

MINUTES

Banting School Council

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

In Attendance

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

Welcome and Introductions

Silvie welcomed all attendees. Everyone was welcomed after not meeting since November.

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 November 19, 2020 and the Agenda of Feb 17, 2021 were both approved.

Dale Jardine volunteered to take the minutes for this meeting

Student Council Update (Nicholas Panhuis)

- Holiday video was created showcasing how Banting students were spending time during the lockdown.
 - Pink and Red on Thursday and Friday
 - A satisfaction survey is going out to all the student soon
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Teacher Rep. Update (Chris Francis)

- Ten (10) Banting students participating in the Canadian Computer Competition (run by University of Waterloo's Math and Computing departments) – 10 students from Banting participating
- Forty seven (47) Banting students participating in the 42nd Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) Provincial competition held Feb. 16-21. DECA is a not for profit student organization that encourages the development of business and leadership skills through academic conferences and competitions. Diverse competitions including multiple choice questions following an online case presentation.
- Two (2) students also participated in an online leadership training course presented by the UW School of Accounting and Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA) of Ontario.
- Banting are running a monthly Character Education Spotlight. Teachers are asked to nominate outstanding students in a variety of areas including: *Optimism, Kindness, Perseverance, Respect, Integrity,*

Empathy, Responsibility, Teamwork etc. Students are awarded a certificate and will have their name/photo published (with permission) in our Banting Newsletter. (Optimism recipients were acknowledged for November already).

- This has been a tough year for many students, and we wanted to highlight the great qualities that students are demonstrating despite the many challenges they have faced. Stay tuned for December, January, and February's winners in the areas of: *Kindness, Perseverance and Empathy*
- A Banting student won the OSSTF student achievement award for her artwork in both district 11 and the region. Her work went on to the provincial competition, where she unfortunately did not win, but it is still a great achievement to get to that level!
- Feedback from students regarding study groups or study pods is a result of students still becoming more familiar with the changes and feeling shy to ask for help. Slowly making progress.

Principal's Update (By Christine Holmes in Richard Tamminga absence)

- First presentation by the Principle over Zoom (12 noon and 7 pm two weeks ago). 2nd time had greater attendance. Next date February 26th
- Library construction is just about to start next week. Goal to be completed by the end of June. Library is temporary in the cafeteria (working out well)
- Secondary calendar was sent out today with March break change. Break moved to April 12-16.
- Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) brief update – field test this year done virtually March 23- May 21st for grade 10-11 students and non-graduate Grade 12. More information as it is released. Test will be two 1 hour sessions.
- Questions by John about “Class medium” being very high 97 class average

ACTION : Christine Holmes will have a look at the “Class Medium” and ensure it wasn’t an error in the report cards.

TVPIC Update (By Laura Gonzalez) (Silvie and Richard also on this committee)

- The TVPIC board reviewed the Mental Wellbeing initiative (Dr. Maisha Syeda and Dr. Colin King) reviewed. Links below for each program
- <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/emotion-focused-strategies-to-support-your-adolescent-registration-135096405987?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>
- <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/self-compassion-for-parents-parenting-during-a-global-pandemic-registration-135095711911?aff=erelexpmlt>
- Also discussed possibilities of an Indigenous Leader for the future.
- \$500 parent involvement fund grant, as well as a new \$1000 parent engagement fund. Historically the challenge is finding was to engage parent to utilize these funds. Funds needed to be use during the current school year. Application is not yet out, most likely we see it in March and we will submit for these funds for use during this school year.
- Budget discussion has started at the Board level. Timelines are up in the year this year due to Covid and Ministry irregularities in budget announcements.

ACTION: Silvie to seek more clarification regarding criteria and deadlines for PIF and PEF.

Community Partners Update (By Amani Radhaa)

- Amani wanted to say thanks for all the poster sharing as it had positive impact.

- Virtual Job Fair on Feb 25th. 5 pm to 7 pm - Targeting those between the ages of 15-29. Fair will include presentation for Employment and Volunteer opportunities.
- Wellness connection program – change the times, 2-30 to 330 for youth to connect the youth working NWLRC – low response, so moved to a Leadership series.
- Leadership series is a 4 week program just being developed and starting in March. More information to follow.
- 2 new staff at NWLRC. Employment community connector – Youth community connector (new comer support)
- Homework club is still active on Thursdays – Not a lot of Banting students are coming for support
- All programs currently taking place over Zoom

Note: A suggestion came after the meeting by Christopher to Silvie to add a paragraph to the newsletter identifying that students find it hard to seek out support. Encouraged parents to be aware of new sources and be supportive of active clubs available. On Feb. 18th, Silvie asked Christine to include in upcoming newsletter.

Business Arising from Previous meetings

- a) Banting Website – Potential looking at what nice stories could be put on the Banting Website, but since the Board control the content, we wanted to know if this is even allowed before we start moving **Action Richard – Find out what options are available by the Parent Council regarding posting on the Banting website (given the parent portal information is controlled by the Board).**
- b) Student knowledge gap – Systemically discussion – Tough to respond quickly – lot of onus on the students to stay in student halls. Teachers have done a great job adapting. OSSLT brief update – field test this virtual March 23- May 21st grade 10-11 and non-graduate Grade 12. Christine mention that teachers meet to discuss the transition from one grade to the next to better prepare the teachers receiving these student to know what to expect.
- c) Virtual Homework pods updates – Goal was to get students studying together. Has been a tough sell as students will sometime resist asking for help. Clubs, like DECA somewhat fills this social connections, small groups in class. Chris present some his challenges and how he is trying to engage his students. No homework pods being developments at this time. Neil wondered if reaching out to parent was a better course of action or at least point the parents to available resources. No action at this time.
- d) Convocation idea – t-shirts/slogan art contest – Chris brought this to the Art and Business departments. Very Positive discussion from the teachers. Questions regarding funds and who will pay. Nicholas said the Student council would be willing to help fundraise.

ACTION Nicholas will take back the positive feedback on t-shirt and tell the student council (possible fund raising to take place)

Other Business

- “New” information (to cover other items) –Discussion regarding how we get information. No clear answer. Lots of good mentions, newsletter, twitter, but at the same time, ...needs assessment (Survey?) – Amani mentioned the Bronco’s family round up over Zoom? However, Silvie identified that we benefited from tagging onto the existing platform for the Parent teacher interviews.

- **ACTION: Can school council do a survey targeting the parents? What type of questions do we want to specifically ask in this survey that will result in a meaningful impact? Could we set up a zoom collaborative session that would piggy-back on the Principal coffee chat?**

Action Items (All)

ACTION: ALL – Think of how we can engage with parents better? What type of questions we would ask on the survey?

Next Meeting

March meeting instead of APRIL since March break was moved – **March 17th is proposed next meeting.**