

## **Banting School Council Meeting**

**Thursday, November 16, 2023**

Attendance: Amanda Davidson (Chair), Larry Boston (Vice-Chair), Kam Uppal, Dawn Goss, Kev Goss, Juanita Wilson, Nelson Garcia, Amber Coon, Katherine Bacik, Deidre Nodwell, Sarah Harris, Natrisha LaRocca, Carolyn Maw (secretary) Rob Poissant (Principal), Jane Dewer (Vice-Principal), Marnie Jackson (Teacher Rep), Arjun Uppal (student)

### **1. Call to Order 6:00 pm**

### **2. Review Previous Meeting Meetings**

Motion: Accept the minutes. Larry Boston. Seconded: Katherine Bacik

### **3. Principal's Update**

- Some of the events at the school since the last meeting: Terry Fox, Glo Dance, Orange Shirt Day, Halloween Fashion Show, Open Mic, Remembrance Day Activities, Parent-Guardian Conferences, Night of Excellence
- Spirit of Giving – organizing donations for the food bank  
Question: Can we recommend families?  
Answer: Banting collects and gives to various organizations. Lions Club works with the families.
- Bullying Awareness Week November 13-17
- Feedback from Families about Parent/Teacher Conferences –
  - Once an interview was booked, it did not say who the conference was with just gave the time
  - Video conference links worked well

**ACTION: Admin to look into fixing conference booking system so it shows the name of the teacher.**
- January 18<sup>th</sup> will be the Grade 8 open house
- February 5<sup>th</sup> – Start of Semester 2

### **4. Bathrooms**

#### **a) Understanding the nature of the concern –**

- a. There are a few components: addiction, hanging out in the bathroom which leads to vandalism, and groups of students seem or act intimidating to others wanting to use the washroom.

Students are addicted to nicotine, at 9:20 am the bell rings and they need to have some nicotine. Vaping is happening in both male and female bathrooms. Once in bathroom it then creates a dynamic that is intimidating for some students. Some intimidations are

subtle – body language a look or sometimes other students are told to get out of the washroom. There has been over \$7200 in damage this year, mostly in the boys' washroom.

b) Identifying reasons for the behaviour –

a. Possible reasons:

- i. has to do with behaviour of the whole school – there is a lack of respect for the school system, staff, property and themselves. Why? There is no switch for behaviour conforming for the standards. This is their social place.
- ii. Social media. More cell phone use is linked to more aggression.

c) Dialogue around next steps to improve:

- Currently admin is making frequent checks on the bathroom, admin have standing desks in the hall to help move students back to class.
- Currently students are getting fined by Tobacco Enforcement \$300 if caught vaping.
- Students are suspended if caught with a vape or in the act of vaping. Question: Can students have in-school suspensions instead. For some not attending school is not a punishment/consequence.
- Question from Council Member: What is the plan when a child is gone for 20 minutes? If a student is consistently gone for this length of time, can they be asked to make it up after school or lunch?
- Increase school pride – what are some ideas?
- At the board level – it is also being discussed there will be board level plans.
- More cameras in the school? Previously more cameras were not added as the school was scheduled for replacement, now the board is willing to add more cameras as it is unclear as to when the building will be replaced. So there will be more cameras placed in Banting soon. They are expensive, approximately \$1000 per camera.
- Sensory break ideas – activities posted along the wall for students to do to help self-regulate.
- Suggestion: Use student voice. Ask the students about the problems at school (vaping, vandalism, lack of engagement, lack of pride) and how they should be solved and how they are feeling about it. Discussion can be facilitated by each homeroom teacher. Everyone in the school discuss the same questions. Choose representatives from each class to share in grade level meetings with admin.

**ACTION: School Admin will facilitate the creation/completion of these meetings to hear student voice.**

## 5. Simcoe Muskoka County District Health Unit - Smoke Free Program Presentation.

A very informative presentation. Some highlights include:

- Vaping products around since 2004.
- Canada has some of the highest teen vaping rates in the world.
- Pod a day = pack a day of cigarette. 20 mg in one cartridge up to 50 mg for the illegal ones = over 2 packs a day.
- Changes the brain, increase anxiety and potential for depression. Brain decides it doesn't need to release dopamine on its own. When you vape you feel good again with nicotine. It is very difficult to get it.
- Under 19 it is illegal including sharing with friends.
- \$305 fine for vaping on school property. 24/7

Website with lots of info was shared:

[Not an Experiment Website](#)

A video was shared showing how vapes are shaped like everyday objects :

<https://youtu.be/fjDP8rTktWw>

## 6. Pro Grant - \$1000.00 – Parent focus due January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**ACTION:** Forward any suggestions for PRO Grant to Amanda Davidson by the end of December.

## 7. Update from Sarah Beitz -Trustee.

Unable to attend the meeting. Sarah Beitz sent an email with various links and updates. She asked families to check her Facebook Page for other updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/sarahbeitz>

- Centre for Family Initiatives at Pine River Institute (CFI@PRI) is once again providing virtual webinars focused on supporting student mental health and well-being to SCDSB families.  
<https://www.scdsb.on.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=210982&pageId=13895619>
- Results of the SCDSB Employment Equity Audit done by Turner Consulting group [SCDSB-Employment-Equity-Audit-Report.pdf \(sharpschool.com\)](#) and the subsequent Employment Equity Action Plan [Equity-Audit-Action-Plan.pdf \(sharpschool.com\)](#)
- Exams and Other Cumulative Assessments [Parents-Guide-to-Assessment.pdf \(sharpschool.com\)](#)

- Rebuilding Banting Memorial High School – Board Update [Property search for BMHS replacement continues - Simcoe County District School Board \(scdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.scdsb.on.ca/property-search-for-bmhs-replacement-continues)
- Vandalism, Vaping, etc. in washrooms at Banting Memorial High School –Starts at approximately 7 ½ minutes on the video. <https://www.youtube.com/live/Uz1oiORtQwg?si=U0zFNn-A3BH5bnOi>
- Results from the grade 8 exit surveys, grade 12 pathway surveys, and EQAO tests were reported to board earlier this month <https://www.facebook.com/sarahbeitz/posts/pfbid0gPwA4vnNqoVDSdxsdgNuukMtWj869hacX6c6iiy1xbh6uvvg9EYiHpYqbfMD1Z7wcl>
- Violence in schools – trustees passed a motion at the September 2023 Board meeting to get a detailed report on this which is due to be presented in December.
- Active Transportation – trustees passed a motion at the October 2023 Board meeting to update our transportation policy to include a section on active transportation. That motion included community consultation and is due to be presented by the end of the school year.
- The SCDSB has created an outdoor learning hub at the education centre which has started welcoming students. [https://youtu.be/0F8tx1CAkdk?si=C7S0oP\\_lzmD5cfpe](https://youtu.be/0F8tx1CAkdk?si=C7S0oP_lzmD5cfpe)

## 8. Other Business:

Examinations in Secondary School

Parent/guardian concerns over the lack of formal examinations as a form of assessment for high school. It was suggested that parents can start a petition and could also start a delegation to the board. See information below:

[Delegation Information - Simcoe County District School Board \(scdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.scdsb.on.ca/delegation-information) and the form to submit your request to make a delegation is available here [Delegation Request \(scdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.scdsb.on.ca/delegation-request)

## 9. Next meeting: February 15 @ 6:30pm

Motion to Adjourn. 7:30 pm Carolyn Maw

Seconded: Amanda Davidson.