

Sir Frederick Banting Secondary School

School Council Meeting – February 9, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Attendance: Richard T, Amaris P (Student Rep), Erica L, Naheed R, Francis H, Zaina A, Azmat J, Chris F (Staff Rep); Amani R.

Regrets: Silvie M; Gregori, F; Neil B; Jennifer F; Aggie K.

Naheed chaired the meeting; we briefly reviewed the agenda for the meeting; and previous minutes were approved by the group.

Banting Updates

Principal Report (Richard) Banting students are excited to be back to full period days; they now have access to lockers. It will take some time for students to figure out that the seven-minute break between classes is not enough time to socialize. But everyone is excited, and the staff and students have been great.

Update on the bleachers: Banting was built in 1969 and the gym has the original bleachers. The bleachers will be replaced with plastic seats (hopefully) by the end of the school year. They will add to the curb appeal and will be more comfortable than the current bleachers.

Report cards will be read, signed, and sent to parents within the week.

Based on news reports, it's apparent that the province is slowly moving towards lifting COVID restrictions. Protests against these restrictions are picking up across the country, but students and staff at Banting remain cautious and continue to observe COVID protocols recognizing that safety for all is a priority. Overall, everyone wants to keep the programs going; and the school is proud of the students for taking precautions seriously.

Azmat: It's been a while since Banting has held in-person parent-teachers' meetings. When will this resume?

Richard: In-person meetings are not likely to resume this year. But teachers are encouraged to reach out to parents on a regular basis. As well, parents should feel welcome to reach out to teachers at anytime for updates or to address concerns. Parents can also connect with the Principal or Vice-Principal by email, who will then ensure communication with the teacher.

Sports activities are returning. Low contact sports are up and running; but high contact sports are returning in a staggered arrangement.

There was a recent follow up talk by a presenter named Aubrey, who addressed the question of seeing people as "colourblind." This talk was first presented to students and more recently to staff. The conversation was insightful for challenging the audience to think about the appropriateness of saying that they are colourblind when it comes to race.

Teacher Report (Chris): The semester is off to a great start; the band is playing, and a number of Clubs are up and running. Girl's volleyball has started; two of Banting's business club

students have been placed on the University of Waterloo honour roll. Because of COVID, some students have opted for remote learning to protect vulnerable family members.

Student Report (Zaina): A report is forthcoming in the near future.

Community-Partner Updates (Amani): On February 22nd the Northwest London Youth Council will host a university/college fair for grades 11 (and 12) students. The universities involved include Western, Waterloo, and Carleton. Students will hear about scholarships and bursaries.

The program is moving to a space close to the school that will be renovated. It will run a cooking program on Saturdays; youth will run this program for other youth, and it will be facilitated by volunteers and a youth worker. The program will offer a six-hour training session in food safety, and participants will receive a certificate at the end of the training. Valentina Torres, Youth Community Connector at Northwest London Resource Centre, will be registering volunteers.

Banting will offer fresh produce for families who need this, every Thursday for the next six weeks. Snacks for children and youth in need will also be available at lunch time.

Reminders from TVPIC/TVDS: looking for new members to represent families at the systems level.

Open discussion question: Is it possible to circulate a doodle poll for future meetings so the folks can have a range of meeting dates to choose from.

Richard noted that this may be a problem because the meeting dates are already posted, and meetings are open to school/community members.

Next Meeting – Wednesday March 2nd, 2022 @ 6:30 pm.