

# Van Tech PAC Meeting Minutes

Minutes; October 27, 2020, Via Zoom

Upcoming meeting dates on the [website](#).

*PAC Executive: Amy Chuang (Chair), Sharon Henderson (Treasurer), Kyla Epstein (Secretary)*

*Attendees: ~30 Van Tech Parents/Family Members*

*Guests: Robert Moro (Principal), Sangeeta Kauldher (Vice Principal), Angela Bigioli (Teacher Rep)*

1. Welcome & Introductions (Amy Chuang)
  - Land acknowledgement to honour the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh
  
2. Chair Remarks, General Announcements, & Acknowledgements (Amy Chuang)
  - Welcome!
  - We don't typically do fundraising; our primary source of funding is the gaming grant
  - Always open to new ideas; please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [chairvt@gmail.com](mailto:chairvt@gmail.com)
  
3. Treasurer's Report (Sharon Henderson)
  - Got our gaming grant award ~\$31,000
  - In addition to our ~\$18,000 from previous
  - So far have two requests
    - Breakfast of Champions program; this is a program that we normally support
    - Safe Teen; another program we normally support
  - Staff finding ways to
  - Working with the staff to determine requests for the year

Motion to approve the request of \$750 (Breakfast of Champions)

*Moved (Amy); Seconded (Sharon); Carried*

Motion to approve the request \$1500 (Safe Teen)

*Moved (Amy); Seconded (Sharon); Carried*

- Additional budget requests will be considered in December
4. DPAC Announcements (Amanda Hillis, DPAC Vice Chair)
    - <http://vancouverdpac.org/>
    - This Thurs, David Green (Secretary-Treasurer, VSB) cming to talk to DPAC about next year's budget – you can get the link on the DPAC website

- Long Range Facilities Plan – times not great for families but if you want to get your input out there you can join, info on DPAC website; DPAC has an active committee working on this
- Encourage taking this remote opportunity to listen in on DPAC meetings to hear what's being considered at a district level
- Also have workshops that parents can utilize

#### 5. Teacher Rep Report (Angela Bigioli)

- New teacher rep
- Will bring info back to our staff committee
- Liaison to teachers/staff
- Can bring forward funding requests
- Bring forward any issues that parents should be aware of

#### 6. Principal's Report (Robert Moro)

- Teacher rep role also supports bringing forward the funding requests from teachers
  - Information will be provided to PAC so can review requests for consideration
  - November 20<sup>th</sup> is current deadline for teachers to submit requests
- Last month covered a lot around school safety
- Haven't had any official notice of cases since the one in September
- Continuing to operate with health & safety guidelines
- Going smoothly
- Mid-quarter marks provided
- End of quarter is Nov 17<sup>th</sup> so will see another report at that time
- Trying to have school feel as "normal" as possible
- Athletics now has sports clinics; groups of students who can do sports safely
- Started our breakfast club to ensure kids who need it get food in the morning
- Trying to get clubs up and running; student council creating virtual clubs day
- Started TLC awards; recognize when students do something good; enter draw for prizes
- Student council running a Kahoot with prizes

#### *Q&A: Principal's Report*

- Q: Annual Event: Take Grade Nines to Work Day; will school be supporting families to let students participate if being offered virtually
  - A: Will look into it
- Q: Will there be any staff patrolling school grounds after school, especially on Friday to ensure fireworks are not being used on the property?
  - A: Already doing this informally; VSB will be patrolling in the actual evening of Hallowe'en
- Q: Just confirming I understand: if a student has one symptom like a runny nose they can't return to school for 10 days or no symptom or a negative covid test?

- A: Direction comes from a medical practitioner; direct families to 811 and they provide advance
- Have students in school with runny nose because have allergies
- Follow up on cause
- Discourage students and staff from coming to school sick
- Q: Concerned because heard that children can be questioned by a VPD School Liaison Officer (SLO) without a parent/guardian present, is that the case?
  - A: When VPD SLO wants to talk to a “suspect”, parent/caregiver will be contacted
  - Only time when judgement call made by administrator is when urgent and safety involved
  - E.g. if get information that have a weapon, and safety is in an issue then admin can give SLO permission to question or search
  - But general rule is that parent/guardian be informed

