Raymond Yee
Amanda Stranton			Shelley Duben

Welcome and Introductions

Silvie welcomed all attendees.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest from any School Council members.

Approval of prior meeting minutes and Current Agenda

The minutes of February 17, 2021 and the agenda of March 17, 2021 were both approved.

Student Council Update (By Nicholas)

- Student Council is running an initiative to promote physical activity called “*Let’s Move March*”.
 - Thursday, March 18th and Friday, March 19th are crazy sock days in support of autism awareness.
 - Student Council is circulating an online survey to students called, “*Let’s Talk*”. It is a way for Student Council to better understand what students are going through during these unusual times and how they can help.
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Teacher Representative Update (by Chris)

Wellness Committee (from Trish Schram):

In February, the following activities and initiatives took place:

- Bell “*Let’s Talk*” day videos were provided to all classrooms
 - Mental Wellness challenge was held on Instagram
 - Anti-Racism poster contest to increase awareness of diversity, inclusion and equity
 - See it Pink (hallways decorated with balloons/interview on BTV/students wearing pink)
 - Black History Month celebrated via announcements and posters around the school
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In March, the following activities and initiative took/are taking place:

- 10 + classes participated in a virtual visit with the Red Cross Therapy Dogs (for mental wellness)
- International Day of Happiness Week - on Instagram and BTV news to spread kindness and happiness
- Upcoming potential awareness events will be around healthy eating/body image and International Transgender Day of Visibility.....and many more.

The Wellness Committee would like to encourage parents to follow them on Instagram @bantingwellness if they are interested in seeing what activities are being put on for students.

Character Education Awards: The awards continued for the months of January and February (perseverance and empathy). Pictures coming in the Banting newsletter. Over 25+ students have received nominations and certificates since we began in November. This is an uplifting way to congratulate students on being excellent role models and for exemplifying the wonderful human traits that we all need to be successful in life. Upcoming traits are responsibility (March), honesty (April), respect (May) and integrity (June).

Canadian Computing Competition (from Chris Francis): The results are back from the Canadian Computing Competition. Our top student, in grade 10, was second in London in the senior contest. Banting had two students receive distinction certificates for the senior contest and one student for the junior contest.

DECA (from Don Thody): Twenty-five students competed this year at the provincial level and two in leadership development sessions. All in virtual format and all grades represented. Banting had top 4 DECA performers.

Principal's Update (By Richard)

- Richard shared an update regarding the library construction. Construction is currently ahead of schedule. It is hoped that the library will be open for the first day of the 2021/2022 school year with a ribbon cutting ceremony targeted for mid-September. Collaborate; Discover; and Inspire logo (both in English and French).
- Voluntary asymptomatic COVID testing for students is available starting March 18th at Banting
- Re-cohorting to take place after Easter going into quadmester 4.
- Richard has submitted the enrollment projection for the 2021/2022 school year to the Board. It is projected that Banting will have approximately 1600 students in the fall.
- Richard is working on time/line allocation, course selection, staffing and scheduling for the 2021/2022 school year. The aim is to schedule staff for a full-day (as we had in the past prior to Covid-19).
- Richard advised that senior administration would like commencement ceremonies to be uniform across the Board.
- *"Coffee with the Principal"* is held once a month. Next date is March 31st at 12pm or 7pm. Zoom link is in the newsletter. Last month, eight parents participated.

TVPIC Update (By Laura)

- TVPIC did not meet in March 2021.
- Free virtual workshop, *"Emotion Focused Strategies to Support Your Adolescent"*, is scheduled for March 24th from 7pm-8:30pm.

Community Partners Update (By Amani on behalf of NWLRC)

- A wellness program has been changed to leadership series
- Leadership series is focused on youth empowerment is currently running and is well attended
- Employment Community Connector supports youth ages 15-29 years with employment
- A second job fair was held with 64 participants, 54 of which were youth
- Community clean-up is happening on March 20th in Medway Park and at Emily Carr Public School
- Hiring new position for Canada Connects to support newcomer families to be connected with established immigrants
- A Zoom meeting to celebrate the completion of our first year in Settlement Integration Services is scheduled for March 26th

New Business and Business Arising from Previous Meeting

- Student Council (SC) will discuss fundraising for grad t-shirts at its April meeting.
- A lengthy discussion was had with respect to use of the \$500 Parent Involvement Funds (“PIF”). Pre-circulated via email by S. Maclean was information regarding how PIF and PEF funds may be used.
- It was agreed to defer a decision whether School Council will apply in 2020/21 for PIF funds until the May meeting (note: School Council is not meeting in April).
- A discussion was had with respect to how School Council can engage parents through the school website (i.e., share positive news stories). Richard advised that the Banting website is TVDSB driven and it would be easier to spread information through social media platforms like Twitter and Instagram.
- School Council highlighted the successes of accomplished to date in 2020/21.
- Silvie noted the need for a permanent School Council secretary.

Action

- Nicholas to provide an update regarding Student’s Council decision on the Grad T-shirts.
- Silvie to develop interim draft of School Council Input regarding School Administration (“Principal Profile”) form due April 1, 2021. Silvie will prepare a draft and circulate to ask if there is additional input from others.
- Silvie reminded School Council members of the Board’s memo dated March 17, 2021 requesting input on the TVDSB’s budget for the 2021/2022 school year. Any School Council is invited to provide input directly.
- School Council members were encouraged to sign up through the Board’s website for email notifications of policy changes and requests for input.
- Richard was asked to clarify whether the class median of 97 in two courses on one student’s report card. He assumes this is an input error.
- A decision is required by School Council whether PIF funds for 2020/21 can be planned and used by the end of the school year.

Next Meeting

- The next School Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 19th at 5:30pm.