## 7. Open Forum

### Doug Smith / Issues with AP Courses

- Parent & a math teacher (Kits)
- Have two students, grade 10 & 12
- Van Tech has three AP stats and three AP calculus classes
- Issues with having AP courses
- May want to consider advisory role for PAC
- Issue: why are there AP classes? From the US college board; used for admissions into US colleges; ideas in BC that AP classes in case student wants to apply to US post-secondary; experience is that BC is not considered a jurisdiction that runs AP classes; no expectation to run these; this may not be well understood; misconception that useful for admissions to post-secondary here as well
- No expectation in BC for schools to run AP classes
- Not sure appropriate for so many kids to be taking these classes (university level)
- Significant level of uptick in workload associated with the courses
- Ministry-approved courses for stats 12 and calculus 12; similar to AP but with more volume of content
- Encourage people to stay away from AP classes
- Extra workload
- Demand for AP can grow but no sections of non-AP which means students may not opt for them without a non-AP option
- Families & students would be better served with regular Ministry courses
- *Comments shared in the chat*

- Thank you I appreciate the AP explanation. We definitely support having regular classes available over AP options if it has to be either/or.
- Van Tech should be offering level that is required for university entrance at the minimum
- Q: What has Van Tech's past practice been in regards to ensuring regular math classes are available in the higher levels? Does AP jeopardize the basic options?
  - Mr. Moro: Good point in terms of course offerings. Want to provide a range of courses. If non-AP aren't being offered, something to look into. Want to provide choice to students and a sense of equity as well.
- Q: What is the difference in the content of the grade 12 calculus versus AP? Because having the first year level classes was very helpful for my first year of university.
  - Doug: Pretty similar; main topics are covered in both. *Gave specific math examples*; little more content and in a shorter time frame; goal is to finish prior to AP exam in early May; structured around a US-schedule so shorter time frame here
  - Mr. Moro: students take AP courses for a number of reasons; could be for university prep, some take the course and don't even write the exam, can get credit for first year so financial implications; IB programs as well; depends on teachers/departments as well; important to ensure choices are provided

#### Hybrid (half remote, half in-person)

- Q: Will we be staying with this?
- Mr. Moro:
  - District evaluating framework right now at the district level
  - What is going well, what are challenges
  - Not done deal that this is the model for the rest of the school year
  - If change model can be hard for teachers to redesign courses
  - Not sure what district is looking at but are reevaluating
  - Van Tech staff currently feel comfortable with having designed their units and in this two-week rotation
- Q: Condensed 10-week math and science is too difficult for some students; are students struggling more in certain subjects?
- Mr. Moro
  - More of a challenge to condense certain subjects; especially if work builds upon each other
  - Teachers are making adjustments; communicating with students that need it
  - Challenges but not paralyzing

- Q: What concessions will Vantch make for kids that aren't successful specifically during the remote learning parts of their classes?
- Mr. Moro
  - Accommodations being made; trying to get students technology
  - Teachers making adjustments based on learning styles and unique situations
  - Not about concessions; about maximizing learning
  - Different for different students
  - Can do an individualized education plans and might need to adjust for remote mode
  - Teachers being understanding
  - Encourage parents to contact teacher and counsellors and establish a plan that is fair
- Ms. Kauldher
  - Student Hub (skills centre)
  - Reworked resource model
  - Drop in available for any student during flex time to get extra support
  - Entire resource team available
  - Covid protocols in place
  - Trying to encourage students to come through there if needed
  - Support for kids in remote
- Q: Please look at number of students who withdrew and moved to VLN learning
- Mr. Moro
  - Had number of students choose that option early on in the school year
  - Haven't seen any significant move
  - Bringing a few kids back mid-quarter from VLN
- Q: What about parent teacher conferences? Can't it be Zoom?
- Ms. Kauldher
  - Been checking in with teachers about this
  - Many say difficult to fall in right quarter
  - Communication is up a lot between teachers and parents since families only have two teachers/quarter
  - Makes sense at elementary when teacher will be same all year
- Mr. Moro
  - We can inform parents that can reach out to teachers
- Q: Will there be a final report card at the end of the school year with all 8 classes and final grades or do we have to print them off each quarter?
- Mr. Moro
  - Trying to do that

- Ms. Kauldher
  - Plan working on is that for mid-quarter report we would have just those quarter's courses but end of quarter will add to it so get a cumulative report
  - Feedback?
- *Comments in chat support this approach*

8. Wrap Up & Adjournment (Amy Chuang)

- Please contact the Van Tech teachers and staff if your young person is struggling
- Please send us topics you'd like to discuss: [chairvt@gmail.com](mailto:chairvt@gmail.com)

**Next Meeting: December 1, 2020, 7pm, Zoom**